

**THE MECHANISM OF SPEECH: LECTURES  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION TO  
PROMOTE THE TEACHING OF SPEECH TO  
THE DEAF, TO WHICH IS APPENDED A  
PAPER. VOWEL THEORIES**

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The Mechanism of Speech: Lectures Delivered before the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, to Which Is Appended a Paper. Vowel Theories by Alexander Graham Bell

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**ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL**

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE  
THE TEACHING OF SPEECH TO THE  
DEAF, TO WHICH IS APPENDED A PAPER

## VOWEL THEORIES

READ BEFORE THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ILLUSTRATED WITH CHARTS AND DIAGRAMS

BY  
ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

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SIXTH EDITION

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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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These lectures upon the Mechanism of Speech were delivered at the First Summer Meeting of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, before an audience composed largely of persons professionally engaged in the work of teaching speech to deaf children.

In 1906 these lectures were for the first time collected in book form and reprinted by the Association, chiefly for the use of its members, but enough copies were struck off to allow of the presentation of the work to the general public in the hope that it would prove of interest to a larger circle of readers. This hope was realized and there is now a demand for another edition.

The first edition was printed during the author's absence in Europe, so that he had no opportunity of revising the proofs; and, unfortunately, in using the unfamiliar type representing Melville Bell's Speech-Symbols, the printers made quite a number of typographical mistakes. In this second edition advantage has been taken of the opportunity to correct these errors.

When the lectures were originally delivered the teachers present were encouraged to ask questions concerning difficulties experienced in imparting the power of articulate speech to deaf children. In this volume the questions and answers have been appended to the lectures, in the hope that the replies may be of assistance to other teachers engaged in this difficult and laborious work.

A paper by the author upon "Vowel Theories" is also appended, as the original publication is difficult to find, and the paper itself is out of print. This paper was read before the National Academy of Sciences, April 15, 1879, and appeared in the American Journal of Otology, Vol. 1, July, 1879. The experiments described were made with the phonograph in the form in which it was given to the world by Edison—a grooved cylinder covered with tinfoil; but still more conclusive results are obtained with the improved phonographs and graphophones of to-day.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
May 24, 1907.

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