

APHASIA AND ASSOCIATED SPEECH PROBLEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649164264

Aphasia and associated speech problems by Michael Osnato

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MICHAEL OSNATO

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ASSOCIATED
SPEECH PROBLEMS**

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BY

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PREFACE BY

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NEW YORK
PAUL B. HOEBER

1920

52491

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Published January, 1920

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Printed in the United States of America

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PREFACE

1929
1924
It is not without much hesitancy that one approaches any of the problems related to speech, whether this be its purely linguistic phase or the complex mechanism of its production and defects. As a field of physiological investigation, it has had its noted pioneers followed by many skilled craftsmen. It has also been especially fertile in its crops of spirited controversy. Yet the larger part of this development has been well within the last half century; indeed, the first serious attention to the subject had its inception in a notable contribution by Broca in 1861.

1929
1924
Speech so unquestionably is a subject inviting controversy that one is aware of an inadvertent disposition to take sides. Whether your allegiance be with the exact localizationist, the extreme diagrammatist, the comprehensive synthetist or the lenticular quadrilateralist will depend upon the degree to which you have been imbued by the ideas of Broca or Wernicke, Hughlings Jackson or Pierre Marie.

However helpful the several hypotheses concerning speech production and its dis-

Preface

turbances have been (and there is every reason for admitting their real value) it is not difficult to detect the dogmatic inflection in them all. A general critique of the physiology of speech must of necessity limit itself to a discussion of the theories by which, in lieu of a more satisfactory foundation at present wanting, the subject is indoctrinated. Nor is it probable that any other approach to the speech problem in and of itself will bring more satisfying results in understanding.

[The vocal articulation of language, one of the most delicate of all skilled acts, differs from other skilled performances only in the degree of its complexity. Not until the neural mechanism of such motor performances is thoroughly understood will the nature of speech production and its defects be intelligible.

There can be no dispute that a definite synthetic process of nervous energy is indispensable to the acquisition and execution of all skilled acts.] The reflex and tonic status of the muscles must be adequate, the synergic and automatic associative control must be exact, but even more essential than these is that composite of cerebral influences derived from the sensory and psychic elaborations which enter into the formation of intelligence.

Preface

[Articulate speech is the result of such a synthetic process. Its control by the nervous system cannot be attributed to any center or group of centers in the brain. It is dependent upon a number of parts and areas correlated to mediate the several specific influences which enter into its composition.]

Dr. Osnato has rendered a distinct service by emphasizing the difficulties of the problem in his thoughtful and illuminating review of the theories concerning speech production and its defects. His thesis will prove a stimulus as well as an aid to those interested in the subject.

FREDERICK TILNEY.

New York, N. Y.

August, 1919

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