

The gradual increase in the number of articulation teachers employed in America led to an organization of the teachers to improve the general character of their work.

The first convention of articulation teachers¹⁵ met in Worcester, Mass., on the twenty-fourth day of January, 1874, and was composed of teachers employing the Melville-Bell symbols in the instruction of the Deaf.

The second convention¹⁶ also met in the city of Worcester in the same year, June 13, 1874, and to this convention all articulation teachers were invited, whether they did or did not employ the Melville-Bell symbols.

In 1884 the third convention of articulation teachers¹⁷ met in New York City at the New York Institution for the Improved Instruction of Deaf-mutes.

At this meeting the idea was developed that in the interests of harmony in the profession as a whole it would be better for the oral teachers to meet in future as a section of the general convention of American instructors of the Deaf rather than as a separate body, and the following resolutions were passed:—

"Resolved, that the convention of American Instructors of the Deaf and Dumb, be requested to organize a section of the convention for the promotion of articulation teaching.

"Resolved, that this request be transmitted to the executive committee at the convention.

The next general convention of American instructors met in California in 1886 but the request to form an oral section met with no response from that body. A further advance, however, in the attitude of the profession towards articulation teaching was manifested by the passage of resolutions which included the following:¹⁸

"Resolved, that earnest and persistent endeavours should be made in every school for the Deaf to teach every pupil to speak and read from the lips, and that such efforts should only be abandoned when, after thorough tests by experienced and competent teachers, it is plainly evident that the measure of success attainable is so small as not to justify the necessary amount of labour.