

various syllables which immediately compose words, and eventually language?

All words are modified undulations of air, made significant to the mind, by social compact, or consent. The first step to language is to form them, the next to comprehend their meaning.

It hath been already premised that vowels are the fundamentals, and expressed with little or no action of the loquetary organs, like separate simple notes in a flute, independent of time, flats, sharps, rests, etc. That when these are learned, by the method just hinted at, articulation of the most easy syllables is next to be inculcated, showing the form in writing, as well as in utterance at the same time; thus bringing the pupil gradually on from syllables to words; from words to sentences, first simple, then compound, until he becomes capable of every kind of composition.

It may well be supposed, that the method of instructing such deaf persons must be extremely tedious and laborious to the teacher, and the greatest possible trial of his patience; but it is the purpose of this essay to prove that it hath been reduced to practice, and that it is practised with great success at present, rather than to attempt to describe particularly the ingenious mode in use.

If a person can be brought to speak at all, and is not deficient in intellect, application and perseverance in a judicious method may enable him, most undoubtedly, to make vast improvements in the faculty of speech: this is demonstrated in the removal of the most violent impediments of stammerers. The greatest orator of Greece was at first almost an unintelligible stutterer; by long labor, and indefatigable perseverance, he overcame all difficulties, and in spite of nature became the paragon of eloquence. His soliloquizing on the sea-coast, near the roaring surges, with pebbles in his mouth (if true) strongly supports the argument that the use of articulate language is not only not natural, but slowly progressive, and of difficult acquisition, although it may be attained, by right application and long practice, even under the greatest disadvantages.

*"Labor omnia vincit."*