

# 'One Track' Mind Theory Debunked By Professor

Musician . . . psychologist . . .  
scientist . . .

Dr. Arnold H. Wagner, professor of music, "debunks" the student idea that professors know very little other than the courses they teach.

Combining his music ability with a practical and technical knowledge of anatomy and psychology, Dr. Wagner, has been outstanding in the scientific field of music for almost 15 years.

## Receives Ph.D. in Music

Chief among the doctor's contributions to music is his study and experimentation on the remedial and artistic development of the vibrato, for which he received a Ph.D. degree at Iowa State university.

The vibrato, as Dr. Wagner explains it, "is a periodic pitch and intensity of the pulsations of the voice which is heard when holding a tone." Without the vibrato the voice is considered by experts to be "dead." Vibrato is the element that adds life and emotion to a singer's delivery.

Dr. Wagner, realizing that very little was known on this subject, decided to experiment on the vibrato in an attempt to discover whether it could be controlled, refined, and developed in a voice that lacks emotion.

## Difficulties Encountered

To accomplish this experiment a machine was needed to record the voice and its pulsations. After considerable canvassing, it was discovered that only one piece of equipment in the country could aid Dr. Wagner in his research. The machine was owned by Iowa State university and was not available for special use. His only alternative was to construct a similar instrument.

After six months of work, Dr. Wagner completed a machine called "tono-photographic camera." The apparatus, although including many parts which were costly, had its origin in a baking powder can, a flashlight cylinder, an automobile headlight, and a sawed-off radio horn. The camera measures the rate of the vibrato, and by means of a metronome, the once known quantity can be improved and controlled.

## Research Continues

Since completing his study on the vibrato, the musician-scientist has been doing research on the registers of the voice and has given a series of lectures, collaborating with Dr. Joel Pressman in describing what takes place in the larynx during speaking and singing at various pitches.

Dr. Wagner has had a long and successful career at SC since joining the faculty in 1920. A number of his pupils are in opera, rec