

THE ORIGIN AND TREATMENT OF STAMMERING

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The Origin and Treatment of Stammering by Geo. Andrew Lewis

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GEO. ANDREW LEWIS

**THE ORIGIN AND
TREATMENT
OF STAMMERING**



GEO. ANDREW LEWIS.

Founder of The Lewis Phono-Metric Method and Principal of The
Lewis School for Stammerers.

THE ORIGIN AND
TREATMENT OF STAMMERING

(Sixth Edition Enlarged and Revised.)

BY

GEO. ANDREW LEWIS

(An Inveterate Stammerer for more than twenty years.)

FOUNDER OF
THE LEWIS PHONO-METRIC METHOD

Registered at patent offices in the United States and Canada.



FOR THE PERMANENT CURE OF
STAMMERING AND STUTTERING

AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF IMPERFECT UT-
TERANCE OF SPEECH AND ARTICULATION

A practical and scientific treatise on the Cause and Treatment of Speech Defects with original illustrations showing the difference between mild and severe types of stammering. Lectures delivered before Elocutionists' Conventions and Medical Societies with suggestions for treatment.



THE EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE
PUBLIC

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THE AUTHOR'S EXPERIENCE

"Come, I will show thee an affliction
Unnumbered among the world's sorrows." — *Tupper.*

THE earliest recollection of my difficulty carries me back to my infancy. I can well remember my mother taking me to school for the first time, and, with tearful eyes, she told the teacher not to chastise me if I stammered, because, said she, "He cannot help it." From that time until my cure, I cannot remember a period in my whole life when I did not labor to much disadvantage because of my impediment or when I could have said, "I can speak." True, at times I could speak, but always with a mental strain, and there were many times when I was almost dumb. The severity of my trouble was heightened by the fact that some of my relatives were similarly afflicted, or in other words, I had inherited my difficulty, which made a cure, in my mind, all the more improbable.

In this supposition I have since found I was correct, the reason being—The organism predisposed to the development of stammering the defect was planted in the pre-natal life, and, therefore, had the force of the unnatural condition as a part of the condition of its own existence.

Several months after my mother had taken me to school, she passed away to a better world, after which time, notwithstanding my father and family tried every available means to lessen the severity of my trouble, I gradually grew worse. My father tried to break me of it by offers of money if I would or could repeat after him

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words and sentences he would speak,—in vain. My difficulty was rapidly developing into the most severe form of stuttering, a condition where, in my effort to speak, I placed the stress to articulate upon the wrong muscles, thereby causing the rapid repetition of a word or syllable before the following word or syllable could be uttered.

This is the kind of stuttering that many persons mock at and mimic, many of whom have had cast upon their shoulders by Almighty God the weight that they would burden down with ridicule and jest for the poor unfortunate who carries it around. A most pitiable sight occurred to me a few days ago. A young man who applied for admission to my Institute told me he had acquired his difficulty by imitation, and notwithstanding the fact that he was of well-to-do parents, who had paid out almost a fortune in their efforts to find relief for him, he said his life had been a blank, the direct result of his own folly and jest.

Let those who mock be careful. Surely the poor stammerer has enough to suffer without bearing the taunts and ridicule of the public.

As I grew older, I naturally became more sensitive about my difficulty. My friends and relatives experienced and expressed great sorrow over my condition, which only made me suffer the more, because I knew that those who loved me, and whom I loved, suffered with me.

Should I, by chance, be invited out of an evening to a reception or party, I would many times imagine it was for the purpose of exhibiting my affliction, which