

The chief difference is, that such as hear, make a variety of experiments with their organs of speech, to imitate the sounds they hear before they hit upon the right position to effect it; but, at length, by perseverance, and repeatedly comparing by their ear their own production of sounds with that of others, they arrive at just articulation, generally, however, long before they know the nature of many things whose names they pronounce; beginning usually with those easy words in which the consonants are labials, or formed wholly by the lips, as *Pa pa, Ma ma*, etc., whereas those who are void of hearing, learn, or are taught to vocalize and articulate their breath by feeling and seeing instead of by the other sense, and arrive at the knowledge of the connection and import of words and sentences, by inculcation and study of their forms, in characters, and in enunciation, in lieu of the more easy mode, which hearing persons enjoy. The former may be compared to persons who acquire the art of music by rote, or merely by their own imitative powers and endeavors, the latter of those who are taught it by instructors, systematically.

What is the inference from the preceding propositions? The inference intended is, that the only natural language, already described, may be methodized and formed into a practicable, intelligible system, by all possessed of understanding and of the instruments of voice and articulation.

Taking for granted, that it will be allowed, with respect to those who are blessed with the usual important sense of hearing, it remains only to be proved that it is practicable and intelligible likewise by the deaf. Is it incredible that, a person void of hearing, may by feeling the vibration, or efficient cause of vocal sounds in the throat, inwardly and by application of the touch outwardly, in contradistinction to the mere impulses of breath, learn by perseverance and assistance to know when he gives the different tremulous motions of the air, which we distinguish by the vocal sounds *a, e, i, o, u*? Is it incredible that such a person afterwards by attentively looking at others when speaking, and by seeing how they place their lips and transpose their tongue, occasionally to the teeth, gums, and palate, for the combination of consonants and vowels, should learn in time to imitate the pronunciation of all the