

realize that the conductor had just appeared. He tapped his baton and Wagner again came to life.

The music of Valhalla itself could be no more beautiful than that overture to "Tannhauser"; the tense faces of the listeners revealed its effect. There was no spotlight, but suddenly all eyes were on the

harpist as her fingers ran across the instrument, giving the delighted listeners Schubert's "Ave Maria". "Finlandia" seemed to lift the whole audience into some strange ecstasy. When the concert closed with "The Blue Danube" the applause was spontaneous and long; the music lovers were well satisfied.

## JOSEPH LAUTNER--Director Entertainer

HARLAN JOHNSON

In a student choir the responsibility for the success of the group rests almost wholly on the director. The success of a singing group, I have learned, is not only measured by the degree of ability and technique which the choir possesses, but also by the personal enjoyment which members get out of rehearsals. Measured by these two standards, Joseph Lautner seems to be the ideal choir director. Since Mr. Lautner's reputation as a teacher and musician is known well to the general public, I shall endeavor to picture to you Lautner the director, as seen by the student choir member.

By Mr. Lautner's suave and gentlemanly appearance, no one would suspect that he might be transformed at the rise of a crescendo. This, however, is all too true. As the music swells he leans forward, his eyebrows lower, his jaw quivers, perspiration breaks out, he beats the air furiously with his fists; and a fiery gleam comes into

his eyes as the desired effect is finally produced. Then suddenly softer music soothes him; he becomes gentle and as meek as a lamb. He winks at the girls and smiles at the boys. As the music strikes a rhythmical passage, he steps from the platform and times the music by dancing back and forth before the choir. If the singers' eyes do not show enough spirit, he strides slowly past them with a fiendish glare until more laughter is heard than music. Mr. Lautner has his own method of handling tardy cases. When a student comes in late, the director stops all singing. He then wishes the late-comer a pleasant good afternoon and politely inquires how he is, as everyone enjoys the embarrassment of the student.

Choir might be boring to many, but to those who through their preparatory years have learned to appreciate music, choir under Lautner is the very frosting on the cake of higher education.

