

Piano Tones Like Human Voice

A new type of piano, which is called a revolutionary musical development, has been patented by Dr. John Hays Hammond, Jr.

The invention increases the sonority of the piano, lengthens the vibrations and sustains the capacity and volume of the tone. Often the pianist has desired to influence the tone of the piano after the keys are struck. With the new instrument it is possible to do this and to produce a vibrato tone which so far could only be produced by the human voice or by string instruments.

The new piano looks very much like the usual piano except that the strings are enclosed in a sound-tight casing having two sets of shutters, one above the strings and the other below the sounding board, which are opened and closed by means of a fourth pedal. The shutters act as

reflectors and produce an effect called "acoustic regeneration", sustaining the sound vibrations for a much longer time than is possible in the ordinary piano. Manipulation of the extra pedal removes inflexibility and shortness, the chief drawback of the old piano tone. The tone effects and shading made possible have caused the instrument to be called a "breathing piano".

On this new piano, Lester Donohue, pianist, has given many performances during the last two years. It is particularly effective for modern compositions such as by Debussy and Scriabine written in impressionistic style and demanding varying nuances of sound.

Dr. John Hays Hammond, Jr., has received about 400 patents, many in the radio field, and he is also an excellent violinist.

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Urges Dental Institute

American dentists are preeminent in the practice of mechanical dentistry, but they have allowed abstract dental research to lag far behind their other achievements, Dr. Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian Institution told the American Dental Association. To remedy this condition, Dr. Hrdlicka suggested the development of an institute of dental research.

Present dental research he characterized as mere "nibbling". He said that men coming to him for aid in problems of dental research seemed badly hampered by lack of time for thorough investigations, often having only a few days to devote to the problem.

The institute of dental research should be located in Washington or some similar center where medical libraries and museums are accessible. It should cooperate with investigators in other fields, such as nutrition, anatomy and anthropology, and should be connected with all sorts of other scientific laboratories. Dr. Hrdlicka also strongly advocated the establishment in this country and elsewhere of scholarships for dental research. The numerical and financial strength of the dental profession make the carrying out of these suggestions perfectly practical in Dr. Hrdlicka's opinion.

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Bad Teeth Common Ill

Dental decay or caries is the most prevalent of all human diseases, Dr. C. N. Johnson of Chicago declared in a statement to the American Dental Association. As this disease is not contagious, it does not appeal to health authorities as requiring preventive action.

People are prevented from acquiring other diseases in spite of themselves. Compulsory vaccination in many states, quarantine regulations and other measures protect the people from smallpox, cholera, yellow fever and a host of other diseases. There is no such public control of dental diseases.

"Prevention must come from the people," Dr. Johnson said. Following a diet which scientists have found assists in the development of good teeth and taking children regularly to the dentist from the age of three on are measures which will do much to prevent the development of dental decay. In the case of this disease as in others, tremendous progress could be made if our present knowledge were put into effect.

"Fight decay as if it were contagious," Dr. Johnson urged the dentists. Study of the susceptibility of mouths to decay he recommended as the most practical and tangible plan of preventive dentistry

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