Dentistry and Music

Centre No. 16/020 Exam. No. 0019

Edna Watson

June 1969

#### **Preface**

This document demonstrates how Maurice Porter's work, and his book, "The Embouchure", had great value to general dental practitioners who, in their day-to-day work, endeavoured to meet the challenges of treating wind and brass musicians.

In 1969, Edna Watson, a West Cumbrian Dentist and keen amateur musician, wrote to The British Dental Association Library to enquire whether she could borrow some written material on the specialist dental treatment of musicians. She was loaned a copy of Maurice Porter's book "The Embouchure," which had been published only two years earlier, along with some other references.

In this former coal mining area of West Cumbria, there were many brass band players among Edna's patients, whom she had been treating for many years. She was generally successful in providing dental care that enabled them to continue to perform at semi-professional level. However, she had not had the benefit of Maurice Porter's expertise, until this time.

The motivation for approaching the BDA Library was that Edna had to submit a thesis as part of her coursework for a GCE "O" Level music course, which she was attending at a local evening class. The subject matter for the thesis was open to the candidates to decide on, so long as it was music related. The submitted thesis would be a subject for subsequent discussion with the external examiners.

Edna believed that it might be helpful to her, for her meeting with the examiners, if her chosen subject was something she knew more about than they did, and which would be helpful to her in her professional practice. She, therefore, chose as her thesis subject, "Dentistry and Music".

As you will see from her thesis document, much of the specialist technical information that she set out in the thesis was taken from Maurice Porter's book, and the associated articles that had been published in the British Dental Association Journals.

I am pleased to report that, with the help of Maurice Porter's material, my mother passed her "O" level music with a high grade. She also received a very personal letter from her examiner, which is incorporate in this file, about how reading the thesis had explained to the examiner, Linda Waters, why her five-year-old daughter's speech had suddenly improved after starting to play the recorder!

Shirley Watson

November 2022

#### **Postscript**

There are some amazing circumstances and coincidences that have enabled Edna Watson's thesis from 1969 to be included in this exhibition.

In 1993, her daughter, Shirley, met Maurice Porter's son, Robin, socially in London. Ever proud of his father's work on the Embouchure, Robin mentioned Maurice's book. To Robin's great surprise Shirley replied that she knew all about the book, as her mother Edna, a dentist in Cumbria, had borrowed it from the BDA Library about 25 years earlier and she herself had looked at it. The rest is history, as they say, as Robin and Shirley were married in 2008.

### Letter from External Examiner, Linda Waters to Edna Watson

	Don't Man habe to
	Dear Mr. Natson,
	bonat fascinating work. I was perticularly
<u> </u>	interested in the connection between playing a wood
+	wind wistrament and speech therapy My 55 year
	Od daughter has had speech problems for which the
	therapist could find no reason (other than layings!) In
	the last three weeks she has suddenly been able to !
di	
	make sounds which were previously impossible. It
	seemed to happen untrout any Obirons cause Henrewel.
	I did buy her a recorder three weeks ago and the has
1	spent a lot of time playing it. you exeany makes me
	wonds whether the use of muscles previously idle has
	resulted in this improvement.
1	Have you ever read about the dental treatment
	of Joan Sutherland the soprano?
	1
	Linda Waters.
1000	Landa voices.

TELEPHONE: 01-935. 0875 (6 LINES) TELEGRAMS: "BRIDENTION, LONDON, W. I"



#### BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

64 · WIMPOLE STREET LONDON · WXXX WIM SAL.

J. N. PEACOCK, L.D.S., Secretary E. MURIEL SPENCER, B.A.,A.L.A., Librarian

7th May, 1969.

Dear Mrs. Watson,

A receipt will be sent to you for your cheque in due course.

You now have on loan from the library a package, muscical instruments and a journal, Dental Survey, and a book Porter: The embouchure. These are the property of the library and may not be defaced in any way, however we will be willing to photocopy any articles that you particularly want.

I must point out that photographs will not come out very well but diagrams should be quite clear. The cost is sixpence per page.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. Librarian.

Mrs. E. Watson. 9 Curzon Street, Maryport, Cumberland .

MP & Watson

BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION Robert and Lilian Lindsay Library

This is governcedy.

J. Morris

With the

Librarian's Compliments

Any dentist whether general practitiones or specialist cannot fail at some time in his career, to be confronted by the muspician patient, who in certain branches of music making will certainly demand rather exacting treatment: into this class falls the singer, and the player of a wind instamment. In twenty years of dentistry one thing stands out about all others, and that is the very poor standard of oral hygiene in a high percurage of the general public and of some musicians in particular. do not know personally of the dental habits I many professional musicians but one hopes that they at last, will have been educated at an early stage in

their musical cares (parkadary surgers and wind - morrumentalists) to the necessity for exceptional care of their natural teeth. Of the senie - professional and amakeur musicians it has been my custom to treat I have been been my custom to treat I have been wisit a dentist until because of the pain, there is no other alternature but

extraction of a booth or even of all the teeth, no thought having been given previously he the idea of bung partially of fully edentulous; Even with the excellent clintistry available through Schools and under the N. H. S. (completely free except for dentures, to all under 21 years), a wast number remain dentally unfit. A dentist with a musician patient, can of course provide comprehensive specialist treatment, and Conversely, a patient with a musician dention can expect better than arrange interest in his particular problem. But what of the musician young or old who does not receive any propoganda regarding special care specific to this gramp of musicians in question? 9 should like to think that all teachers and conductors do un fact make this point with their pupils but from my own about alians ( not necessarily chinically) | musiciano, 9 do not that they themselves set good example in the main either from the standard of oral hyguene, or from the benefits of dental treatment! It is almost a waste of time

to want a dentist if no effective oral hygiene is practised by the patient, and ideally one should aim at brushing and running after each meal, but if the is not possible, at least after breakfast. and last thing at night, (centainly the most impostant time). It is equally impostant how the tresh are brushed, which should always be of the upper and laws jaws separately, and always in a direction from the gum- margin towards the beting surface of the teeth. In the went of stagnation of food between Luth, a took pick should also be utilised. If partial or complete dentures are worm, then the can of these should be equally devout: in both cases, from the point of view of improvement of the oral trasues they are better removed at night, In recent years , vast improvements have been made in tooth conservation, and in the group of musicians we are considering a single booth should be considered precious. It would be true to say that with two teeth remaining in either jaw, a stable partial could be constructed for almost any wind instrument.

There is no doubt that the value of the "embouchest" he the singer of wind musician is priceless, and one precautienary foresight while the natural teeth remain good, is to take accurate impressions of both upper and lower jows and from these cast up accurate "stone" models of the mouth, marking the accurate asticulation of the jaws. Thus in the went of loss by wear or accident, an accurate offerme pickers.

As a musician, the wind instrumentalist is a unique kind of executant - in Common with the singer, he is all Whe time using breath, mouth lips and tengue. Whereas the singer has a "built in generator and resonator these an supplied in the instrument of the wind player, supplemented by some resonance justin himself. Moreaver during his working day, his mouth and associated parts are rarely rested. Hory dental treatment heresitating suplacement of a teeth could easily necessitate Some readjustment of the embouchuse perhaps demanding considerable skel and Patrene in an older instrument alist

Singers From what has previously been said it is of paramount importance that the singer, amakeur or professional, is educated to Janabical case of the natural teeth. Unfortunabily by the time a potential singer has been sported the danger years for cames incidence or for osthodontic Correction are already past. Few tunagers exhibit rampant decay above the age of fifteen years, whereas few musicians are accepted for training before the age of eighteen. Of all musicians, it is the singer to whom appearance is so crital, and it is for the dentist to preserve and improve a surger's aesthetics at all time. In most cases, given a patient's full cooperation, it should be possible to preserve the natural heeth for the duration of a singing life But what of the patient who requires dentures, partial or full? In this case of a partial restoration, adequate anchorage can be obtained round the remaining teeth. A skeleton type I metal denture, blough more expensive, is preferable to any restoration in acrylic (plashic), because it is less bulky, and

6

becomes most of the presonne is distributed round the natural buth and not on the gums. It should be emphasised that sempulans cleanliness should be observed in cleaning both denture and natural buth after food, so that no food particles remain to ferment and course decay or gum damage. Jull dentures - Whatever other complaint, (as appearance, descomfost etc.) is encountered, it is always that I retention which proves the most obstinate. Anatomical differences, conquital or acquired, often have to be considered, and methods of sunging vary greatly, but most authorities again that the triging voice should be found on the hard palate just lingual (tongue side) to the upper anterior (from) teeth. This is where upper durhures sometimes fail because they are so think and badly contoured that they interfere with the sound pathway. The contour of the back of the watered tooth should be of a habusal shape and blend smoothly with the base material of the dentime In our particular way, the mouths of Arigers an usually anatomically very well truted complete upper denture due to the heavy development of the muscles of the

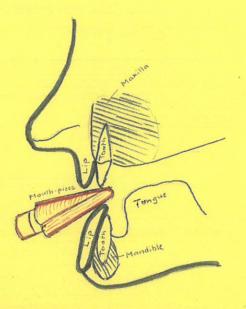
Soft palate which lap aves on he Whe hard palate. This forms an excellent cushion for the "post-dam" of the upper denture, which can be made rather extensive (In deciding on this post-dam palatal limit, the mouth should be palpaked and the I'm marked on the model kelon submitting to a dental mechanic for completion denture). Hpant from palatal musculature, there is also a definite indented raphe in the and often a growe in the tangue (especially in males which helps denture wearing. In the case of the laws denture there is no palatal area of suction as in the upper. The tongue, and check, and lip muscles cause distressing displacement, and "muscle-trumming" of the completed denture must be carried out to relieve this. Good netentian can always be guaranteed temporarily by means of "denture fixation, and would centainly suffice for an amakeur having to perform for limited periods.

In order of increased size of reed, mouthpiece, and instrument:

Eb clarinet
Bb and Ab clarinet
Alto clarinet
Base clarinet
Double bass clarinet
Eb saxophone

The mouth-piece rests on the upper teeth and presses heavily on the lower lip and indirectly on the lower teeth. Some players with a long upper lip and the upper lip over these teeth put lostruments are held down and neaver the bady.

Tentures - the incisors have to rest on or inside the ridge the lower denture must not move distally.



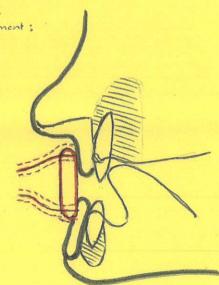
## Group Ti

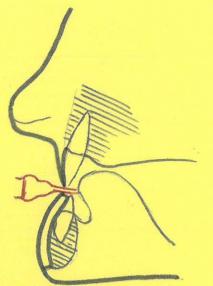
In order of increased size of mouthpiece and instrument;

French horn
Trumpet
Bugle
Flügelhorn
Alto horn
Trombone
Baritone horn
Tuba

The mouth-piece is pressed against upper and lower lip and lower front teeth on the labial surface.

Denhires + teeth in front of the ridge in both upper and lower and offer resistance to distal movement. (construct high in the fornix.) To obtain positive one can use muco- seal method, springs or implent dentures.





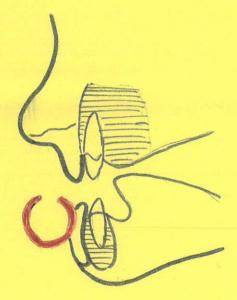
In order of increased size of reeds and instrument:

Oboe English horn Bassoon Contra bassoon Sarrusophone

The double reed touches without pressure both lips and indirectly with light pressure the upper and lower teeth.

Denthers - the prostheses must rest normally

## Group IV



Piccolo Flute

There is no pressure on upper lip or teeth; on the lower lip the Instrument presses on the plica- mento-labialis and indirectly on the lower teeth.

Dentures - same requirements of the lower as group II

Both osthodontics and dentus prostheses and concerned much the Afects of playing wind instruments, and certain questions arise:

i what a dentist should know about and and dental effects council by mind instrumentalists

ii will playing have round occlusion?

iii can it have certain types of malow luster?

iv can it help materchesism in a child?

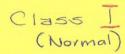
An American asthodorbic specialist who was see Reges also a professional bassoon player (E.R. Strayer) & and S and S and S and I wind a waful classification of wind in which is marked the "embourhout" By EMBOUCHURE is meant the position in which the lips are applied to the mouthpress when playing a wind instrument, the position of the tongue, and the state of contraction of the various and muscle groups.

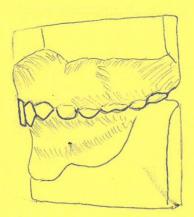
experiments to determine the amount of preasure exerted by the upper lip against the upper front teeth of various musicions playing definent motruments. The findings of J. A. Engelman were as follows:

In order of maximum pressure: -I Voluntary lip pressure ii Thumb sucking III Instruments - Brass Flutes is Whistling V Swallawing In was also noted that brass enotruments produced significantly quater lingually - directed pressure against the incisors than any other instruments' Instrumental pressure values were not significantly correlated with maximum presume values edcept in the case of the plate players, buggesting that there is a relationship between flute playing and increased have of the upper lip. Howby and Kesoles have also den extensive investigation in America, and in this country Maurice M. Porte, L.D.S. is responsible for several authoritative publications, particularly his "The Empowehum

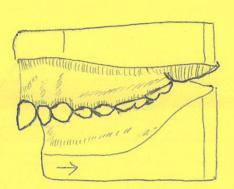
It becomes increasingly obvious from

diserature available, that although anotomical

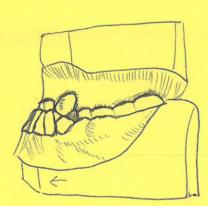


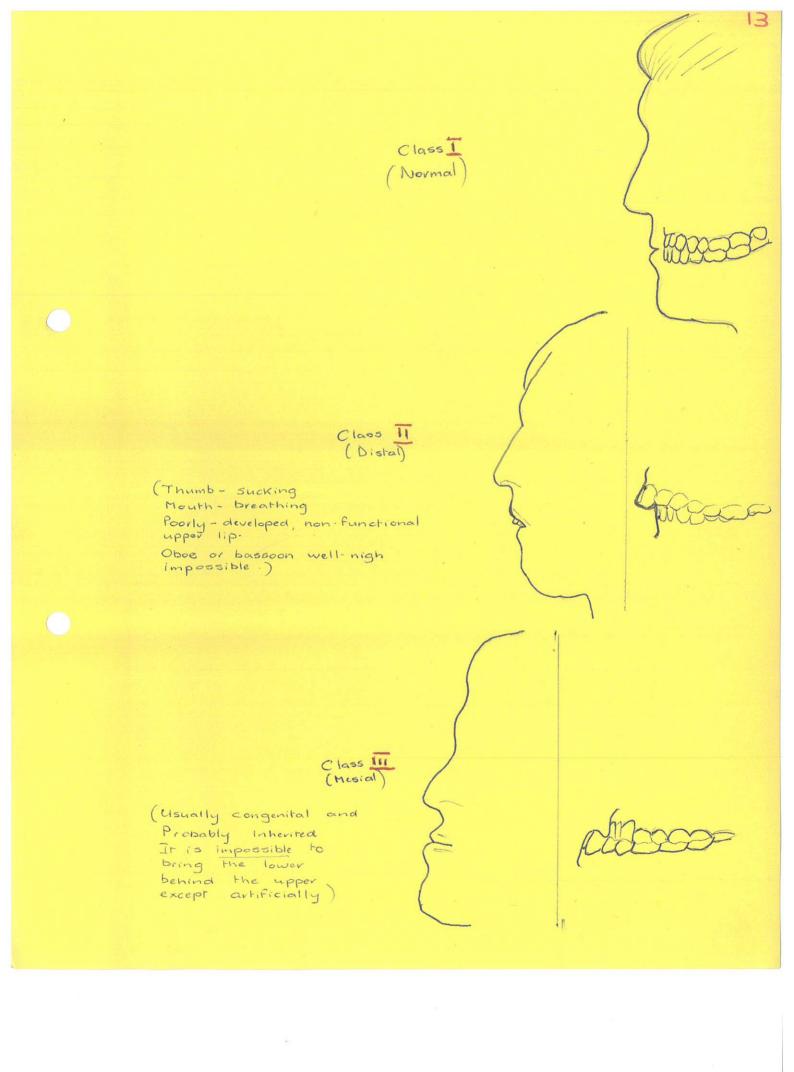


Class II (Distal)



Class III (Mesial)



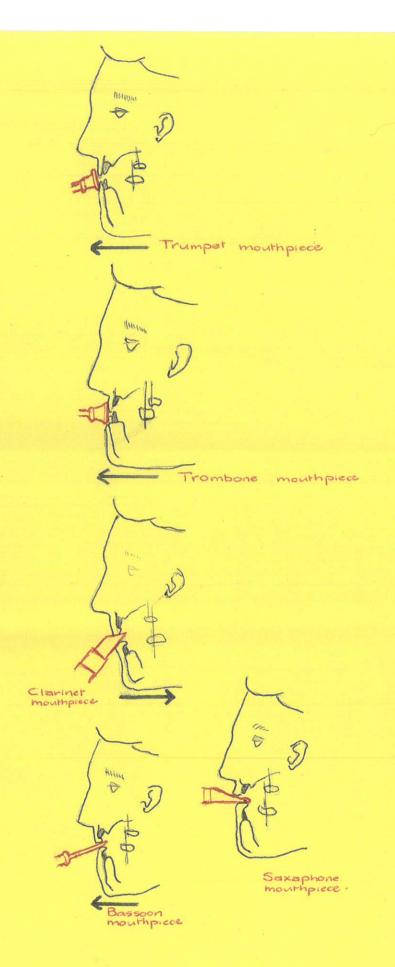


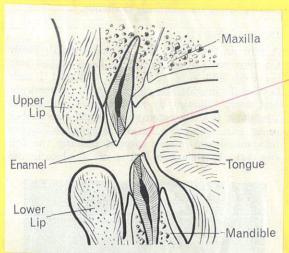
trauma can result from wind instrument playing that this pressure can also be used to aswantage to aid certain speech problems through for example, the precise control of fongue action in trumpet playing - with all of the dental and facial benefits denued from playing the Correct instrument. The "Angle" Classification is used by 12 and 13 dentishs to describe the relationship I the upper and lower jaws. Class I - normal relationship (antero-posterior relationship) Class II - mandibular toth and and and distal (ie. behind) to the normal in this relation to the maxillary Luth and anh Class III - mandibular buth and arch are mesial (ie infront) to the normal in their relations to the maxillary There are subdivisions of both these last two clasors. In class is the increases Can protoude or retinde and in both classes the displacement can be unilateral or bilateral.

Musical winds instruments suggested for						
use with specific malocclusions						
Malocclusion	Musical wind instrument					
	Should play					
Class	Any instrument	Group 1 - when				
	properly held.					
Class II	Group 11 - Played	Group 1				
(Receeding lower jaw)		Group IV - when				
A Section		upper lip is short				
0.0	Front teeth are in alignmen					
	ALLE STATE OF THE	has proper the				
ray falls - cattage - cattage	Group III - but not	T				
	to such good advantage					
	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A					
	Group IV					
C1 III		Group 11				
(Represent lower jaw)	Group	1345				
Charles Control of the Control of th	G. W. L.					
	Group III - but not					
CANDONEAN AND MA	to such good advantage					
	Anno Amos Mass					
	Group HV - For	N- I				
and a second	Short upper lips	the same that I				
AL CENTRAL	Course In com I	and had				

Group Classification - See pages 8 and 9

Class Classification - See pages 12 and 13

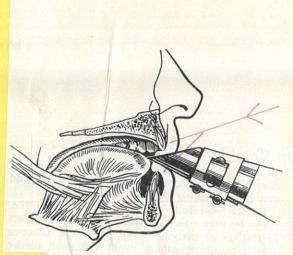




To show attrition in maxillary and mandibular incisors in adult of about 30 years or more. *Note:* Chisel-like edges of enamel, labially in maxillary incisor and lingually in mandibular incisor.

See page 18





-'Double-lip' embouchure in clarinet playing, where dentition is normal. *Note:* Cutting effect of maxillary and mandibular incisors on upper and lower lips.



effect of mandibular incisor teeth of one of foremost clarinet soloists. Dentition is are very regularly positioned.



nusical background, each case of malocclusion

Should be considered on its own ments when

choosing an instrument. If embouchum trouble

persists after a probationary period there

sur-appraisal should be made of the facial

type. Jul cooperation between pupil, music

teacher, and dentist is essential

Intra-oval Mouthpieces:

Single Reed Instruments - In all aduets there
becomes an increase in the attribution on the See
Cutting edges of the upper and lower increases. Page 17

The worn parallel edges take an a chiese like form and there is a tendaray for a chiese like form and there is a tendaray for a chiese 
Livear impression to form mouth the lips when
are curled own backwards into the mouth.

The high red instrument, the red vists
on the lower lips covering the lower beeth Fig 2

and ingularities in tooth or jow position

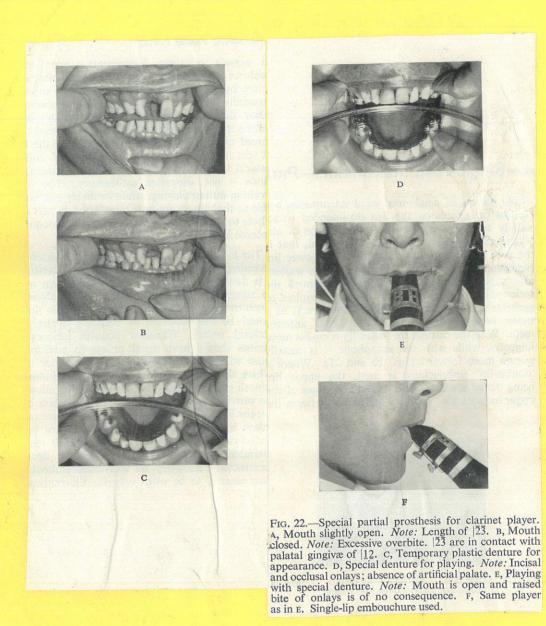
Can produce hearted trauma trish spaced

teeth the upper lips can become trapped

between the teeth See P32 Fig 2

Double Reed Instruments - produce to the about.

Embouchure Aids - Single reed instruments Reed instrument players benefit considerably See from the "lip shield". This is a thin P. 22 layer of Suitable material monally plastic (or gutta percha as a temporary measure) which caves blu lowe teeth round to the first premalar (ie. 8 teeth) and blats out comes or edges or spaces between Luth while would otherwise impringe on the lips during playing. Only in rase cases is I a help to the brass player. In conservation of the natural teeth restorations should be strong enough to stand the wear and pressure on the front teeth. In partial upper denture construction there is a tendarcy for the back of the denture to be displaced by the mouth piache telling the front teeth behind. Ideally, the denture should be a Skeleton plate with no palate, and with orlap on the premators for rebenting. a partial laws dentur should have rigular, blunt fronts and anatomical clasps Because of excessive salivation, there is excession tooker formation and frequent Scaling" to remnus this is necessary. In the event of a patient requiring a



A one-tooth denture for a clarinet player.



Fig. 60.—Dentition of clarinet player. Models in centric occlusion. Apparent overcrowding in pre-maxilla  $\bar{1}|\bar{1}$  lingually inclined.

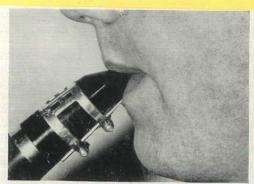


Fig. 64.—Same player as in figure 60. *Note:* (1)  $\underline{1}|\underline{1}$  rest on upper surface of mouthpiece. (2) Effect of lower (reed) surface of mouthpiece on lower lip and  $\overline{1}|\overline{1}$ .





Fig. 61.—Same player as figure 60 viewed more palatally to show extent of free-way space between 1|1 and  $\overline{1}|\overline{1}$ .

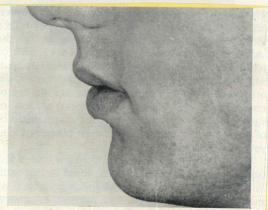


Fig. 62.—Same player as figure 60. *Note*: (1) Short upper lip. (2) Lower jaw and lower lip in relation to upper jaw and upper lip. These conditions would indicate a single lip embouchure.

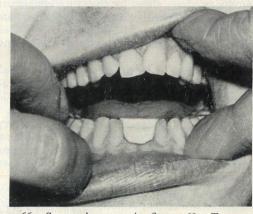


Fig. 66.—Same player as in figure 60. Temporary gutta-percha lip shield made by patient to prevent point-pressure on lower lip.

Irregularity of the natural in a clarinet player teeth

### The Lip Shield

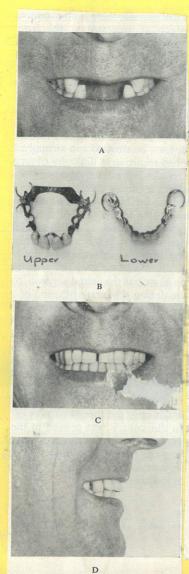


—Model of malpositioned mandibular incisor teeth of a saxophonist and lip shield made in laboratory.



Lip shield in clear acrylic resin, made in laboratory, fitted to fit model

See Page 19



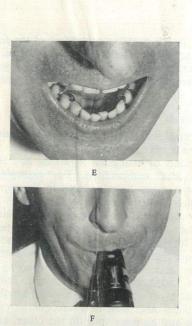


FIG. 23.—Saxophone Player: same as in figure 21. A, 21 12 and 21 12 missing. B, Upper and lower dentures with adequate onlays constructed to normal and embouchure requirements. c, Dentures in centric occlusion, front view. Note: Incisal concavity on |1; and lingually placed |1 conforming to earlier habitual embouchure. D, Same as c in profile. E, To show lower denture in position. Note: Lower anterior teeth are in the position of the natural teeth. The patient had developed an embouchure of accommodation to this irregularity; and an established satisfactory embouchure should seldom be disturbed. F, Player's embouchure, front view. Note: Mouthpiece slightly to left of centre. The profile of this player is shown in figure 21.

Upper and lower partial dentures in a saxaphone player



Fig. 21.—Example of saxophone embouchure. Lower lip pursed more forwards than in figure 20.





Full upper denture in a saxaphone player

Fig. 25.—Full upper denture prosthesis in a leading saxophone player. A, Taking the impression and recording embouchure bite, front view. *Note:* Wax block trimmed to upper surface of mouthpiece. B, Taking the impression and recording embouchure bite, lateral view. *Note:* Wax has been trimmed to upper lip requirements.

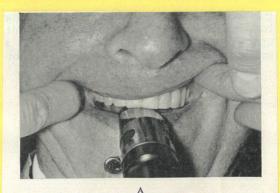




Fig. 26.—The finished denture. A, Incisors lightly contoured to mouthpiece, front view. B, Incisors lightly contoured to mouthpiece, lateral view. *Note:* Single lip embouchure used. Lower lip projects more forwards in saxophone than in clarinet.

general anaesthetic he should warn the anaesthetist of the ned for special care of the anterior teeth, particularly of they chave been extending restored with inlay, crown, a bridgework. Full dentures - a rigid lower denture is almost invariably difficult. Can should be taken to accommodate the exaggerated buccal muscle pad in the prematar and molas regions. Du blis ones, horrow buth (lingual to buesal) should be used to allow the contracting muscles to move. The front buth should be contoured to fil the mouth piece for each individual patient 327 An "embouchere" denture is a special form opphane for playing only, designed to resist movement. The inclined planes are more gradual in the case of the saxaphone than the classift.

Double Recol Instruments

In this cases 's" reed is held between the lips. The lips function as a washer and assist vibrations. There is less pressure on the teeth than the single red motrument and therefore fewer dental problems,

Special case should be taken where the edges of the vicesors are shorp and

where the upper six anterior buth an forwardincluding. In conservation, can to maintain Smooth, blust surfaces, to minimise lip damage. Parkal dentures should be skeletar construction, and full dentures Should have a minimal overtice. Flute playing demands a very delicate control of muscle contraction, There are fewer dental problems because the lips are more remote from the hole in the head of the instrument. It regularities in the lawer front teeth are more entry to give hip transce Braso Since, in playing brass instruments the lips act both as a washer and as a double need (ie. they are the Sound generator), they have to vitorate at a meticulously regular frequency for each note played, it will be found that the dental problems in this players are usually mose difficult than those of woodwind

players: In Cornet and trumpet, the mouth piece rests equally on upper and lower lips: in the horn, it is  $\frac{2}{3}$  on the upper, and  $\frac{2}{3}$  on the lawer the lips should be allowed free vibration by the beeth, jaws, and mouthpiece: the

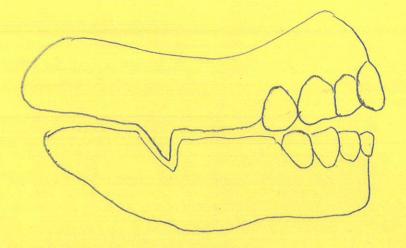




Fig. 27.—Embouchure denture. Tilting of upper and lower resisted by inclined planes.

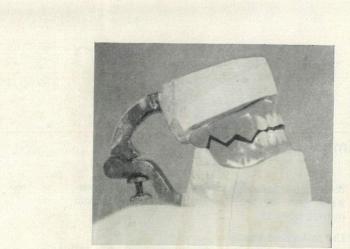


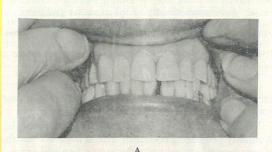
Fig. 28.—Inclined planes of denture. Steep planes for clarinet to allow for very limited forward movements of mandible.



Fig. 33.—Playing a brass instrument (cornet). *Note:* (1) Sound is generated by free edges of lips within cup of mouthpiece. (2) Musical tones are resonated by: (a) operation of pistons by fingers; (b) pressure of mouthpiece rim against lips; (c) size of aperture between lips; (d) jaw relationship.

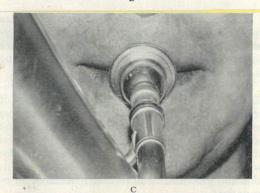


Fig. 36.—Effect of 'light-pressure' system in cornet player. Appearance indicative of obvious labial cutaneous change over many years in one of Britain's finest soloists.





A full upper denture in a tenor horn player.



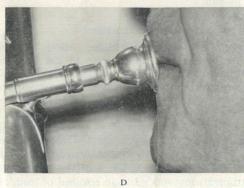


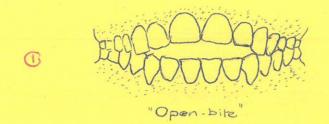
Fig. 59.—Full upper denture in tenor horn player. Larger mouthpiece of this instrument is tolerated more easily during playing than smaller mouthpiece of cornet or trumpet. A, Full upper denture in centric occlusion. *Note:* Space between I I to left of centre. B, Mouth open. *Note:* Upper and lower incisal edges approximately

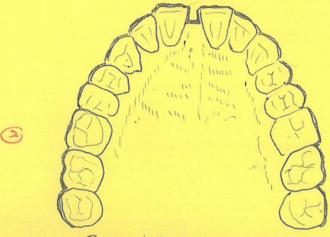
lips hus to be an efficient washes to powent the escape of air. The lawer jow must be Capable of four movement. i Embouchuse is dependant on the dentition ii Dental neglect may well prove a calamity for the professional musician III Prompt, intelligent restorative treatment is iv. Spir psychological consideration In treatment, the approach should always be conservative rather than tadreal, particularly in the case of the professional brass endrument player, every possible device to retain a natural tooth should be used. In durbun construction, partial restorations usually have adequate anchorage on the remaining buth, but special attention mud be paid to a smooth Contour in the anterior areas subject to device pressure from the month price. This is similarly so in full denture construction. It may be necessary be to the 'empauchuse denture' or derbun incorporating speral springs, Carefully positioned

- A Summary of adverse dental conditions: -1. A protouding tookh or comes in a horizontal direction could disturb brass embouchuses 2. A vestically projecting tooth or come could disturb single- and double- need embauhuses 3. Sharp, even, incross could disturb single or double - med embouchures by cutting into one or both lips: Spaces between central incisors could trap the lip and disturb single - and doubh - reed player Fig 2 5. Painful or loose incisors could disturb players of all wind instruments. b. Labial ulus or inflammatory gum conditions could disturb all players of wind matriments 7. Outstanding canines could disturb flute players and those of double - med unstruments Fig 3 8. Dentures, by being disloaged or telted would prevent the playing of any wind
  - 9. Osthodontic appliances when impinging on lips or tongue, could cause much discomfort to, or present, playing.
  - 10. Any condition that results in "open-bite"

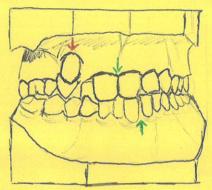
    Could prevent lip support in player of

    Certain instruments. Fig 1
  - 11. Excessive overbite of anterior heath could



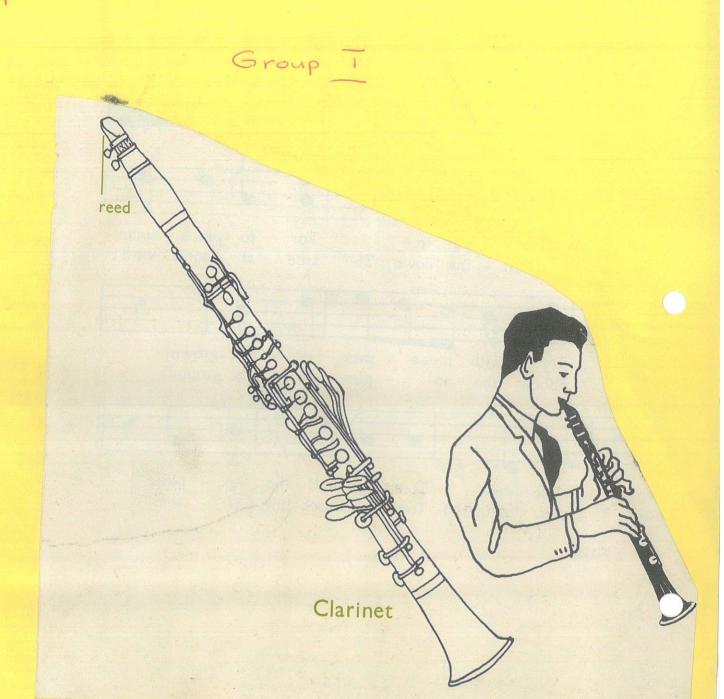


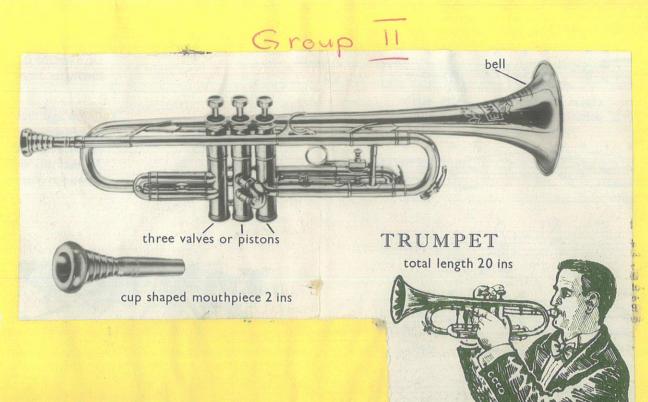
Space between upper central incisors



Demonstrating gross malocalusion in which the centres (17) disagree. Note also the protuding canine (1)

predispose to peri-apical or periodontal problems of those buth in players of instruments that require an intra-atal application of the mouth - piece.





#### HORN







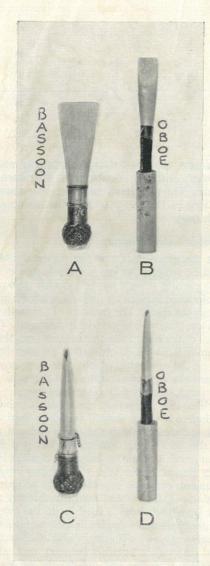
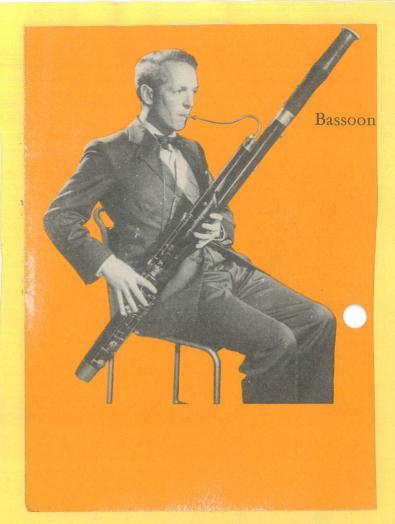
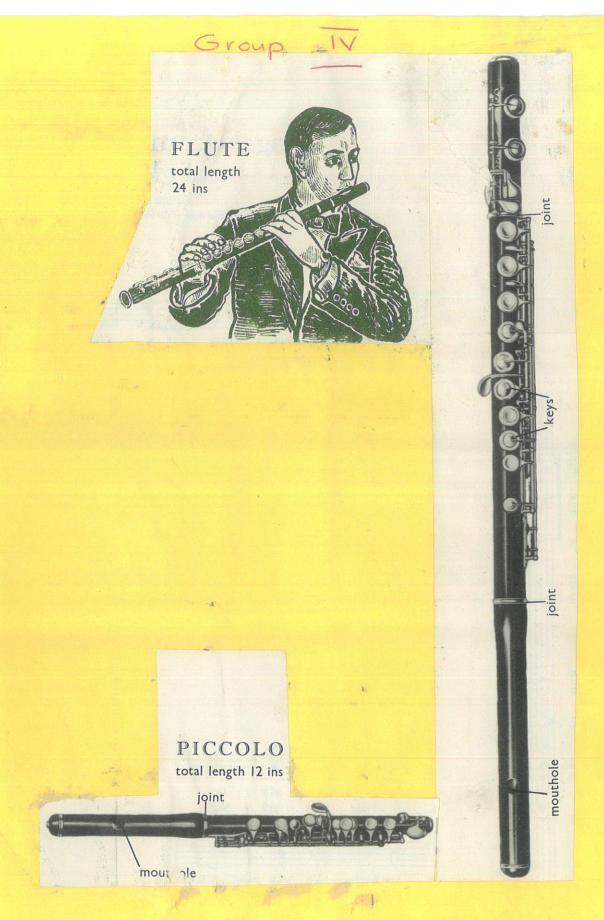


Fig. 31.—The double-reed. Front view. A, Large broad reed of bassoon (bound end is attached to instrument). B, Narrow small reed of oboe (cork end is attached to instrument). Lateral view. C, Broad flattened tube of bassoon reed. Aperture between reeds is larger than in oboe. D, Narrow flattened tube of oboe reed. Aperture between reeds is smaller than in bassoon.







# DENTIST WITH HIS HEART IN MUSIC

## Variation on a career theme,

by Wilfred Josephs



Dentist-composer Josephs at work on his fourth symphony.

WILFRED JOSEPHS is a man of two parts—dentist and composer, But more of his time these days, is spent in putting crochets on manuscripts than in practising dental surgery.

At the age of 41, he's just completed his 68th work together with a whole swatch of film scores.

By choosing dentistry and relinquishing his ambition to be a doctor, he celt he could keep up his musical studies with reasonable ease.

Fortunately, he was able to maintain his dual studies with reasonable ease. In 1954 he entered London's Guildhall School of Music where he studied under Alfred Nieman. At the same time he carried on a full-time dentistry job.

By 1958 he was married and had been awarded a Levernulme Scholarship to study music in Paris. Despite this success, he was still a long day from being a successful composer. Unperformed sonatas, symphonies and concertos lay that doned in drawers and suitcases.

But fame came, sometimes in the shape of a low-budget score for a documentary film, a tango for a TV show or 70 pages of waltz for a Hollywood musical. Then a first prize in a contest at La Scala, Milan, launched him into the concert circuit.

Now, in his Hampstead house, Wilfred Josephs is at work on an ambitious Fourth Symphony while new commissions continue to pour in.