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## Question Box

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# SCIENCE BULLETIN

Editor-in-Chief: W. H. Kadesch. Advisory Board: Dr. L. Begeman, Head, Department of Physical Science; Dr. E. J. Cable, Head Department of Natural Science.

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## A NEW COLUMN

The suggestion has several times been made that a column be set apart in the Science Bulletin for the exchange of ideas by teachers in the field. The thought is that any specially valuable devices, interesting experiments, or successful projects will be reported there and so be made available to all the science teachers of the state. In conformity with this suggestion such a column will be placed at your disposal each of the remaining issues of the year.

Send to the editor descriptions of your favorite experiments or projects—new and better ways, for either the class room or the laboratory; new observations in nature study; anything that will help others to make work more interesting.

Such accounts should be in form for publication, typewritten, and expressed in the briefest compass consistent with the material reported. In general they should not exceed two hundred words. They should reach the editor at least ten days before the date of publication, which, for the next two issues, will be March tenth and April fifth respectively.

## QUESTION BOX

Question:

Can two violins playing the same pitch simultaneously be heard farther than one?

Answer:

Yes, the two violins will combine to make a sound whose intensity will in

general be twice as great as that of one. The two will therefore be heard about forty percent farther. If one violin could make as loud a sound as two there would be no need of the multiplication of instruments of the same kind in an orchestra. One of a kind would be sufficient.

Destructive interference cannot be maintained between sounds from two distinct sources.

## MAKERS OF SCIENCE

(Continued from page 3.)

perfected and his scheme of propelling the machine was insufficient. This proved a great disappointment. By the irony of fate, it must be recorded that after Langley's death a compact gas engine was installed and his machine was made to fly. The correctness of his theory was therefore demonstrated.

The story of the founding of the Royal Institution in London is in striking contrast to that of the Smithsonian Institution. During the eighteenth century, though some years apart, two boys were born in territory which is now Greater Boston. Both boys were named Benjamin. One of them was renowned as a scientist and patriot. His face now appears upon a common postage stamp, his statue adorns the City Hall of the "City of Brotherly Love," and nearly every town of considerable size in the United States has a street named for him. He was also a statesman and served his country as an Ambassador to France during the trying times of the American Revolution.

The other Benjamin, Thompson by name, attended scientific lectures at Harvard College, taught school in New Hampshire, was misunderstood in the days of the American Revolution and finally fled from the country to reside in England. Later he went to Bavaria and served the Elector there in a military capacity. He gained great favor for his services and his scientific achievements. From his experience in