

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: “Thumb Better Than Candle for Testing Out Voices” clipping from unknown newspaper

Date: December 4, 1915

Location: MC 2013.3, B5, F8

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

public this protection."

THUMB BETTER THAN CANDLE FOR TESTING OUT VOICES.

Tribune Sat. Dec 4

Prima Donna Says Flicker of Light Is Not Infallible Test of Wrong Vibrations in Singers.

1915

Mme. Hanna Butler, prima donna, of the Auditorium hotel, does not believe in the indiscriminate use of the candle flame as a means of testing voices. Dr. Floyd S. Mackey of Columbia university told the National Council of Teachers of English that a wavering candle flame before a tone meant something wrong with the tone.

Mme. Butler showed a TRIBUNE photographer both the right tone with an unwavering flame and the wrong one with a flickering light.

"It wouldn't do for a beginner to test her voice with the candle," said Mme. Butler, "because she might have a throaty tone and the candle would not flicker. Most young women who have done a little amateur singing without proper training are 'muscle bound.' When they sing the muscles at the base of the tongue stand out. A teacher is apt to advise the pupil to relax, but a beginner doesn't know how to do it. She may feel her throat with her thumb, however, and tell easily whether or not she is relaxing."