

These consonants are called **Gutturals**. The above set of sounds are called **Mutes**, because the sound comes to a full stop.

- (i) **Labial** comes from Lat. *labium*, the lip.
- (ii) **Dental** comes from Lat. *dens* (*dents*) a tooth. Hence also *dentist*.
- (iii) **Guttural** comes from Lat. *guttur*, the throat.
- (iv) **Palatal** comes from Lat. *palātum*, the palate.

8. The Grammar of Consonants: (2) Spirants. Some consonants have a little breath attached to them, do not stop the sound abruptly, but may be prolonged. These are called **breathing letters** or **spirants**. Thus, if we take an *ib* and breathe through it, we make it an *iv*—the *b* becomes a *v*. If we take an *ip* and breathe through it, it becomes an *if*—the *p* becomes an *f*. Hence *v* and *f* are called **spirant labials**. The following is a complete

TABLE OF CONSONANT SOUNDS.

MUTES.				SPIRANTS.		
	FLAT (or Soft).	SHARP (or Hard).	NASAL.	FLAT (or Soft).	SHARP (or Hard).	TRILLED.
GUTTURALS	g (in <i>gig</i>)	k	ng	...	h	...
PALATALS .	j	ch (church)	...	y (yea)	...	...
PALATAL SIBILANTS }	...	...	...	zh (azure)	sh (sure)	r
DENTAL SIBILANTS }	...	...	...	z (prize)	s	l
DENTALS .	d	t	n	th (bathe)	th (bath)	...
LABIALS .	b	p	m	v & w	f & wh	...

(i) The above table goes from the throat to the lips—from the back to the front of the mouth.

(ii) **b** and **d** are pronounced with less effort than **p** and **t**. Hence **b** and **d**, etc., are called **soft** or **flat**; and **p** and **t**, etc., are called **hard** or **sharp**.