

rises. Partial 1, 3, and 5 start with even strength at the bottom, and No. 3 retains a position just under the fundamental up to the beginning of the highest octave. No. 5 falls slowly in importance. No. 2, after it comes in, rises until in the highest tones it occupies the second position; for these tones the strengths of the partials arrange themselves in the order of the partial numbers. Over the range of the instrument, partials Nos. 4 and 6 rise and then fall. Partial 10 does not appear above the lowest register. In the transition range above it, Nos. 1 and 2 are abnormally weak, but 3, 4, and 5 are not much affected.

These results agree on the whole, but not in detail with the work of McGinnis, *et al.*² They found some twelve tones in which the fundamental is not listed as "very strong," while we had only two in which it was not the strongest of all. The partials which they list as medium, or weak, do not agree at all closely with ours.

usual B-flat clarinet, going down semitone. It has a full Boehm key system. There is a widely held belief that instruments owe their individual qualities to the presence of formants. A formant may be defined as a region of frequency such that a tone that falls within it is relatively strong, no matter what fundamental it belongs to. Reinforcement could hardly be caused by resonance action but resonance. The resonance curves in the column are fairly sharp, especially in the lower frequencies, if we define the sharpness as the width of the response in semitones. It is doubtful if a single sharp resonance could exert a noticeable effect on tone quality; at least, this does not happen in violin tones.

A search was made for formants in the tones of instruments here considered, with the same results. Looking over the clarinet analyses, for instance, a strong partial No. 11 for the lowest 196 c.p.s., and the frequency of the

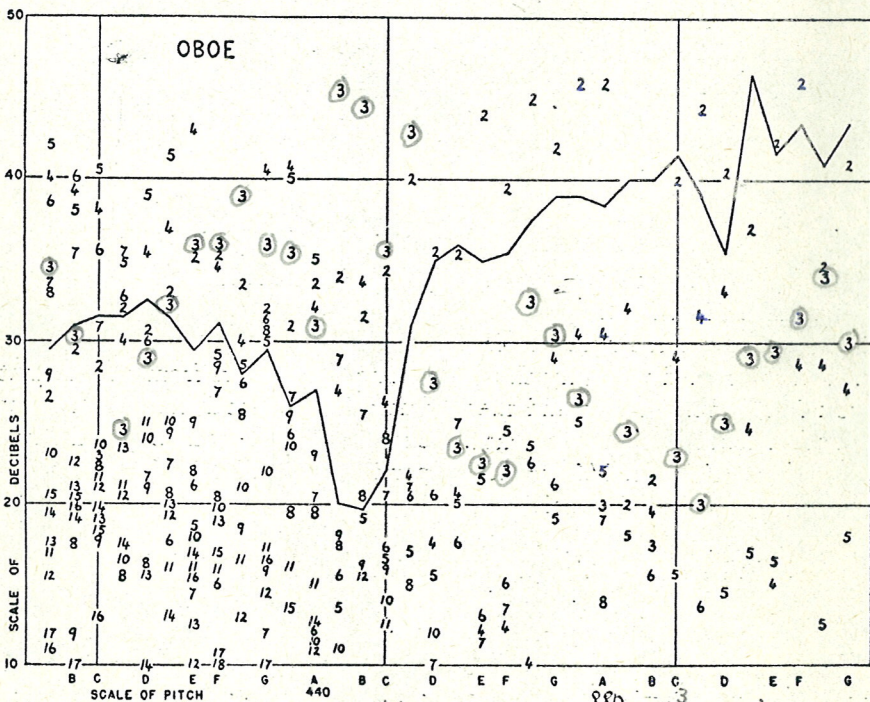


FIG. 2.

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