

the reports which have been received this year from the twelve colleges which participated during the year ended March 31st in the annual grant, now amounting to £25,000, made by Parliament for 'University Colleges in Great Britain,' and the three colleges in Wales, which receive from the Treasury a grant of £4,000 each. The twelve colleges are: Birmingham, Mason College; Bristol, University College; Dundee, University College; Leeds, Yorkshire College; Liverpool, University College; London, Bedford College, King's College, University College; Manchester, Owens College; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Durham Science College; Nottingham, University College, and Sheffield, University College. The Welsh Colleges are: Aberystwyth, University College of Wales; Bangor, University College of North Wales; Cardiff, University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. Major P. G. Craigie's annual report to the Board of Agriculture on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in 1897-98 has also been issued as a Parliamentary paper. The total amount distributed during the financial year to the fifteen institutions receiving assistance was £7,200, as compared with £7,000 in the previous year.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### TROCHOSPHERA AGAIN.

IN SCIENCE of December 25, 1896, Dr. Kofoid, of the Illinois Fresh-water Biological Station, records the occurrence, during the preceding summer, of *Trochosphaera solstitialis* Thorpe in the Illinois River. The discovery in America of this remarkable Rotifer, previously known only from the antipodes, is of great interest. Dr. Kofoid raises the question whether its presence in Illinois is due to recent importation, or whether *Trochosphaera* is to be considered a normal member of our fauna, taking a place with many other Rotifera as a cosmopolitan form. Its rediscovery at a station distant from that recorded by Kofoid is perhaps worthy of mention in the columns of SCIENCE. *Trochosphaera solstitialis* was found in the work of the Biological Survey carried on during the past summer at Put-in-Bay Id., Lake Erie, by the U. S. Fish Commission. It occurred very

sparingly in a swamp near the U. S. Fish Hatchery, Put-in-Bay, for a few days in August, 1898. This swamp has a dense bottom growth of *Ceratophyllum*, while the surface is completely mantled with *Lemna*, *Spirodela* and *Wolffia*. It is connected with Lake Erie by a streamlet about forty feet in length, the direction of the current through which depends upon the level of the lake. When the lake is high, water flows into the swamp, and at such times the ordinary plankton Rotifera of the lake are found in the swamp. When the lake is low the swamp water passes outward into the lake. *Trochosphaera* was found at a low-water period, along with *Notops clavulatus* and some other Rotifers which, though rare, are known to be widely distributed. As this swamp has such intimate connection with the lake, it would not be surprising to find *Trochosphaera* in swampy parts of Lake Erie itself.

The discovery of *Trochosphaera* at two such widely separated stations in the United States certainly tends, so far as it goes, to indicate that the animal is to be considered a normal member of the American fauna. Workers on Rotatoria are few in America, and it may be that more extended observations would show *Trochosphaera* to be widely distributed, even though somewhat rare.

Unfortunately, but few individuals were obtained, so that it is not possible to furnish specimens to those desirous of examining this remarkable animal.

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##### THE OCCURRENCE IN GREAT ABUNDANCE OF INSECTS ORDINARILY MERELY COMMON.

A NOTE in one of the New York papers a day or so ago reporting that a strange butterfly—in all probability *Anosia plexippus*, judging from the description of the color—was present in extraordinary abundance at Topeka, Kansas, on the 6th inst., preventing work out of doors and gathering on the rails of a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad in such numbers as to stop a train by their bodies greasing the rails, calls to mind a similar large swarm of this species seen by the author near Unadilla, Nebraska, in 1885. The air was full of the in-