

English visible speech for the million : for communicating the exact pronunciation of the language to native or foreign learners, and for teaching children and illiterate adults to read in a few days.

Contributors

Bell, Alexander Melville, 1819-1905.
Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library

Publication/Creation

London : Simpkin, Marshall; London ; New York : N. Trübner, [1868]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/sdggnzab>

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale University, through the Medical Heritage Library. The original may be consulted at the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale University. where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.

**wellcome
collection**

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

QP306
872 B

ENGLISH
VISIBLE SPEECH

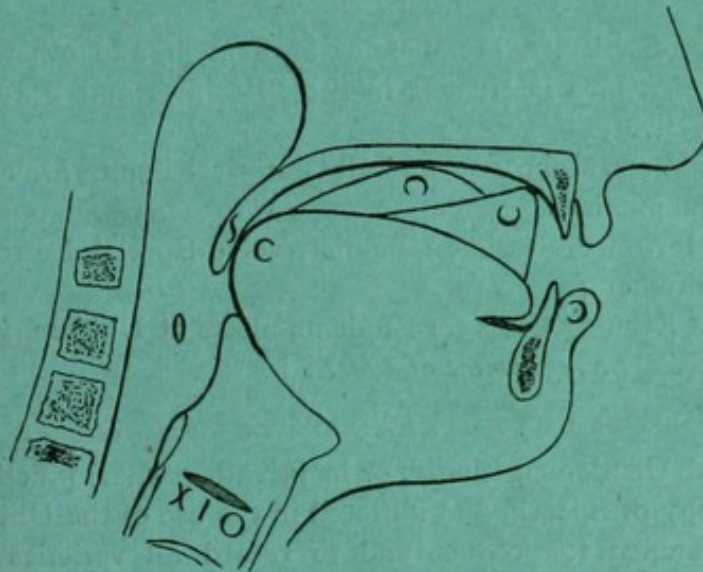
FOR THE MILLION;

FOR COMMUNICATING THE EXACT PRONUNCIATION OF THE LANGUAGE TO

NATIVE OR FOREIGN LEARNERS,

AND FOR TEACHING CHILDREN AND ILLITERATE ADULTS

TO READ IN A FEW DAYS.



BY

ALEX. MELVILLE BELL, F.E.I.S., F.R.S.S.A.,

LECTURER ON ELOCUTION IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON,

AUTHOR OF 'PRINCIPLES OF SPEECH AND CURE OF STAMMERING,' 'ELOCUTIONARY MANUAL,'

'STANDARD ELOCUTIONIST,' 'EMPHASIZED LITURGY,'

'REPORTER'S MANUAL,' &c. &c.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.;
LONDON AND NEW YORK: N. TRÜBNER & CO.

Price One Shilling.

Professional Card.

CURE OF STAMMERING, &c.

MR. A. MELVILLE BELL,

AUTHOR OF 'VISIBLE SPEECH,' &c.

Undertakes the perfect Eradication of Stammering, Stuttering, and all forms of Vocal Impediment.

The experience of upwards of Twenty-five years' Practice enables Mr BELL to guarantee the permanent, and, in most cases, the speedy Cure of these distressing affections, in children or adults.

Defective Articulation.

The Removal of Lipping, Burring, and other Elementary Defects, rarely requires more than a Single Course of Twelve Lessons.

Undeveloped Speech in backward children invariably perfected after a short period of training.

Elocution.

Clergymen, Barristers, Members of Parliament, and other Public Readers and Speakers, *privately* instructed in the Principles and Practice of effective Reading and Delivery.

Vocal Weakness, Monotony, and all Oratorical Faults, are corrected without any imparted mannerism.

Ladies and Non-Professional Pupils receive Special Lessons, according to individual requirements.

Mr BELL'S Evening Class for Students meets at University College, Gower Street.—[*See College Programme of Classes.*]

Visible Speech.

Ladies and Gentlemen (singly, or in private parties) practically instructed in the Physiology of Speech, and initiated in the use of the Universal Alphabet, so as to be enabled to produce and to record all varieties of Native and Foreign Sounds.

Foreigners are taught to pronounce English with the characteristics of vernacular utterance.

Speech for the Deaf and Dumb.

Mr A. MELVILLE BELL, assisted by his Son, Mr A. G. BELL, has now made arrangements to receive a limited number of Deaf and Dumb Pupils *to be taught to speak.*

By means of 'Visible Speech' as the instrument of instruction, a rapid progress may be confidently expected.

London, N.W. ;

18 Harrington Square, (near Regent's Park).

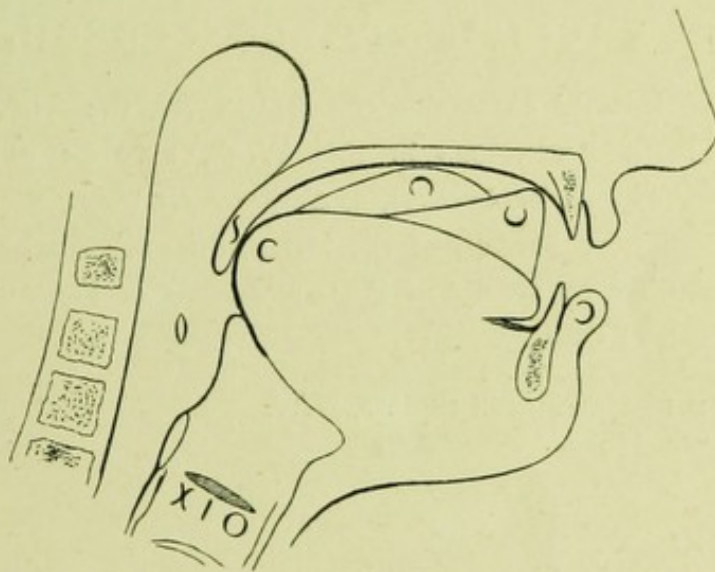
ENGLISH
VISIBLE SPEECH
FOR THE MILLION;

FOR COMMUNICATING THE EXACT PRONUNCIATION OF THE LANGUAGE TO

NATIVE OR FOREIGN LEARNERS,

AND FOR TEACHING CHILDREN AND ILLITERATE ADULTS

TO READ IN A FEW DAYS.



BY

ALEX. MELVILLE BELL, F.E.I.S., F.R.S.S.A.,

LECTURER ON ELOCUTION IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON,

AUTHOR OF 'PRINCIPLES OF SPEECH AND CURE OF STAMMERING,' 'ELOCUTIONARY MANUAL,'

'STANDARD ELOCUTIONIST,' 'EMPHASIZED LITURGY,'

'REPORTER'S MANUAL,' &c. &c.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO. ;
LONDON AND NEW YORK: N. TRÜBNER & CO.

Price One Shilling.

CLASS-PRIMER
OF
ENGLISH VISIBLE SPEECH.

A 'CLASS-PRIMER,' containing the DIAGRAMS, the ALPHABETIC TABLE, and the READING EXERCISES in this Work, may be obtained from the Publishers, and from all Booksellers, at *Sixpence per Copy*.

Single Copies, or Parcels, of the 'Class-Primer,' will be forwarded, *Post Free*, by the Author, on receipt of Postage Labels or P. O. Order (payable at the 'N. W. District Office').

Address : 18 Harrington Square, N.W.

[1868]

5

ENGLISH VISIBLE SPEECH.

IN the Inaugural Edition of 'VISIBLE SPEECH' it was stated, that, by means of the self-interpreting Universal Alphabet which constitutes the system, a person of ordinary capacity would LEARN TO READ in a few days. It might have been added, that an ILLITERATE person may even be HIS OWN INSTRUCTOR! This little Work affords the means of *experimentally establishing* both of these facts.

Any person who can merely *pronounce the* NUMBERS 1 to 8 in the ordinary way, and *name the* OBJECTS represented in the Alphabetic Table (page 9,) may be immediately taught to READ, or may easily TEACH HIMSELF.

The words in the Alphabetic Table exemplify every variety of English sound according to a minutely exact analysis; and *uniformity of pronunciation* will be certainly attained by all readers who master the system.

When the names of the Numbers or Objects are pronounced dialectically, or in some peculiar manner, the sounds of the key-words should at first be heard from the voice of a teacher. Only radical differences, however,—such as *ae, yae, yin, &c.*, for 'one,'—will be of consequence. Shades of diversity in vowel sound—such as *whEEP* for 'whip,' *doag* for 'dog,' varieties of *win, wan, won*, for 'one,' &c., and all minor differences among the elements, will ultimately correct each other by the VISIBLE RELATIONS of the alphabetic characters.

The object of Visible Speech is not—as some have supposed—to supersede ordinary letters. No revolution in national orthography is aimed at. The system simply furnishes a KEY TO ALL LETTERS here and elsewhere, and an INTERNATIONAL medium in which every Language may be expressed with UNIVERSAL LEGIBILITY.

The Visible Speech Alphabet being, however, much simpler than other alphabets, the system has an additional applicability to the teaching of the illiterate, in all countries, to read their native tongue. This utility is altogether new—created by Visible Speech—and the system does not therefore in this respect stand in any degree of rivalry with common writing. Common letters can never be learned without such an expenditure of time, as puts the acquisition of Reading beyond the reach of toilers for their daily bread. The staunchest advocates for our historical spelling may thus, equally with the opponents of a phonetic orthography, become the advocates for a special system of Letters which may co-exist with the old and venerated A B C, and with other old alphabets, and which fulfils a class of international and social purposes for which the latter were not intended, and for which they never can by any modifications be adapted.

The grand results attainable by this first application of the Invention of 'Visible Speech,' are :

I. English-speaking learners—illiterate or otherwise, and whether children

or adults—will, from the known names of eight numbers and sixteen objects pictorially represented, speedily learn to read every word in the English language.

II. Vernacular readers of this system will acquire the pronunciation of FOREIGN LANGUAGES with native accuracy, without hearing them spoken, and from printed characters alone.

III. Foreigners who master the sounds of the twenty-four key words, will learn to pronounce English exactly as it is spoken by those 'to the manner born.'

The Inaugural Edition of 'VISIBLE SPEECH'* develops the complete Theory of the System, the physiological relations of the Sounds of all languages, and the principles of their representation by correlated Symbols. The book is, consequently, intended for readers 'few and fit.' The present little Work is for the Million, and, literally, requires only that the beginner should be able to *count his fingers!*

It is not pretended that reading will be as easily mastered without, as with the aid of a teacher, but simply that, in connection with vernacular reading, oral instruction is not indispensable. The learner will make all the better progress for being *told* at first—what he would, however, ultimately discover for himself—that *straight-line* letters denote VOWELS, or open throat-sounds; that *curved* letters denote CONSONANTS, or close mouth-sounds; and that all elements formed at any one part of the mouth are represented by symbols or letters turned in one *corresponding direction*.

The teacher may also, with advantage, assist the learner by letting him *hear* the first few words analysed into their elementary sounds,—as the word 'three' into its three elements 'th-r-ee,'—that the nature of the Visible Speech letters may be clearly comprehended. After a few such examples, the beginner cannot fail to make rapid progress.

The following theoretical particulars are added for the information of Teachers who do not possess the larger work :

EXPLANATION OF CONSONANT LETTERS.

1. The *lines of curvature* of the BACK of the tongue† (C), the arched FRONT of the tongue (O), the raised POINT of the tongue (U), and of the LIP (D), are common to all consonants formed at these various parts of the mouth. Thus :

'Back' (of the tongue) C E G B as in neck, leg, ink,‡ sing.
'Front' (") O as in yes.
'Point' (") U U U U U U U as in lit, lid, lint, linn, writ, hilt, hill.
'Lip,' D D D D D D as in cap, cab, lamp, lamb, wife, wives.

2. MIXED curves represent consonants formed by the two parts of the mouth denoted by the component curves; the symbol Q, for instance, being equivalent to CO, and signifying that the front of the tongue is arched and the point raised *at the same time*. Thus :

'Front-mixed' (with Point) Q Q Q Q . . . as in seal, zeal, thin, then.

'Point-mixed' (with Front) U U as in bush, rouge.

'Lip-mixed' (with Back) D D as in whey, way.

* Published by Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., 4to, price 15s. † See Diagram on Title-page.

‡ See Notes on the English Sounds, p. 15.

3. The physiological sign of VOICE is a straight line (I); and therefore those of the preceding letters which have a straight line within the organic curve are *vocal* consonants,—as G D B Z , &c.; and letters without a central straight line are *non-vocal* consonants,—as K T P S , &c.

4. The sign of NASAL quality is $\text{}$ (the line of curvature of the soft palate—the nasal valve*), and therefore the letters which have this sign incorporated are formed by passing the breath or the voice through the nose; as NG , N , M .

5. When the passage of the mouth is completely closed by the symbolized organ, the ends of the organic curve are 'shut' by a connecting line; as KG 'hard,' TD , PB .

6. When the symbolized part of the mouth DIVIDES the passage for the breath or the voice, so as to allow only of *lateral* emission, the organic curve is indented or 'divided'; as L , TH , FV .

EXPLANATION OF VOWEL LETTERS.

7. The sign of VOICE (a straight line) is common to all the vowel letters; a subordinate symbol or 'definer' being added to denote the part of the mouth which modifies the vowel. Thus:

'Back' of the tongue [to left] J J J J as in *mention, up, ask, arm*.

'Front' of the tongue [to right] I I I I as in *eel, ill, ale, air, ell, an*.

'Mixed' (back & front) [to left & right] I J I as in *places, fatal, sir*.

8. When the LIPS are contracted, or drawn across the aperture of the mouth, so that the quality of the vowel is 'rounded,' a symbolic bar is drawn across the vowel line. Thus:

'Back-Round,' J J J J J J as in *pool, pull, old, ore, all, on*.

'Mixed-Round,' I J I as in *pleasure, orator*.

9. The 'definer' for vowels stands at the top, the bottom, or at both ends of the straight line, according as the symbolized part of the tongue is 'High' (I I I I J J I), 'Mid' (J J I I J J), or 'Low' (J I I I J J I).

10. The letters with solid *points* as their 'definers' (J I I I J J) are PRIMARY vowels, or those most allied to consonants [see Explanation of 'Glides']; the letters with open *hooks* are WIDE vowels, or those which have the inner cavities of the mouth and the throat most fully expanded. Otherwise, the pairs of vowels J J , I I , I I , J J , &c., have respectively the same positions of the tongue, &c.

EXPLANATION OF GLIDES.

11. Primary Consonants and Primary Vowels result from similar configurations of the parts of the mouth, but with the difference,—that, for consonants, the passage between the organs is narrow and yielding, so that a *fricative* sound of hissing or buzzing accompanies the emission of the breath or the voice; while, for vowels, the passage is expanded and firm, and the voice flows through the free resonant tube without accompanying sibilation. GLIDES are sounds of

* See Diagram on Title-page.

an intermediate quality—without the fricativeness of consonants, or the sonorous purity of vowels. Glides are, like consonants, merely *transitional* sounds; and they differ from vowels in that respect only. Vowels have a ‘fixed configuration’ throughout their duration, and to this these elements owe their effect in forming *syllables*. Glides unite with vowels to form DIPHTHONGS or *monosyllabic* double sounds.

12. Glides are represented by the ‘Voice-line,’ with an organic curve subordinately added. Thus :

‘Voice’ Glide, . . . I	(a non-syllabic sound of ʋ)	as in weary, fiery, &c.
‘Front’ Glide, . . . ʌ	(a vowelized ʌ)	as in die, day, boy, &c.
‘Point’ Glide, . . . ʏ	(a vowelized ʏ)	as in ear, air, ore, &c.
‘Lip Round’ Glide, ɹ	(a vowelized ɹ)	as in cow, house, know, &c.

EXPLANATION OF MODIFIERS.

13. The sign of PROLONGATION is †. This symbol is used to distinguish the ‘quantities’ of identical vowels, as in watch (ʃ) and wall (ʃ†); meal (f†) and mille [French] (f).

14. The same sign is employed also to denote a momentary ‘holding’ of consonants, as in apple, mutton, &c., where L and N, without vowels, have the effect of *syllables*. The L in ‘battle-axe’ (ʌ†) is thus distinguished from that in ‘atlas’ (ʌ); and the N in ‘lightening’ (ʌ† when a trisyllable), from that in ‘lightning’ (ʌ).

15. The sign ' denotes the *ac'cented* syllable of a word. The same sign, inverted, denotes the accented word in a sentence—the ‘emphatic’ word. The ‘accent’ is placed *before* the syllable or word to which it refers.

16. To save the necessity of inserting the ‘accent’ in every word, the RULE has been adopted in Visible Speech printing, that:—*The accent is always on the first syllable, unless otherwise expressed.*

The preceding explanations are intended to qualify the Reader to *teach* the system, or to facilitate his own acquisition of the new science of ‘Visible Speech.’ For the use of *pupils*, all theoretical matter may be dispensed with; and a ‘CLASS-PRIMER,’ consisting of a separate impression of the DIAGRAMS, the ALPHABETIC TABLE, and the READING EXERCISES in this Work, has been prepared, which may be obtained of the Publishers, or, by order, of any Bookseller.*

The Scriptures and other books should, of course, be printed in the New Alphabet, for the benefit of those who master the initiatory lessons. The assistance of Governments *should* be extended to such a work; but means will doubtless be provided from some source for the creation of a Visible Speech Literature, when Readers are prepared to profit by it.

Let a small band of Educational Volunteers devote their services to the promulgation of this system, and an *illiterate adult* may, in a short time, be a *rare phenomenon in any civilized country.*

It is only necessary to add, that the Speech-Letters in this Work are

* ‘Class-Primer of English Visible Speech,’ price Sixpence.

CAPITALS, small types not having yet been cast. When a larger Reading-book is demanded, the 'lower-case' letters will be indispensable; and they will be found preferable both for ease of legibility and for typographic beauty. The forms of the letters are identical in both alphabets;—the only difference being, that the lines of 'lower-case' vowels *ascend* or *descend* beyond the consonant curves. Thus:

af†, instead of C††, (*Key.*)

NOTES ON THE DIAGRAMS, at page 8.

I. Each of the positions of the mouth shown in the three Diagrams in the first column, produces four Consonants. Thus:

□□□ The mouth-passage closed (and opened) by means of the symbolized organ.

□□□ The same actions, with a murmur of vocal sound during the contact.

□□□ The same actions (voiceless) with the nasal passage open.

□□□ The same actions, with the nasal passage open and the voice sounding.

The letter □ is separately illustrated (3rd Diagram of 2nd column), in order to show the means by which the breath, or the voice, is admitted to the nose in pronouncing the six nasals □ □ □ □ □ □.

II. Each of the nine vowel configurations produces four vowels:

I. Primary, as ʃ; II. Round, as ʃ; III. Wide, as ʃ; IV. Wide-Round, as ʃ.

This principle being understood, learners who know only the English sounds, will find themselves able to pronounce foreign and unheard vowels by means of their 'visible' relations to English elements. Thus ʃʃ are seen to be the same as ʃʃ, but without the cross bar; that is, the sounds of ʃʃ have the same lingual positions as ʃʃ (oo, aw), but without contraction of the lips. So, likewise, ʃʃ are seen to be the same as ʃʃ, with the sign of 'round' quality added; that is, ʃʃ are simply the vowels ʃʃ (eel, ell) pronounced with the lips contracted.

III. 'High' vowels have the closest labial contraction, and 'low' vowels the broadest; as illustrated in the Diagrams of the '*Positions of the Lips for 'round' vowels.*' Thus:

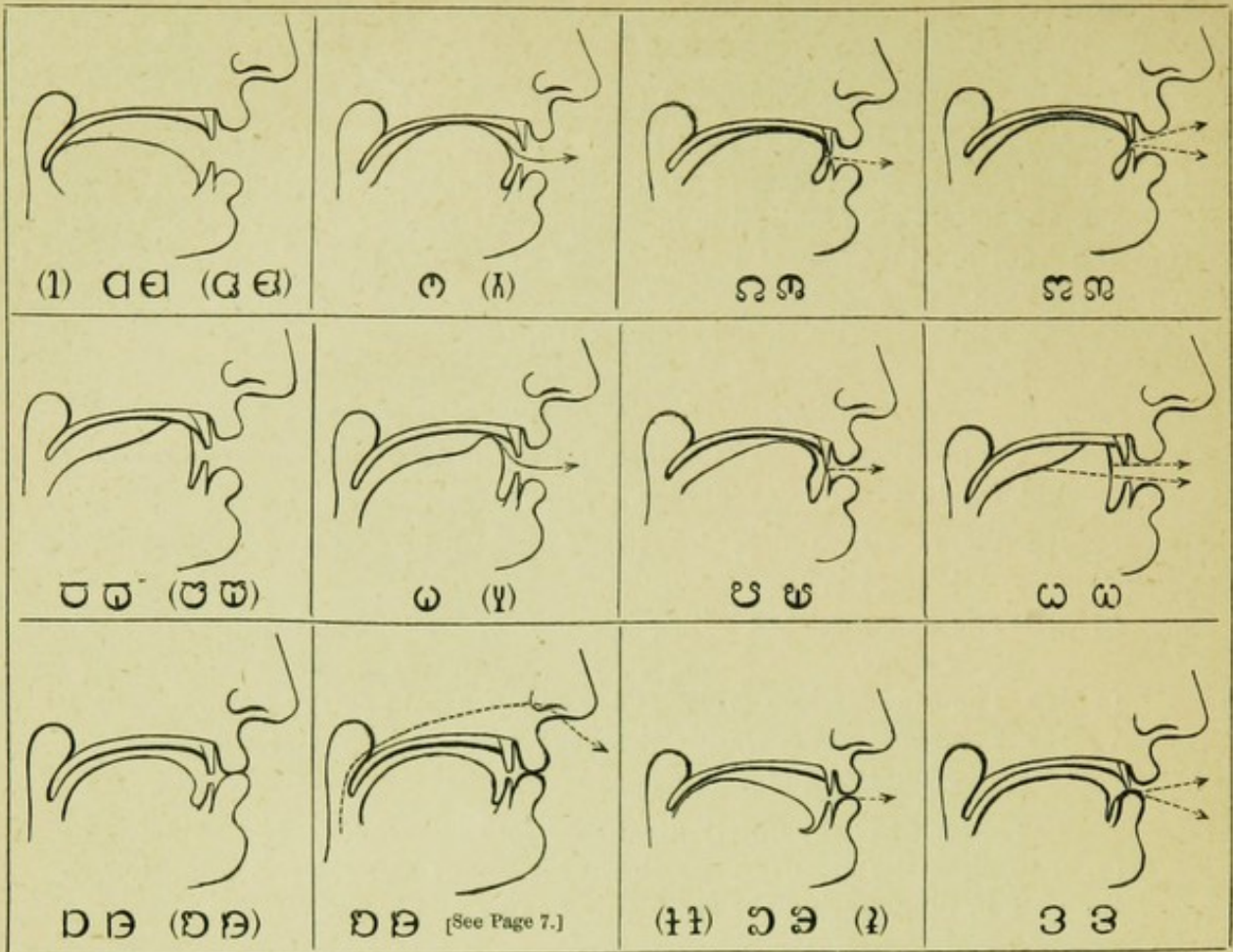
ʃ (oo) has the lips as in No. 1; ʃ (ō) as in No. 2; and ʃ (aw) as in No. 3.

IV. The Diagrams showing the '*Positions of the Tongue for 'front' vowels,*' are intended to help the reader to a clear conception of the organic cause of vowel variety. The eye is supposed to look down on the tongue through the roof of the mouth.

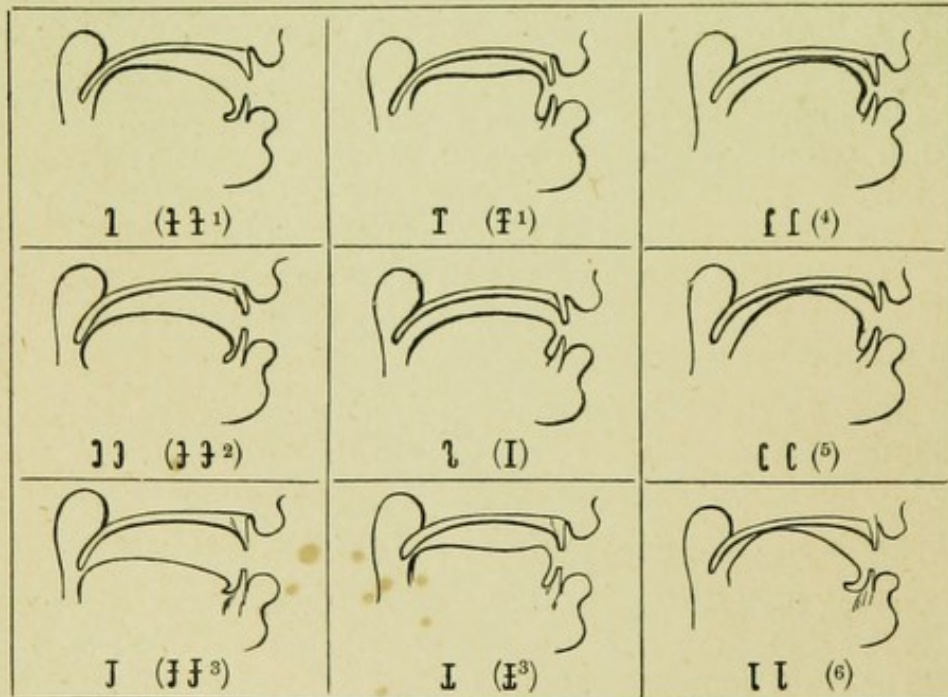
The difference between Primary and Wide Vowels cannot be illustrated by diagrams. The expansion of the cavity of the mouth for the 'Wide' sounds will, however, be *felt* in pronouncing any of the pairs of vowels, as ʃʃ (eel, ill), ʃʃ (ale, air), ʃʃ (ell, an), ʃʃ (must, mast), ʃʃ (pool, pull), &c.

ORGANIC FORMATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF SPEECH.

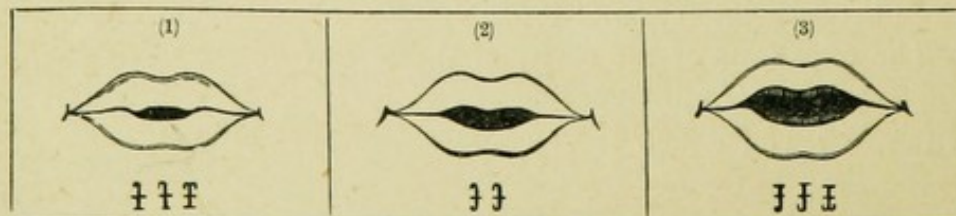
I. CONSONANTS.



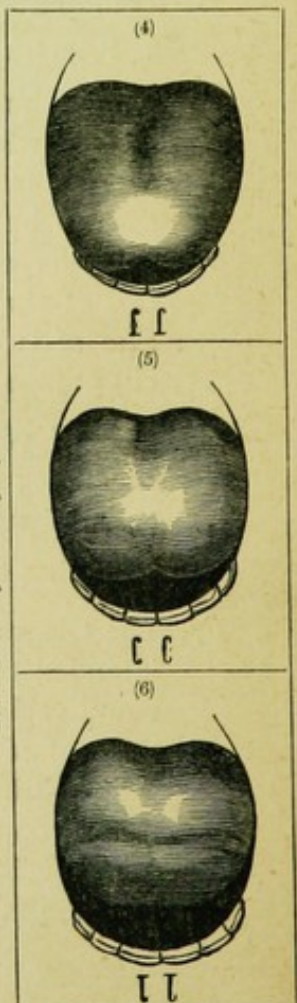
II. VOWELS.













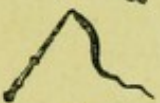




III. Positions of the Lips for 'Round' Vowels.



IV. Positions of the Tongue for 'Front' Vowels.



[English Alphabet of Visible Speech,
Expressed in the Names of Numbers and Objects.]

[Pronounce the Nos.]	[Names.]	[Name the Objects.]	[Names.]	[Name the Objects.]	[Names.]
1.	ඉන්		පිට		පොත්
2.	රහි		ඉපප		ටැප්
3.	කෝ		කහි		ටැප්
4.	පිහි		පිහි		ඔහි
5.	පිහි		රහි		කහි
6.	කෝ		ඉප		කහි
7.	කෝ		කෝ		{ කහි (කහි)
8.	කෝ		කහි		

[EXERCISE.]

ඉන් ඉන් ඉන්
One by one.

රහි හි කෝ
Two or three.

පිහි හි ඉන්

පිහි හි කෝ

ඔහි ඉන් කෝ

කෝ-කහි

කෝ රහි

කෝ හි කෝ

කෝ කෝ, පිහි

කෝ කෝ, කෝ

පිහි හි පිහි, කෝ

කෝ හි රහි, කෝ

කෝ හි කෝ

රහි, කෝ

කෝ, කෝ

කෝ, කෝ

කෝ-කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

කෝ කෝ

റണ്ട, ഓ ഓയ്ത പന്തി-നേട തെ
തര-നേ. തെ ഓ ക്കയെ
മുത ഏ ആ ന്യ-ദേശം. തെ
നന്നെ വ്യാ ആ ആ
മെ.

തെ ഓ നെ ന്ന-രൂ ഓ
'ആ പെ-നേ ത ക്ക; തെ
ആ ദ്വ-നേ ഓ ക്ക ആ
ദി-രത ക്ക, മെ-നേ ഓ
ഓ മെ-നേ ഓ നെ
തെ ന്ന.

തെ ഓ മെ മെ-മെ, തെ
മെ തെ മെ ത: ന്യ-ദേ
ക്ക ഓ ദ്വ-നേ ന്ന, തെ
തെ-രത-രത ഓ.

തെ ഓ, ന്ന-ന-ന, നെ
രൂ ഓ ദ്വ-നേ, 'മെ, ആ
മെ-നേ ന്യ തെ നെ
തെ-നേ രത-മെ-നേ ന
തെ-നേ ന്ന മെ-നേ
മെ: തെ നെ തെ-നേ
മെ-നേ മെ ന, ക്ക ന
മെ മെ മെ-നേ മെ മെ
മെ: മെ തെ നെ തെ
ആ ന്ന നെ മെ ക്ക, മെ
ഓ മെ-നേ ന്ന മെ-നേ
മെ, ഓ-ന, ന്ന ഓ
ക്ക മെ ഓ ആ ദി-രത
, ക്ക.'

തെ ഓ നെ ന്ന-രൂ ഓ,
'നെ, ന്ന ന്ന തെ-നേ മെ,
തെ നെ നെ നെ ഓ തെ
ന. തെ മെ മെ നെ മെ
മെ മെ മെ-ന, തെ മെ
മെ: മെ, നെ ന്ന മെ-
നേ മെ തെ, തെ തെ നെ
തെ; തെ മെ മെ തെ
തെ മെ.'

ആ ദി-രത തെ ആ ന്ന-
മെ-ന.

[The Pharisee and the Publican.
LUKE xviii. 10-14]

രൂ മെ മെ-ന നെ ന്ന-രൂ
ആ നെ-നേ രൂ നെ; ആ
മെ നെ ദി-രത, തെ ആ
ന്ന നെ ന്ന-മെ-ന. ആ ദി-
രത നെ തെ നെ
ആ മെ മെ-നേ, 'മെ,
ന്ന നെ ആ, നെ നെ മെ
തെ ന-നേ മെ ന, മെ-നേ-
ന-ന, നെ-ന, തെ-ന-
ന-ന, നെ ന-ന തെ നെ
ന്ന-മെ-ന. നെ മെ-ന രത
തെ ആ മെ, നെ മെ നെ
ഏ നെ നെ നെ നെ-ന.'

തെ ആ ന്ന-മെ-ന, നെ-
നേ തെ-നേ മെ, മെ തെ
മെ-ന നെ മെ-ന തെ നെ
ന്ന നെ ന്ന-നേ, നെ
നെ-ന ന-നേ ഓ നെ-
ന, നെ-ന, 'മെ മെ മെ-ന-
നേ രൂ മെ നെ-ന.'

ന്ന നെ നെ, നെ മെ മെ-
നേ നെ നെ നെ-നേ
ന-ന-നേ മെ-നേ നെ
ന്ന-ന-നേ മെ-നേ നെ
ന്ന: മെ, മെ-നേ മെ നെ
മെ-ന-നേ ഓ മെ-നേ
നേ മെ തെ-നേ; തെ ഓ
നെ മെ-നേ ഓ മെ-നേ
നേ മെ മെ-നേ-ന.

ആ മെ-നേ നെ-ന.
[The Great Supper. LUKE xiv. 16-24.]

ന നെ-നേ മെ മെ-ന നെ
മെ-നേ നെ-ന, തെ മെ മെ-
ന: തെ നെ-ന ഓ നെ നെ-

NOTES ON THE ENGLISH SOUNDS.

THE Visible Speech Letters represent an analysis of sounds which is much more minute than any that has been attempted in pronouncing dictionaries; and the 'Universal Alphabet' consequently enables distinctions to be presented to the eye which would be impossible of discrimination by means of ordinary letters. The nicest of these shades of difference are, however, real distinctions to the ear; and, indeed, upon such elementary minutiae all the *characteristics* of utterance—such as vulgar, pedantic, dialectic, or foreign—mainly depend.

Notwithstanding the number of elements into which English speech is analysed in this Work, the Native learner is not inconvenienced by the variety; while the Foreign learner is importantly assisted by it. The benefit of the orthoepic accuracy will be progressively experienced by vernacular readers; but at first they will pronounce words as *wholes*, with many points of difference, and without being able to 'spell' their sounds or to pronounce all the letters of a word with individual correctness. The beginner should not attempt to follow the refinements of the Alphabet with theoretical precision. An insensible comparison of letter with letter will ultimately give proficiency without special study; and original differences of pronunciation will in this way become gradually assimilated to the standard of uniformity.

This power of direction and correction is inherent in the mutually related symbols of Visible Speech; but familiarity with common letters does not in any degree advance a speaker's orthoepic knowledge. Thus: ask any person to pronounce the *elements* of a word with the *same* sounds which he gives to them in the verbal combination, and not one individual in a hundred will be found able to perform this analysis with exactitude.

Learners of Visible Speech should first thoroughly master the CONSONANTS. When these are known, the greater part of the words in any *vernacular* sentence will be intelligible, without a precise knowledge of the vowels. The symbols of the latter may therefore be left to be familiarized by practice; or they may be mastered one by one, as the learner's ear becomes capable of appreciating their differences of sounds.

To make this matter perfectly clear: { suppose
 { s-pp-se
 { all vowels to be represented by one invariable
 { -ll v- -ls t- b- r-pr-s-nt-d b- -ne -nv-r-ble

{ mark—such as a hyphen—any person knowing
 { m-rk—s-ch -s h-ph-n—-n- p-rs-n kn - -ng
 { only the consonant letters, would be able to
 { -nl- th- c-us-n-nt l-tt-rs, w-ld b- -ble t-
 { recognize a large proportion of the words of
 { r-c-gn-ze - l-rge pr-p-rt-n -f th- w-rds -f
 { *his own language* from this imperfect writing.
 { h-s -n l-ng--ge fr-m th-s -mp-rf-ct wr-t-ng.
 It is therefore obvious that the number of vowel marks might be multiplied indefinitely without affecting this power of recognition, which is independent of *any* vowel distinctions.

It is to be borne in mind, further, that the Visible Speech consonants represent exact *sounds*, and that consequently the consonant 'skeleton' of a word is free from the ambiguities of *silent* and *variable* letters, such as the preceding illustration exemplifies.

The pronunciation indicated in the READING EXERCISES in this Work is that of educated vernacular usage. The sounds of 'unaccented' vowels, generally termed 'obscure,' are accurately *defined*; and the principles which govern such changes are thus made manifest in the symbols. These principles are detailed in the 'Inaugural Edition of Visible Speech,' to which the Orthoepical Reader is referred.

The abrupt *non-vocal* articulation of the 'liquids' *l, m, n, ng*, when before non-vocal consonants, is exhibited in the printing of such words as *felt, lamp, tent, think, &c.* In deliberate pronunciation, the voiceless *l, m, &c.*, receive an initial *trace* of vocality from the preceding vowel; but if an attempt be made to *prolong* the 'liquid' without altering its vernacular effect, the characteristic voicelessness of the latter will be demonstrated to the ear. The peculiarity of 'foreign' pronunciation of these English syllables arises simply from the undue *vocality* which is given to the *l, m, &c.*

The effect of the distinctive phoneticism of this system may be illustrated in the word 'mention.' Roman letters could only analyze this word into the two syllables 'men shun;' but the compact accentual utterance of 'mention' differs in two respects from that of these monosyllables. The *n* of 'men' is nearly or altogether *non-vocal* before the non-vocal *sh*; and the *vowel* sound in 'tion,' while it resembles that of 'short u,' is not *quite* the same. Thus $\text{M}^{\text{I}}\text{U}^{\text{I}}\text{U}^{\text{I}}$ (*men shun*;) $\text{M}^{\text{I}}\text{U}^{\text{I}}\text{U}^{\text{I}}$ (*mention.*)

Even 'accented' syllables, in common words, when pronounced without emphasis, are liable to

the same 'obscuring' as ordinary unaccented syllables. Thus the syllable 'self' in the 'reciprocal pronouns' *itself, himself, myself, &c.*, (unless the words are emphatic) has not precisely the vowel quality of the same syllable in 'selfish.'

Monosyllables also are similarly affected in unemphatic pronunciation; as the word 'them,' which has distinctly two sounds in the sentence 'I told them (Œ [Θ]) it was for *them* (Œ [Θ]) only.' The word 'that' has also two sounds; the one when it is a 'conjunctive' or 'relative,' and the other when it is a 'demonstrative' particle; as in the sentence 'I know that (Œ [Θ]) *that* (Œ [Θ]) is the one.' So with 'had,' 'has,' 'and,' 'there,' 'for,' and other common words, which will be found variously written, according to their pronunciation in the 'Reading Exercises.'

The two sounds of R are, of course, distinguished; the 'consonant' sound (Ϟ) being heard only when the R is followed by a vowel; and the 'glide' sound (ϙ) in other cases.

The influence of R on a preceding vowel is also illustrated. Thus the vowels in *ail* and *air*, *road* and *roar*, *pool* and *poor*, present the very appreciable varieties, [ɔ̄, } } , } } .

These 'little' differences pass unheeded by vernacular speakers; but they become *shibboleths* in the mouths of persons who have not acquired the native habit.

The vowels *ai* and *oa*, when not before R,—as in *fail, foal, &c.*—are distinguished by a 'gliding' pronunciation which is peculiarly *English*. This delicate shading of the *ā* towards the closer *ē*, and of the *ō* towards the corresponding *oo*, is indicated in the writing of such words by the appropriate 'glides' after the radical vowel.

Provincial and foreign pronunciations of *ā* and *ō* are characterized by the absence of the gliding quality; while, in the Metropolis, the habit of gliding these vowels creates the vulgar peculiarity of altering the *initial* part of the vowels; so that *ā* encroaches on *i*, and *ō* on *ou*.

The sound of *ū* as in *new, &c.*, is, when fully pronounced, analyzed into *yoo*; but the common softening of the 'consonant' *y* (Ϟ) into a 'glide' (ϙ) in this combination, is introduced in the 'Reading Exercises.'

The study of the new science of 'Visible Speech'—as treated of in the Inaugural Volume of 'Universal Alphabets'—will be greatly facilitated to those who make use of this little Work as a preliminary. It may seem to some that, in the order of publication, this should have *preceded* the larger Work; but a foundation must always be laid before a super-structure can be raised. The Inaugural Volume lays the foundation for all Languages; the present Work erects the English 'wing' of the cosmopolitan edifice.

Press Critics have experienced considerable difficulty in dealing with the *general* design—which, without oral exemplifications, cannot be mastered cursorily; but these difficulties will, it is hoped, be removed by a perusal of this

'ENGLISH VISIBLE SPEECH FOR THE MILLION.'

MR. A. MELVILLE BELL'S WORKS
ON
VOCAL PHYSIOLOGY AND ELOCUTION.

PUBLISHED BY

HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO.; AND SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.; LONDON:

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

New Edition, 12mo, price Five Shillings.

THE PRINCIPLES OF SPEECH, DICTIONARY OF SOUNDS, AND CURE OF STAMMERING.—A Complete Treatise on Vocal Physiology, with specific Directions and Exercises for the Removal of Impediments and Defects of Speech.

Third Edition, 12mo, price Four Shillings.

THE ELOCUTIONARY MANUAL OF PRINCIPLES AND EXERCISES.—A Complete Treatise on Pronunciation and Expressive Delivery, Tones, Emphasis, Gesture, &c.; with a Collection of upwards of Two Hundred Examples of the Language of Passion marked for practice.

New Edition, greatly enlarged; Stereotyped, 12mo, pp. 432, price 3s. 6d.

THE STANDARD ELOCUTIONIST—FOR READING AND RECITATION. Containing upwards of Four Hundred Classified Extracts in Prose, Poetry, the Drama, and Humour; with an Abridgement of the Theory of Elocution from the 'Elocutionary Manual.'

New Work on Applied Emphasis, 12mo, price 3s. 6d.

THE EMPHASIZED LITURGY, FOR PRIVATE PREPARATORY STUDY OF THE CHURCH OFFICES. The Morning, Evening, Communion, and Burial Services, and all the Collects, marked for Emphasis and Clause. With an Introductory Essay on Emphasis, Tones, and the Principles of Public Reading.

Illustrated Nursery-Book, price One Shilling.

LETTERS AND SOUNDS.—An Introduction to English Reading on an entirely New Plan. With Practical Directions for the Prevention of Impediments and Defects of Speech in Children.

In Paper Covers, price Eightpence.

TREATISE ON THE ART OF READING.—An Outline of the Principles of Clausuring and Emphasis, as more fully systematized in the 'Elocutionary Manual' and the 'Emphasized Liturgy.'

Lectures, price Sixpence Each.

THE ART OF DELIVERY, and the Influence of School Discipline on Public Oratory.
SERMON READING AND MEMORITER DELIVERY.

New Edition, price Sixpence.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CURE OF STAMMERING AND THE PRINCIPLES OF ELOCUTION. With Notes of Cases.

Reprints, 12mo, Cloth Covers, price One Shilling Each.

I. THE LANGUAGE OF THE PASSIONS. II. EXPRESSIVE READING AND GESTURE. Reprinted from the First Edition of the 'Elocutionary Manual.' The Notations being different from those in the Third Edition, students of the latter obtain useful comparative exercise from the Reprints.

MR. A. MELVILLE BELL'S WORKS
ON
VISIBLE SPEECH.

PUBLISHED BY

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO., LONDON;
N. TRÜBNER & CO., LONDON AND NEW YORK;

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

Recently issued, quarto, handsomely bound, price 15s.,

Inaugural Edition of the Cosmopolitan Invention, entitled
VISIBLE SPEECH—THE SCIENCE OF UNIVERSAL ALPHABETICS: or Self-Interpreting
Physiological Letters for the Printing and Writing of

ALL LANGUAGES IN ONE ALPHABET.

Elucidated by Theoretical Explanations, Tables, Diagrams, and Examples.

Now ready, quarto, Paper Covers, price One Shilling.

ENGLISH VISIBLE SPEECH FOR THE MILLION: with Pictorial Illustrations, Diagrams,
and Reading Exercises. Adapted for Self-Instruction.

Also, quarto, Paper Covers, price Sixpence.

CLASS-PRIMER OF ENGLISH VISIBLE SPEECH: containing the Illustrations, Diagrams, and
Reading Exercises in the preceding Work, reprinted (without the Theoretical Explanations)
for the use of Learners in Classes.

12mo, Paper Covers, price One Shilling.

VISIBLE SPEECH—A NEW FACT DEMONSTRATED: the Pamphlet issued before the publica-
tion of the System, and containing a Description of the Invention, Record of Experiments,
Offer to Government, &c.

In Preparation, to be ready early in 1868.

UNIVERSAL SHORT-HAND, ON THE BASIS OF 'VISIBLE SPEECH.'—A New System of
STENO-PHONOGRAPHY, adapted for Vernacular Reporting, as well as for Exact Orthoepic
Writing,

IN ALL LANGUAGES.

No previous knowledge of the Symbols of 'Visible Speech' is required by learners of this
system, the relations of Sounds being equally exhibited in the Short-hand characters. The
English Alphabet will be mastered by any person after a few minutes' study.

Any of the above Works will be sent—*Post Free* within the United Kingdom—by the
Author, on receipt of the Published Price in Postage Labels [or P. O. Order, payable at the
N. W. District Office.]

Address: 18 HARRINGTON SQUARE, N. W.



