

ple do not give an *r* of any sort in a large proportion of cases, and it is certainly the case that glide *r* may be ignored in teaching a deaf child and taught simply as voice, without any ordinary person noticing any peculiarity, so that in the word "comfortable" the second syllable may be given as, *f* followed by the indefinite voice sign. (**3**, *f*-) So also with the vowel in the last syllable. The whole word, therefore, might be written **ɑ̃ʒ3.ɔ̃.ɪʒ** or *kumf-t-bl*. Pronounce the first syllable with due deliberation and care, and give the others rapidly and carelessly, and it will be satisfactory.

DR. WILLIAMS : With indefinite vowel sounds, is there not a danger of carrying that too far so as to get indefiniteness?

DR. BELL : You don't want to do that with accented vowels. However, it is the consonants that give intelligibility to speech. You may give every vowel indefinitely; but if the consonants are definite, you get intelligibility. If the accented vowels are given correctly, the unaccented vowels may be jumbled up somewhat.

DR. WILLIAMS : But if they get into the habit of giving the vowel sound in that indefinite way, won't they carry it into the accented vowels?

DR. BELL : Well, they might, just as we do. Of course, the better articulation you can get the better; but allow me to say that in ninety-nine out of a hundred persons you meet in ordinary society, that indefinite sound is carried into a great many accented syllables and also into nearly all the unaccented syllables.

The next question is, "In a whisper, are the vocal cords lax or tense?" In the case of a whisper there is a constriction; there is an obstruction to the passage of air in the glottis. The vocal cords are not adjusted so as to permit of a definite musical vibration, so that the obstruction results in a rustling sound that we term "whisper."

PROF. BINNER : You mean constriction of the vocal cords?

DR. BELL : Yes, a constriction of the glottis — the space between the vocal cords.