

MANUAL OF LIPREADING

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Manual of Lipreading by Mary E. B. Stormonth

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MARY E. B. STORMONTH

**MANUAL OF
LIPREADING**

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BY

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PENSIONS), FORMERLY LIPREADING SPECIALIST,
EDINBURGH SCHOOL BOARD

WITH A PREFACE BY

THE MARQUESS OF GRAHAM

C.B., C.V.O.

*Specially prepared for the instruction of
deafened sailors and soldiers*

LONDON

CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LTD.

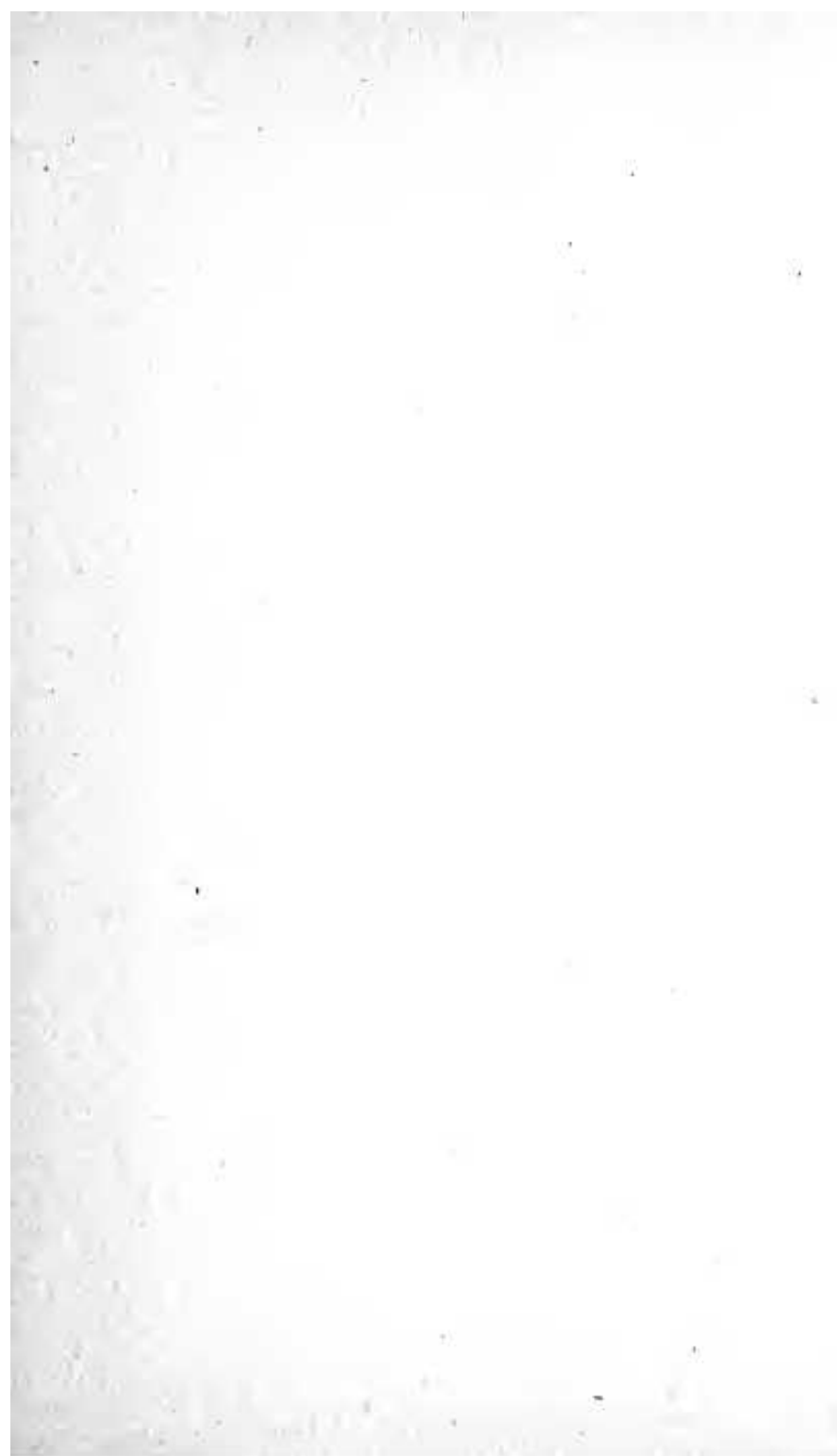
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DEDICATED
TO THE MOST HONOURABLE
JAMES, MARQUESS OF GRAHAM
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SYMPATHETIC
LABOURS ON BEHALF OF DEAFENED
SAILORS AND SOLDIERS OF
THE GREAT WAR

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PREFACE

Life is mostly froth and bubble ;
Two things stand like stone :
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.—LINDSAY GORDON.

IN writing about Lipreading, these fine lines of Lindsay Gordon's come quickly to mind. They put the whole case in the proverbial 'nut shell.' They picture the afflicted one making every effort to keep himself—'a live soul'—in the world ; and they illustrate the helping-hand stretched out to meet and cheer.

No one will deny that deafness is a great affliction. It absolutely shuts one off from all the joyous sounds of nature, home, and society. It makes those hard of hearing very sensitive—too self-conscious. They feel they are a nuisance ; they imagine people are making remarks about them ; they think they are not wanted ; in short, they develop a morbid tendency, and withdraw into seclusion.

This is all a misunderstanding. The great majority of people in the world are right-minded ; and, consequently, have sympathy for those who are in trouble, and, if only allowed, are glad to help them.

Those who are deaf should overcome personal shyness, and remember the words of Robert Louis Stevenson :

'Happiness, at least, is not solitary ; it joys to communicate ; it loves others, for it depends on them for its existence.

There is no duty so much underrated as the duty of being

happy. . . . A happy man or woman is a better thing to find than a five-pound note. He or she is a radiating focus of good-will. . . . They demonstrate the great Theorem of the Liveableness of Life. . . .'

To follow out this precept, it may safely be said that lipreading is essential to the hard-of-hearing, especially for those who wish to be useful, and to enjoy interchange of opinion. By assiduous study of the facial muscles and lips, a deaf person can maintain an ordinary conversation. I do not pretend that it is given to many to become so perfect as to be able to read sermons from the pulpit, or follow a play on the stage; but, for every-day use, lipreading can and will enable a deaf person to avoid innumerable awkward situations. In plain language, it 'saves one making a fool of oneself' over and over again.

In her *Manual of Lipreading*, Miss Stormonth has produced a thoroughly practical publication for the 'would-be' lipreader. It is easy to follow; skilfully progressive; and, in the hands of a capable friend, the deaf should have no difficulty in acquiring a real proficiency.

Miss Stormonth has had much practice in teaching the deaf. Her sympathy for those afflicted is very genuine. I have seen her busily engaged in helping sailors and soldiers who have lost their hearing in the war. Her work is most encouraging. I cannot conclude better than by earnestly recommending this book to the serious consideration of all those who, like myself, are shut off from the joyous sound of the human voice.

GRAHAM

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