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# **Principles and practice of public speaking**

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PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE  
OF  
PUBLIC SPEAKING

BY

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## PREFACE

THE motive which has prompted the writing of this book is threefold; first, to present the principles of public speaking, and suitable illustrative material in convenient form for use in the author's own classes; second, to supply the needs of other teachers to whom this book may commend itself; and third, to meet the demand of the general reader who may desire by his own unassisted efforts to cultivate the ability to speak in public.

The order of presentation, and the method of instruction and practice that is suggested, follow closely the author's plan in presenting the work to his own students. It is hoped, and believed, that this book will commend itself as a text especially to young teachers who lack experience in methods, and to that large body of busy teachers with whom teaching classes in public speaking constitutes only a part of their regular work. With this in view, the author has endeavored to be simple and clear in statement, and has supplied an abundance of illustrative material for every principle presented; and he has permitted himself at times, an informality and directness of address that could be sanctioned only by the purpose of emphasis and personal encouragement.

There has been throughout an effort to preserve the distinction between public speaking and public reading, or elocution; yet the extreme policy of excluding all illustrations from the general literature of poetry and prose has not been adopted. To maintain that the vocal and physical

means of expression in public speaking and elocution are fundamentally different is absurd. The difference lies chiefly in purpose and variety of expression. Wherever it was thought a selection from poetry or general literature would best illustrate a principle, the selection has been unhesitatingly used in preference to one taken from public speeches. This course may be further justified by the added advantage of affording variety and stimulating interest. A successful speaker should be, and needs must be a good reader; and he cannot have too much of the larger outlook, the deeper sympathy, the livelier imagination, and the cultural advantage that arises from familiarity with general literature and the ability to give it vocal interpretation. In the author's own observation and experience in the class room, the oral reading of simple, ordinary prose is often a sorry exhibition of incompetence and neglected training. Students deficient in this respect should have training in the vocal interpretation of good literature before undertaking the larger work of public speaking practice.

The questions and exercises, and specific references for collateral reading which are given at the close of most chapters; the treatment of musical properties of speech and their suggested adaptability to use by public speakers; the chapter on class criticism and the use of a score card; and the author's outlines for platform work appropriate to the needs of the college student and his probable activities in later life, may be considered among others, the distinguishing features of this book. The selections for illustrations and practice with which the book closes are taken very largely from the literature of great speeches, and are representative of the four forms of appeal, and of many



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peoples and periods of history. They may be used to advantage as supplemental to the illustrations and platform work which accompany the discussion of technique in preceding chapters.

This book, furthermore, has been prepared with a view to the elasticity of its use so far as concerns the length of time that is devoted to the subject in different schools. In a two hour per week course during one term or semester, the introductory chapter, and chapters VIII, IX, X, XII, and XIV, and much illustrative material may be eliminated from consideration in class without destroying the logical sequence and utility of the remaining subject matter which is to be used. To courses of four or five hours per week, the entire subject matter of the book is nicely adapted.

Acknowledgments are due, and hereby gratefully made, to the long list of writers who have contributed to the literature of this subject, especially to the writings of Professors Clark and Chamberlain, which have more largely influenced the author than any other; and to my colleague, Professor E. P. Johnston, for valuable suggestions, and assistance in reading proof. Fond recognition is also given to my daughters, Emma and Wilma, for efficient and helpful service in many ways.

J. E. KAMMEYER.

MANHATTAN, KANSAS, August, 1911.



TO THE  
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF MY CLASSES,  
PAST AND PRESENT, WHOSE KINDLY INTEREST  
AND INTELLIGENT CO-OPERATION HAVE  
MADE MY WORK A PLEASANT TASK  
AT ALL TIMES

