

STATISTICS OF THE ORAL METHOD

For a great many years statistics relating to the education of the Deaf have been annually gathered by the American Annals of the Deaf, the organ of the Convention of American Instructors; but no statistics relating to articulation teaching appear until 1884. For some years thereafter the information published was not sufficient to show what progress the oral method was making in America; and in 1892 the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf directed the attention of The Annals to the matter by passing the following resolution:²³

“WHEREAS: The statistical tables of schools for the Deaf annually published in the American Annals of the Deaf present the number of pupils in American schools taught articulation, without classification of the number taught by speech methods:

Resolved: That the executive committee having in charge the publication of the American Annals be requested annually to publish the number of pupils in American schools taught wholly by oral methods, and the number taught in part by oral methods.”

In response to this the Annals statistics for 1892 (published January 1893) contained a column giving the number of pupils “taught wholly by oral method,” but no reference was made to those taught in part by oral methods.”

In explanation the Editor of the Annals said:

“I do not like the phrase ‘taught in part by oral method’ and though the resolution was adopted in a meeting composed largely of oral teachers, I should not think that, on reflection, they would like it either. There is but one oral method and pupils are either taught by it or they are not.”

These statistics appeared annually in the Annals in a special column headed by the letter “B”; and a footnote referred to column “B” as the “Number taught wholly by the oral method.” In 1897 however, the footnote was amended so as to read “Number taught wholly or *chiefly* by the oral method,” and in 1899 the Editor of the Annals