the singing sands could be transported from the beach and placed in a perforated vessel, box or barrel, on dune or in blowout and left to be subjected to the action of rain for a considerable period of time, or some of the singing sands could be subjected to a tumbling action by rotating as in a laboratory rotating tumbler. After this some sand could be subjected to the leaching action of distilled water saturated with CO_2. For a third experiment, some of the dune or blowout sand could be wetted several times with lake water and subjected to a drying action between the wettings. Suitable sound tests should, of course, be made at the proper times.

These experiments should be performed by some one residing by the lake shore either permanently or during the summer so that advantage could be taken of changing weather conditions and rainstorms.

W. D. RICHARDSON

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HOUSE OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY

THE original house and laboratory of Dr. Joseph Priestley, the great chemist who discovered oxygen in 1774, and came twenty years later to America, which is located on the banks of the Susquehanna river, at Northumberland, Pa., was purchased recently by graduate students of the Pennsylvania State College, who plan to move it to the campus and make it a lasting memorial.

Upon learning that the Priestley homestead, which was built in 1794–1796, was to be put up at public auction, the Penn State chemists sent as their representative to the sale Dr. G. G. Pond, dean of the School of Natural Science at the college. He was successful in making the purchase, and the historic mansion will be preserved.

Architects from the college will at once make the necessary surveys preparatory to the work of moving the Priestley house to the campus at State College. The house is of frame, and painting has kept the woodwork in a remarkable state of preservation, so that it may be possible to rebuild the greater part of the structure from the present lumber. Immense pine timbers used in the framework are as good as new and the old-fashioned interior decorations—arched doorways, fireplaces and stairway—are in such condition that they can be removed and replaced with comparative ease.

While the purchase of the house has been made by Dr. Pond for the Penn State chemistry alumni, who are scattered to all parts of the country, funds for its removal and erection on the college campus will be supplied by an as yet unnamed donor. Actual work of removal will probably be started in the spring. Northumberland is about sixty miles from State College, at the intersection of the north and west branches of the Susquehanna.

The reconstruction on the college campus will be along the old architectural lines, but modernized and adapted to some suitable use by the school of Natural Science, according to present plans. The house is an old landmark in Northumberland county, and can be seen on the outskirts of the town from trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad passing Northumberland. It is a two-story structure, with capacious attic space. It is about 45×50 feet, with a projection at each end about 25 feet square. One of these was the kitchen and the other the workshop, or laboratory, in which Priestley pursued his scientific study and experiments.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces the following examination:

On December 23 for meteorologist (men only). Vacancies in the Signal Service at large of the War Department throughout the United States, at salaries from $1,600 to $3,000, and in positions requiring similar qualifications, will be filled from this examination. The entrance salary will depend upon the qualifications of the appointee. The duties of appointees will consist of the making, computing and recording of meteorological observations in connection with the meteorological service of the U. S. Army; also the instruction of enlisted men in such work. Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on

the following subjects, which will have the relative weights indicated, on a scale of 100: (1) Education, 40; (2) Experience, 60. Competitors will be rated upon the sworn statements in their applications and upon corroborated evidence.

On December 10 for assistant observer, Weather Bureau, for unmarried men. Vacancies in offices of the Weather Bureau throughout the United States, and in positions requiring similar qualifications at $1,080 a year, or higher or lower salaries, will be filled from this examination.

Applications will be received until further notice for associate physicist qualified in physical metallurgy, for men only, at salaries ranging from $2,000 to $2,800 a year; and assistant physicist qualified in physical metallurgy, for both men and women, at salaries ranging from $1,400 to $1,800 a year, to fill vacancies in the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, for duty in Washington, D. C., or elsewhere, and in positions requiring similar qualifications in other branches of the service.

For scientific assistant, for both men and women, on January 7 and 8. Vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, for duty in Washington, D. C., or in the field. The usual entrance salary for this position ranges from $1,320 to $1,620 a year, but persons showing in their examinations that they are unusually qualified are occasionally appointed at higher salaries, not to exceed $1,860 a year.

SALARIES AT YALE UNIVERSITY

The Yale Corporation at its last meeting increased the normal salary scale for full professors doing full-time work of a satisfactory character (which has in the past been $4,000, $4,500 and $5,000) to $5,000, $6,000 and $7,000, with the understanding that $8,000 will be given in a very few cases to men of exceptional ability as teachers and productive scholars. It is believed that this action, which will be retroactive from July 1, 1919, places the average salary scale for professors at Yale University above that of any other university in America, although in two or three other institutions a very small group of men receive as much as $10,000. Some full professors with whom special arrangements have been made will continue at lower salaries, but a majority will receive at least $5,000 or $6,000 a year. The vote passed by the corporation is as follows:

Voted, to approve the recommendation of the Salaries Committee that the following should be the normal salary standard, to be departed from only in exceptional cases:

Professors, full time	$5,000–$8,000
Professors, part time	$3,000–$6,000
Assistant and associate professors	$2,500–$4,500

The salaries of the deans of the different schools were placed at from $6,000 to $8,000, depending upon the amount of work and responsibility devolving upon each.

The corporation adopted the following as the main criteria for determining salary increases within the normal scale:

(*a*) Usefulness as a teacher.

(*b*) Productivity and standing in the world of science, letters or art.

(*c*) Public service, including service to the university.

(*d*) Executive responsibility and efficiency.

These criteria were decided upon and the individual salaries are being determined as a result of the following vote passed by the corporation at its previous meeting:

Voted, to authorize the president and the chairman of the committee on educational policy in consultation with the deans of the college, and scientific school, and the graduate school to prepare a list of salary increases to be voted on at the next meeting, together with the criteria to be adopted in assignments to salary grades, with the understanding that the deans of other schools will be consulted when the salaries of their professors are under consideration.

Full-time instructors and assistant professors in the undergraduate schools doing satisfactory work had their salaries raised last spring—the former from the old $1,000–$1,600 to the new $1,250–$2,000 scale; the latter from $2,000, $2,500 and $3,000 to a new scale $500 higher for each grade. Some further increases of assistant professors' salaries are now under consideration by the joint committee of the