



FIG. 1.24 Detection threshold for pure tones of various frequencies (*a*) in isolation, (*b*) in the presence of a narrowband (365 to 455 Hz) of masking noise centered on 400 Hz at a sound level of 80 dB, and (*c*) in the presence of a masking tone of 400 Hz at 80 dB. The asymmetrical shapes of the elevated curves indicate that tones with frequencies above the masking sound are more strongly masked than tones with lower frequencies. The notches in curve *c* indicate reduction in the masking effect because of audible beats between the test tone and the masker and its harmonics. (From Donald E. Hall, *Musical Acoustics: An Introduction*, Wadsworth, Belmont, Calif., 1980.)