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Interview with Miss Eilian Hughes.

RESUMPTION OF VOICE PRODUCTION CLASSES.

Reprinted from the "Middlesex County Times."

The name of Miss Eilian Hughes needs no introduction to Ealing readers. As a resident of many years' standing, as author of two books, a volume of essays, and a charming collection of Welsh stories, illustrated by Lady Stanley, entitled, "My Island," as a dramatist, a reciter, lecturer, and teacher of elocution, her name is well-known throughout the neighbourhood, and hearing she was organising a fresh series of classes for voice-production and elocution practice, our representative interviewed Miss Hughes, with a view to learning further particulars.

The success which attended the two series of classes given locally by Miss Hughes last spring and summer, and the very cordial reception accorded to the speakers' classes, which Miss Hughes carried on last term, both at Windsor and Blackheath, has induced her to resume the classes both locally and further afield.

In these days when women are increasingly called upon to take their share of public work, which, in many cases, necessitates speechmaking from public platforms, the ability to arrange thoughts and theories in logical sequence, and to deliver them with clear enunciation and pleasing intonation should become part of the equipment of all women, and the following extract taken from a recent periodical, serves to show what value can be extracted from even a single course of lessons in voice production when taken under expert and experienced tuition:—

"Miss Hughes," so runs the paragraph, "has developed, and in some cases discovered, an ability to make a reasonably good speech in all her pupils. So good is Miss Hughes' method, that it is possible some of those pupils may make their mark later. At the final class of the series, a lady who had flatly refused to attempt to speak at all, at last found courage, and supported an amendment remarkably well."

Certainly among the rising generation in Ealing a good many promising young elocutionists owe their success to the thorough and capable training they have received from Miss Hughes, and she can point to many a pupil who has started in a successful career.

To give even a resume of all the various departments of dramatic art and literature in which Miss Hughes has given repeated proof of her ability, would be a long tale to tell. Many will remember without reminder the successes she scored in the stage-managing of many a dramatic production in schools and elsewhere, and also as a lecturer and raconteuse. Indeed, her papers on various literary subjects, papers such as the one written on "Kipling," which has been given by special request several times, reveal a three-fold power; deep, penetrating and shrewd criticism, clothed in eloquent language, and delivered with all the trained artistry of an experienced elocutionist.

These lectures, many of which, such as one upon "Bernard Shaw," have been given in London-town itself, and in other places, include a wide range of subjects. The success attending that on "Laughter," which was delivered at the Athnæum, Richmond, and the lecture-recital given in the Victoria Hall, Ealing, upon the theme of "Tragedy," arousing much interested comment.

Herself a pupil of the great Hermann Vezin, Miss Hughes has given numerous proofs of her own power and versatility. Whether in a recital of "The Just-So Stories," in her interpretation of "The King's Tragedy," which requires such rigorously dramatic treatment, in the pathetic humour of Barrie's writings, when she essayed the by no means light and easy task of reciting, in the production of "Athalie" to orchestral accompaniment, in one of the Ealing Choral Society's performances, or as raconteuse, sitting by the fire at "Clifford's Inn," story-telling with finest art that appeared absolute naturalness, Miss Eilian Hughes seemed equally at home.

What is of more importance still, perhaps, she possesses as a teacher that rare gift of getting from her pupils, whether adult or children, and seemingly unconsciously, the very best that lies hidden in them. Thus Miss Hughes has discovered many a talent that lay dormant, undreamt of either by the possessor or her friends.

The classes will be resumed the first week in February. For particulars apply Miss Eilian Hughes, 20, Fordhook-avenue.