A CHALLENGE
(Excerpt from an article by Collis-George and Davey*)

"It is a common experience to find different soils (in the Soil Survey sense) behaving very similarly in the field, and the reverse situation of non-distinguishable soils (again in the Soil Survey sense) behaving very differently in terms of plant behavior, when lying contiguously in the field. This suggests, that, until the criteria controlling crop performance are identified (and this will vary for each crop, the biological parameter chosen, and the degree of maturity at which the plant is examined), detailed soil surveys can only be of limited use" (in field plot experiments).

If a reader of SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS knows of an instance in which a soil was "non-distinguishable" in Soil Survey, but was later discovered through the soil's distinctive influence on crops, please send an account of this to the editor, 203 Soils U. W., Madison, Wis.

* Collis-George and Davey, "The doubtful utility of 1960 present-day field experimentation and other determinations involving soil-plant interactions," SOILS AND FERTILIZERS XXIII: 307-310

A NEW SOILS PERIODICAL

"Pedobiologia" is a new soil science periodical published in Jena, Germany (Friedrich-Schelling - Strasse 10). The first issue was received at the local Agricultural Library in September, 1961. Articles are in French, English, German, Russian. The editorial board include Dr. O. Park, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. In the dedication of the first issue, W. L. Kubiena points out that we know all too little about the biologic activity in soils, day by day and season by season. He hails the new periodical as well conceived. First papers present a wealth of data on microfauna of the soil. T. B. Poole, of North Wales found an average of 46,700 Collembola (Springtails) per square meter in a soil of a Douglas fir plantation. His paper is typical in its emphasis on phenology...the variations in number of animals from month to month in the various subdivisions of the A horizon.