uncovered plate is held vertically, a few inches from the open mouth at the moment of expulsive coughs from the deeper bronchi. The plate should be incubated at 37° C. within a few hours, and be examined daily for four or five days. Rapidly growing saprophytes should be cut out with sterile platinum wire. The characteristic, zoned colonies usually appear on the third to fifth day. A hand lens used in bright light is helpful in finding the raised, circular colonies in thickly seeded plates. Poorly exposed plates should not be incubated. After mastery of the technic, aluminum boxes (4 cm × 1.5 cm) may be used. They require less medium, can conveniently be carried, and dry out more slowly (broad rubber band over seam).

Pertussis organisms are minute, oval, gram-negative bacilli which stain feebly. Polar staining may be present. If the cough has already persisted for several weeks, plates exposed to the other, susceptible children of the family will more likely be positive. A negative plate does not exclude pertussis, and a second plate may be positive. If the cough has persisted too long, or if it is not whooping cough, pertussis bacilli will not be found.

LOUIS W. SAUER

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

THE FINDING OF LARGE CENTIPEDES IN WYOMING AND WESTERN NEBRASKA

ANY one acquainted with the Southwest is also more or less familiar with the wide-spread occurrence of centipedes, in sizes of two or three inches up to eight or more inches in length; and one of the items that has been considered an advantage to camping in the North is the absence of these pests. The writer has spent parts of every year for more than twenty-five years past in camp pretty well all over the region in question, and in contact with many others very familiar with such matters, and it has been a generally accepted belief that east of the Rockies in Colorado none of the centipedes of material size were ever to be found north of Colorado Springs and but very seldom north of Raton Pass along the New Mexico-Colorado border.

It was with astonishment, therefore, almost bordering on incredulity, that I heard Graham Bell Fairchild, student entomologist from Harvard University, casually mention killing about a four-inch centipede in camp about three miles south of Torrington, Wyoming, in the hills bordering the North Platte Valley, in the latter part of June, 1930. However, others were also killed here later this summer, and shortly after this members of the Country Club killed a four-inch centipede in the Country Club house at Scottsbluff, Nebraska, at a point about thirty miles east of the Torrington locality. These people thought it must have been a centipede brought in with fruit from the South in some fashion, but there would seem to be no chance of this being true at the Torrington locality. As local people who have lived all their lives in these sections and the surrounding region have never seen such centipedes before and as this is nearly five hundred miles north of the common range of such species the occurrence seems worthy of record. No attempt was made to identify the species, but the writer has requested that if others be found they be preserved in alcohol.[1]

HAROLD J. COOK

AGATE, NEBRASKA

THE EXCELSIOR GEYSER AGAIN

IN a letter from T. E. Hofer, Clinton, Washington, referring to my communication to SCIENCE, vol. lxviii, pages 644–645, I find the following testimonial to the vigor of Excelsior Geyser when it was active:

> Reading your Excelsior, Yellowstone Park notes, I was once crossing with a pack outfit about 200 yards below the geyser, when the darn thing exploded. We got all the animals safely across (on the geyser side), when the river rose about 10 inches, enough to have killed the whole outfit. The geyser threw out many rocks, some of them a foot square. I saw that geyser go off once after that. It was before a bridge was built.

EDWIN LINTON

ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

DURING the seventh year of the Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigation, seventy-eight applications for grants were received by the trustees, sixty-two of which came from twelve different countries in Europe and Asia, the remaining sixteen coming from the United States. The total number of grants made during this year was twenty-five, one of these being a continued annual grant. Twenty-one of the new grants were made to scientists in countries outside of the United States.

In the seven years of its existence, the foundation

[1] Since the above was written, several other reports have reached me of the finding of similar centipedes the past summer, including one in the gymnasium of the Chadron Normal College, at Chadron, Nebraska, reported to me by a student.—H. J. C.

has made one hundred and twenty grants and investigators have been aided in the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Esthonia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Chile, Syria and Belgium.

The list of investigators and of the researches which have been aided in the current year is as follows:

Dr. George Barger, Edinburgh, $500 for chemical investigations of the alkaloids of ergot.

Professor Dr. Bohnenkamp, Würzburg, $500 for a new simple direct calorimeter.

Professor Dr. A. Bornstein, Hamburg, $400 for continuation of the study of the physiology and pathology of kidney function.

Professor Dr. M. Dennig, Heidelberg, $500 for continuation of work on rate of blood flow and breathing in sickness and in animals.

Dr. Emil Epstein, Vienna, $300 for investigations on Lipoid-Histocytosis.

Professor Carlo Foa, Milan, $500 for researches upon the normal and pathological metabolism of uric acid in dog and man.

Professor Otto Fürth, Vienna, $400 for study on the chemistry of proteins of the cell-nucleus, by Professor Otto Fürth and Theodore Leipert; and $400 for continuation of work on Urochrom-precursors in the urine and the blood serum by Professor Hermann Karl Barrenscheen.

Professor Paul Govaerts, Brussels, $500 for continuation of work on nephritis and edema.

Professor Paul Hari, Budapest, $500 for continuation of respiratory and metabolic experiments.

Professor J. P. Hoet, Louvain, $500 for investigation of insulin secretion and its physiological control.

Dr. Theodore Huzella, Debrecen, $400 for experimental investigations in different human and animal tumors.

Professor Dr. Erik Johannes Kraus, Prague, $150 for researches on the relationship of hypophysis and midbrain.

Professor Warfield T. Longcope, Johns Hopkins Hospital, $500 for studies on the experimental production of nephritis.

Professor Dr. Franz Lucksch, Prague, $300 for continuation of work on the tubercle bacilli.

Dr. David Marine, Montefiore Hospital, $500 for an attempt to separate the powerful goitrogenic agent present in cabbage.

Dr. E. B. McKinley, San Juan, $200 for continuation of work on experimental infection and immunity.

Professor Francesco Pentimalli, Rome, $250 for continuation of work on the nature of the agent of chicken sarcoma.

Dr. D. Scherf, Vienna, $250 for continuation of work on the "origin of extrasystoles."

Professor Dr. Carl Schlayer, Berlin, $250 for continuation of studies of the diuretic hormone contained in the brain.

Dr. E. A. Spiegel, Vienna, $400 for continuation of experiments on muscle tonus and on the central mechanism of epileptic fits.

Dr. A. Szent-Gyorgyi, Szeged, $500 for continuation of work on the chemistry and function of the adrenal cortex and biological oxidation.

Thorndike Memorial Laboratory, Boston City Hospital (Dr. George R. Minot, director), $500 in recognition of Dr. Peabody's services.

Professor Dr. Volhard, Frankfurt, $500 for continuation of studies on pathological kidneys.

Professor Dr. W. Weichardt, Wiesbaden, $250 for continuation of investigations on non-specific therapy.

Professor Edgard Zunz, Brussels, $500 for continuation of studies of pancreatic secretion.

In their first statement regarding the purposes for which the fund would be used the trustees expressed themselves as follows:

(1) For the present, researches will be favored that are directed towards the solution of problems in medicine and surgery or in branches of science bearing on medicine and surgery.

(2) As a rule, preference will be given to researches on a single problem or on closely allied problems; it is hoped that investigators in this and in other countries may be found, whose work on similar or related problems may be assisted so that more rapid progress may be made possible.

(3) Grants may be used for the purchase of apparatus and supplies that are needed for special investigations, and for the payment of unusual expenses incident to such investigations, including technical assistance, but not for providing apparatus or materials which are ordinarily a part of laboratory equipment. Stipends for the support of investigators will be granted only under exceptional circumstances.

In accordance with the policy outlined in paragraph 2, four of the investigations which have been aided in 1930 bear on the general subject of nephritis; in 1929 there were seven, in 1928 three, and in each of the four preceding years four grants for work in this same field. Other general subjects, especially internal secretion and infection, have been favored by grants in successive years, but not to so great a degree as nephritis.

Applications for grants to be held during the year 1930–1931 should be in the hands of the executive committee before May 1.

Applications should include statements as to the character of the proposed research, the amount of money requested, and the objects for which the money is to be expended.

Applications should be sent to the secretary, Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital, 695 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

JOSEPH C. AUB,
Secretary