

There are now 167 schools for the Deaf in the United States; and only two of them give no instruction in speech. These are schools for colored children, 1 in Taft, Oklahoma, with fifteen pupils, and the other at Newport News, Va., with ninety.

On March 1, 1917, there were 14,028 deaf children under instruction in the schools of the United States.

11,184, or 79.7 per cent, were taught speech; and in 11,137 cases, or 79.4 per cent of the whole, the speech was used as a means of instruction. This shows that the old plan of giving pupils articulation drills for a short time each day while their general education was carried on by silent methods of instruction has been given up. The speech is now used in almost every case in the processes of instruction.

The vast majority of our pupils, 8,888 or 63.4 per cent, are now taught wholly or in part by the oral method; and 4,150 or 29.6 per cent are taught wholly by the oral method (pure oral) from 1904 to 1917; and a still greater increase in the proportion taught in part by the oral method, but the progress in this case has not been so steady, the curve fluctuates.

When we consider that the pupils taught wholly by the oral method are very largely in separate oral schools, not employing the sign-language, and that the pupils taught in part by the oral method are exclusively in schools also employing manual methods of communication, it becomes obvious that the two curves express, in part at least, the results of the competition between the oral schools and the older schools of the country.

From this point of view the pure oral line represents a slow, steady, and increasing pressure exerted by the oral schools upon the older schools of the country tending to cause them to modify their methods of instruction; and the other line expresses the result of the pressure, at least in part.