

schools it is their insistence upon the entire disuse of the French sign language of De l'Epee and Sicard, which had been brought to America by Gallaudet and Clerc. They have always insisted upon the importance of making speech the usual and ordinary means of communication both in and out of the schoolrooms, and claimed that in the above cases the sign-language was the usual and ordinary means of communication because the use of speech was practically confined to school exercises.

In 1902 the attempt was made to have the schools distinguish between their use of speech in the schoolroom and outside. It took two years and much correspondence before the schools generally understood the new questions asked so that it was not until 1904 that reliable statistics of the oral method were obtained.

In that year (1904), 2,050 pupils, or 18.2 per cent of the whole, were taught wholly by the oral method (pure oral); and 1665 or 14.8 per cent were taught partly by the oral method: That is, they were taught by speech without sign-language or manual spelling, so far as their schoolroom instruction was concerned, but used other means of communication outside.

This made a total of 3,715 pupils or 33.0 per cent of the whole taught by speech without the use of the sign-language or manual alphabet.

Speech statistics collected by the Association have been published annually since 1899 in the Association Review (now the Volta Review) and the following table contains the information compiled relating to the growth of the oral method, from 1904-1917.²⁶