fact that Regiomontanus had died in 1476, more than twenty years before Copernicus arrived in Rome, according to the date given above. In fact, Copernicus was only a little more than three years old when Regiomontanus died, and hence the numerous references to his having studied astronomy under Regiomontanus, which appear in many places besides those noted above, are ridiculous.

The main justification for calling public attention to such errors seems to be that such publicity may tend to check the baneful influences of these errors, and hence it seems to be especially desirable to direct attention to the comparatively few errors which remain in the most meritorious of the extensively used books. In view of the fact that the present writer was criticized in a recent number of this periodical, volume 59, page 191, for directing attention to a minor error relating to a pioneer in mathematical research in our country, he would simply say that his remarks were not intended for those who see practically no difference between the statements "in charge of the Nautical Almanac," and "did much work on the Nautical Almanac," and "was consulting astronomer from 1849 to 1867." He would also like to state here that his interest in the correction of historical errors was not inspired by the feeling that he himself had never committed such an error, but, on the contrary, by the chagrin caused by being so frequently misled by authorities in whom he had placed undue confidence. The destruction of undue confidence is an important step in the study of the history of science.

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## A NOTE ON MIGRATION OF MYRIAPODA

THE periodic migrations of certain insects and other animals have held the attention of biologists for generations and continue to afford items of fresh interest from time to time. A careful survey of the literature on this subject does not reveal any previous observations recorded on migrations of centipedes; in fact, it appears the universal consensus of opinion that centipedes do not migrate.

Last August (8–18–23), while crossing the desert stretch between Lordsburgh and Mesilla Park, New Mexico, in company of Professor Oscar B. Jacobson, of the University of Oklahoma, we encountered what appeared to be a migration of centipedes. We had driven along for a number of minutes paying little or no attention to the black objects scattered here and there in our pathway. When at last they became so numerous that the wheels of our Ford killed one every yard we stopped just long enough to notice that these objects were centipedes. They measured from five to seven inches in length and belonged to the genus Scolopendra, order Chilopoda. It was high noon when this scene was encountered. With only an occasional exception, these creatures were headed due north, progressing at a fair pace. A feature of unusual interest to me was their uniform distribution over the ground, each one apparently occupying a space of about four or five square feet. There was no vestige of vegetation present in this region nor even kindly rocks which might have afforded shelter for these creatures. We thought of possible mishaps to our "Lizzy," the thirsty radiator and perhaps a forced stay in this most uninviting, inhospitable environment and drove on. Fully ten more minutes were consumed in driving through this sea of centipedes, and countless victims remained behind in our tracks. We breathed a sigh of relief when the scattered outposts were reached and the burning sands alone reflected the heat of the brilliant desert sun.

I am at a loss to explain the phenomenon just cited. The time of the day when the observation was made does not agree with the normal habits of centipedes, which are nocturnal. Of course we know that certain birds, whose activities are restricted to daylight, make prolonged nocturnal flights during their migrations.

The nature of the terrain, sand without vegetation or rock shelter, coupled with the fact that all the creatures seen were adults and the mass movement was unidirectional, is, I believe, sufficient reason to preclude a breeding ground.

It is true that the month of August is in the rainy season of that section of New Mexico, for we were daily pursued by or chasing a storm until after we passed Tularosa on our way to Roswell. Tremendous quantities of water flow from all directions toward the principal depressions of the desert, the so-called sinks. If the presence of water had driven these centipedes from their haunts, why would they not scramble for dry ground in all directions?

Any theories suggested placing the responsibility for this phenomenon would, for the want of proof, remain as mere conjectures. To summarize: the time of the day when the observation was made, the enormous number of individuals making up this vast colony and the unidirectional course they pursued add only mystery to this observation until it is substantiated by someone else and studied at length.

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## CORRECTION OF NAME OF SNAIL

RECENTLY, in SCIENCE of May 16, 1924, N. S. Vol. LIX, No. 1533, the writer published a note giving an account of the training of a snail in this laboratory. Unfortunately the writer had been incorrectly informed as to the proper designation of the subject