SOME EXERCISES IN
THE
SOUNDS OF SPEECH
Some Exercises in the
SOUNDS OF SPEECH

by

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Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Shibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.

Judges xii, 6

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CONTENTS

Preface v

I. Introductory 1
II. Breathing for Speech 4
III. Standard English 18
IV. The Use of a Phonetic Transcript 21
V. Testing and Comparing Sounds 24
VI. The English Consonants 29
VII. Exercises in Consonant Practice 33
VIII. The English Vowels 45
IX. Exercises in Vowel Practice 57
X. Books suggested for further Reference 86
XI. Appendix: Defective Speech 88
Index 93
PREFACE

This book was conceived as a collection of exercises for practice in spoken English, suitable for the use of students in the Education Department at King’s College, London. There is, as far as can be ascertained, no book which provides exercises of the kind required by students training to be teachers, whose aim should be a type of speech acceptable among educated people, and fit for the ears of those who are being educated.

The nonsense rhymes and jingles which undoubtedly have their place in primary and preparatory schools, and the noble numbers provided for students of verse speaking, are alike unsuitable for practice by teachers, whose style of speech in the class-room should vary little from that of ordinary conversation. It is to be regretted that so many of the exercises are in verse form, but it is hard to find examples in prose that provide enough repetition of particular sounds.

Without some knowledge of phonetics, exercises in speech training tend to be purely imitative; the general principles of the study of phonetics and the main problems of speech training have therefore been outlined.

While the book is primarily intended for the use of training college students and teachers, it should be equally useful in secondary schools where speech training in the senior forms aims not merely at “elocution” but at good English in conversation.
viii

PREFACE

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