

tomato. Upon a tomato stem, a sprig of belladonna was grafted and then upon the latter again a tomato stem. It was found that the belladonna plant had by this operation lost its property of producing atropin poison which is normally found in all parts of the belladonna plant.

A series of experiments with chrysanthemums and other flowers showed that grafting caused flowers in many instances to yield a more pungent perfume, a fact of great importance to the perfume manufacturers of South France. Numerous trials with other plants are now being made of which the results have not yet been announced.

READING REFERENCE - Ganong, W. F. The Living Plant. New York, Henry Holt & Company, 1913.

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#### SCIENTISTS OBSERVE ARMY OF CENTIPEDES ON THE MARCH

The migration of a vast army of "thousand-leggers", marching through the desert, is the unique sight reported in "Science" by Professors J. M. Thuringer and O. B. Jacobson of the University of Oklahoma.

They were driving through a desert stretch in New Mexico, devoid of vegetation or even of large rocks, when they observed small black objects along their path. At first they paid no attention to them, but when they became so numerous that the wheels of their Ford ran over one every yard they stopped long enough to examine them. They found that they were large centipedes, all apparently moving in the same direction. What these crawling beasts were doing in this desert place, where they came from, why they left their old home, and what they expected to find in a new one were questions the two scientists did not stop to ask.

"We thought of possible mishaps to our 'Lizzy'", they report, "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."

Migrations of butterflies and other insects have been observed many times, but little or nothing is known about mass travel on the part of lower forms of life like centipedes.

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#### WAVES IN STEEL CAUSE TURBINE WRECKS

Why steam turbines commit suicide has been discovered by General Electric Company engineers at Schnectady, New York. Ever since the war, mysterious failures and breakdowns in new-type turbines of high power and speed have been puzzling steam technicians. Apparently the most expert and careful calculations on the part of the designing engineers, and the most exact inspection of materials, were powerless to prevent pieces from flying out of the rim, and then, like monkey-wrenches in the works, playing hob with the internal machinery in general,

The investigation has shown that this suicidal tendency has been due to excess