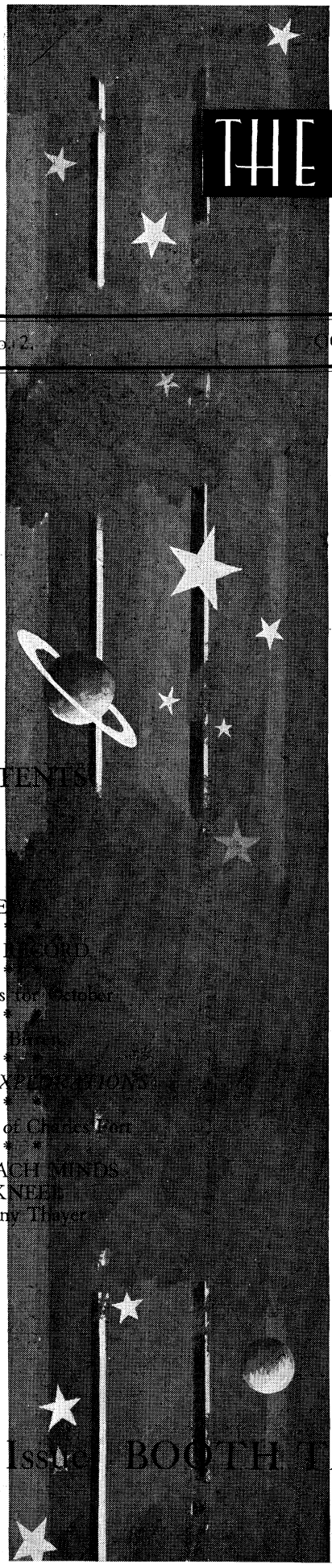


THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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THEY TEACH MINDS TO KNEEL
by Tiffany Thayer

Lightning Develops Amazing Marksmanship in 1937

Lightning is not only *shooting* straighter this year than ever before, it has also taken to chasing its prey. New York City, August 9, 1937: "Three persons were killed and fourteen injured by a bolt of lightning which struck at Rockaway Beach yesterday." *World-Telegram.* Witnesses said that the "bolt" split into jagged prongs which struck at several widely separated places simultaneously. "About 1 P.M.," the lightning crashed on the beach, hitting a shack where bathers had taken shelter, knocked everybody down and killed a 5-year-old boy. Another "flash" of the same "bolt" killed two men *about a mile away.*

New York *Times* 8-9-37: "At 1:25 o'clock . . . . 'bolt' crackled out of the blackening sky during the 'freakish' storm. . . . A Coast Guard was bowled over and temporarily paralyzed. . . . Less than two hours earlier, lightning had struck the cornice of a twenty-story apartment house . . . ripping loose a piece of concrete four feet long and a foot and a half thick.

" . . . the fatal bolt according to one witness, crashed into the beach, split into star-like points and spread over a wide area, cutting down beach umbrellas like wheat before a reaper." The bolt seemed to pierce the gabled roof (of the shelter) *without* sundering the wood." Another witness likened the phenomenon to a "shower of fire" but said that several beach fires were *extinguished* by it. Six received hospital treatment. The little boy's suit was "virtually ripped from his body." Within a few hours, the air had cleared and the sun shone brightly.

Helen Stark, 11, was helping to close the windows against a sudden rain (8-7-37) when lightning hit the house, stunning everyone, igniting the oil stove in the kitchen and

In this Issue: BOOTH TARKINGTON on Charles Fort

knocking Helen unconscious. She died later in the Potsdam, N. Y., hospital.

The above novelties caused the Secretary to group current data, bringing to light the following:

Walter Ponsatowski, Jr., 9, Flemington, N. J., was killed (7-11-37) when lightning struck a tree under which he had sought shelter. (Note the ages—5, 11 and 9 years.)

Lightning flashed horizontally across a street in the Bronx (7-10-37) knocking down Albert Kuntz, 22, and continuing—to strike down a man across the street. The man says he is Max Haas, 23, but *can remember nothing else* about himself. "He was rigid when picked up." The lenses of his eyeglasses had melted in their metal frames. His wrist-watch was thrown several feet.

In the same period of time, there appears to have been an abundance of "accidents" attributable to runaway electricity of man's own making.

Frank Brown has been operating an *x*-ray machine at Bellevue for eight years. He put his hand on a live plate and took 75,000 volts through his body. It did not kill him, it is said, because the *amperage* was but 100 milliamperes. Grace Fusco, who tried to save him, was knocked against the wall twice when she touched him. The man's hands were badly burned.

22,000 volts of electricity *leaped in an arc across a space at least three feet wide* to kill George McCullough, 57, in Jersey City, 8-11-37. "He was perspiring freely . . . he was standing on top of a locomotive in the repair yard." Witnesses attest that the fatal voltage *jumped* from the high tension wire to the man's head.

The Society's British correspondent contributed the following:

"Lightning played havoc with the opening of the racing season at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. . . . One horse was killed and 10 others badly stunned." Gino Vive, an *untried two-year-old,* was the victim. A cook was knocked down. Several of the animals were knocked from their stalls and staggered about as though drunk. During the same storm lightning killed a horse on a farm in New Jersey.

Again note the youth of things struck—or —*what change may be manifesting itself in the creatures of Earth through the "harnessing" of this elemental power for illumination, telephone, telegraph, radio and other daily household and commercial uses?* Are we breeding conductivity into animals and men?

British Correspondent: Brussels, 7-31-37—Fifteen Killed in Dutch Air Liner Disaster, Plane on Fire in the Air, *Believed Struck by Lightning.*

World-Telegram: London, July 31. British scientists are making "pea soup" fog and lightning at will at the Dollis Hill Post Office research station.

New York *Times:* Philadelphia, Aug. 7. Keepers at the zoo wore rubber gloves today to handle five eels arriving from South America. They generate as much as 300 volts of electricity.

Lightning killed a boy swimmer (12 years old) and Edward Henick, 27, August 11. The metal belt buckle of the boy's bathing suit was almost destroyed. Working in the field with the man of 27 were two older men, 54 and 56. They were shocked but *he* was hit and killed.

The *same storm* threw a bolt at the Edison Memorial, a steel and concrete shaft 130 feet high at Menlo, Park, N. J., demolishing it. The memorial is said to have been based upon the exact spot where Thomas Alva Edison's work bench stood when he perfected the first incandescent bulb. A model of that bulb, supplied by current from four independent sources so that it might "burn forever" was *not broken* by the crash of the tower all around it.

In an editorial, the New York *Times* takes the poetic position that the little lamp—man's handiwork—was defying Jove and Vulcan. "Out of a news item very similar to this, Aeschylus made his greatest drama." (Another bit of man's handiwork, by the way.)

The Secretary suggests that the little lamp may have got away with its nose-thumbing once, but that it hadn't better try it too often. Old thunderbolts been cracking a *long* time before Aeschylus; likely to keep right on cracking, first here, then there. And now that it is established that sleepwalkers *can* hurt themselves—maybe lightning gonna begin hitting twice in the same place. Every time an editorial like that, or an infallible eclipse prediction, reaches the Secretary's ken, he remembers that the *Titanic* was "unsinkable".

David Solario went into the subway (8-11-37), grasped the *wooden* handrail and froze there! Those who tried to help got shocked or tossed off by the "runaway" electric current. Two cops were knocked around by it. Solario turned blue. He will live. "Officials of the Interborough said they thought rain had got into the wiring of the lighting system."

A. B. Rose, Winston-Salem, N. C., was holding (8-13-37) a ground wire "when lightning surged through" it. For fifteen minutes he was, to all appearances, dead, then he revived. In the hospital where it was said he "probably" would recover, he described the sensation, saying that he had *died,* that it felt as if every bone in his body had been broken. "A hundred million red hot needles stabbed me. Then I saw a sheet of blue flame and all pain ceased."

Captain W. A. Crowell, 60, who talked to newsmen in San Francisco (8-15-37) about the trip he had taken from Halifax, N. S., with his black spaniel in a 23-foot ketch he built himself, said that off Florida, lightning "struck the open part of the cabin and sizzled around for what seemed several seconds. It only split open some of the boards and burned up my cook stove." (See back some paragraphs to bolt passing through boards *without* splitting them).

Frank Carter *froze* to his electric drill (8-17-37) on a steel construction job, 130 feet in the air above Crete, Nebraska. "The drill shorted and Carter was suspended in the air." When the current was shut off he fell—five feet to a platform. "He suffered only shock and minor bruises."

It even finds the kids *indoors!* Gene Wager, 8, was in a shack with two brothers, Niagara Falls (8-18-37). A "bolt of lightning tore through the roof and struck him." He was injured internally and his heels were blistered. Physicians said his rubber-soled sneakers saved his life.

8-19-37. Lightning completely destroys the Dutch Reformed Church, Lebanon, N. J.

8-21-37. Tanks containing nearly 1,000,000 gallons of crude oil were still blazing (New Hope, Pa.) twelve hours after having been struck by lightning. *Times.*

8-22-37. New York *Times:* "Samuel Klava, 34, of Belmar, N. J., was instantly killed by lightning at Freehold, N. J. He and three companions sought shelter from a storm under a maple tree. The bolt struck a locust tree forty feet away, splintering it, then jumped to them. Klava's companions were shocked but not seriously injured."

Will some member of the Society in that vicinity please check at once on the ages of Klava's three companions? If he was the youngest, perhaps we have something!

Missed! I think it was aimed at Robert. Lightning killed the cow he was milking and pinned Robert Dulin, Denton, Md., to the floor of the barn it had set afire, 8-23-37. He wriggled out and saved the rest of his stock with his wife's help.

8-27-37. John Ordney, New Rochelle, was killed by a live wire.

8-30-37. Chauncey Robinson, 62, for *thirty years* a linesman, was electrocuted in St. Johnsville, N. Y., when 4,400 volts passed through him.

8-31-37. Eight starlings fell dead *while flying* together over Fifth Avenue, between twenty-ninth and thirtieth Streets. Dr. George Schoenler of the A. S. P. C. A. examined them and said he thought they had been electrocuted!

8-30-37. Trains were delayed at Unadilla, Ga., because the block was set against them. Investigation revealed a red ant in a "relay", causing a short circuit. The ant was electrocuted.

And again the *Times* went poetic in its editorial columns, making a martyr-hero of the ant because no humans had been killed. See their issue of Sept. 6.

8-31-37. Lightning knocked thirty feet off the steeple of Somerset, Bermuda's tallest church.

9-4-37. Two golfers and two caddies killed by lightning. Longue Vue Club Links, Pittsburgh.

9-5-37. The cross was knocked off the roof at St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, Jersey City, by lightning.

That's *three* churches—truly remarkable marksmanship!

But the Secretary found a topper for all the above events—way back in 1935.

Centerville, Md., Sept. 7. Striking literally from the blue, a freak lightning bolt struck Clinton Dorman, 17, here recently, hurling him from a chair and setting fire to a stable 50 yards away.

Bright sunshine flooded the scene. Los Angeles *Examiner.*

Just this one more—from the faithful William S. Barton, Los Angeles *Times.* He says (8-11-35) that Professor George S. Monks of the University of Chicago was walking over the Lake Michigan dunes and found something. He showed it to Dr. Paul C. Miller, Geology. An investigation brought forty-nine similar pieces out of the sand. Fitted together they formed a *tube* of impure "glass" about twenty-three feet long. "It was glass, and the geologists, physicists and chemists wagged their heads over the glassy serpent far into the night." They decided that lightning had struck there, fusing the glass, but none of them could say why it was tubular.

Sun, 9-9-37: A bull snake climbed 22 feet up steel framework of a power station at Frederick, Okla. There was a bird's nest there. He caused a short circuit which interrupted electric service. Fate of snake not stated.

STATIC DOG DYNAMIC

The dog was tied to the car (9-7-37). Teddy Fogel, 8, Reno, Nevada, petted the dog. There was an explosion and the boy's hand was burned. Maybe it was static electricity, because the cap was off the gasoline tank. Or maybe Teddy could tell more if he would. No one has mentioned St. Elmo's fire so far.

PROBABLY ATHLETE'S FOOT

Nobody knows why the electric lights went out (9-5-37) and stayed out for 17 hours on City Island. This is typical of several inexplicable power-house failures noted by the Society in the past two years. Data next issue.

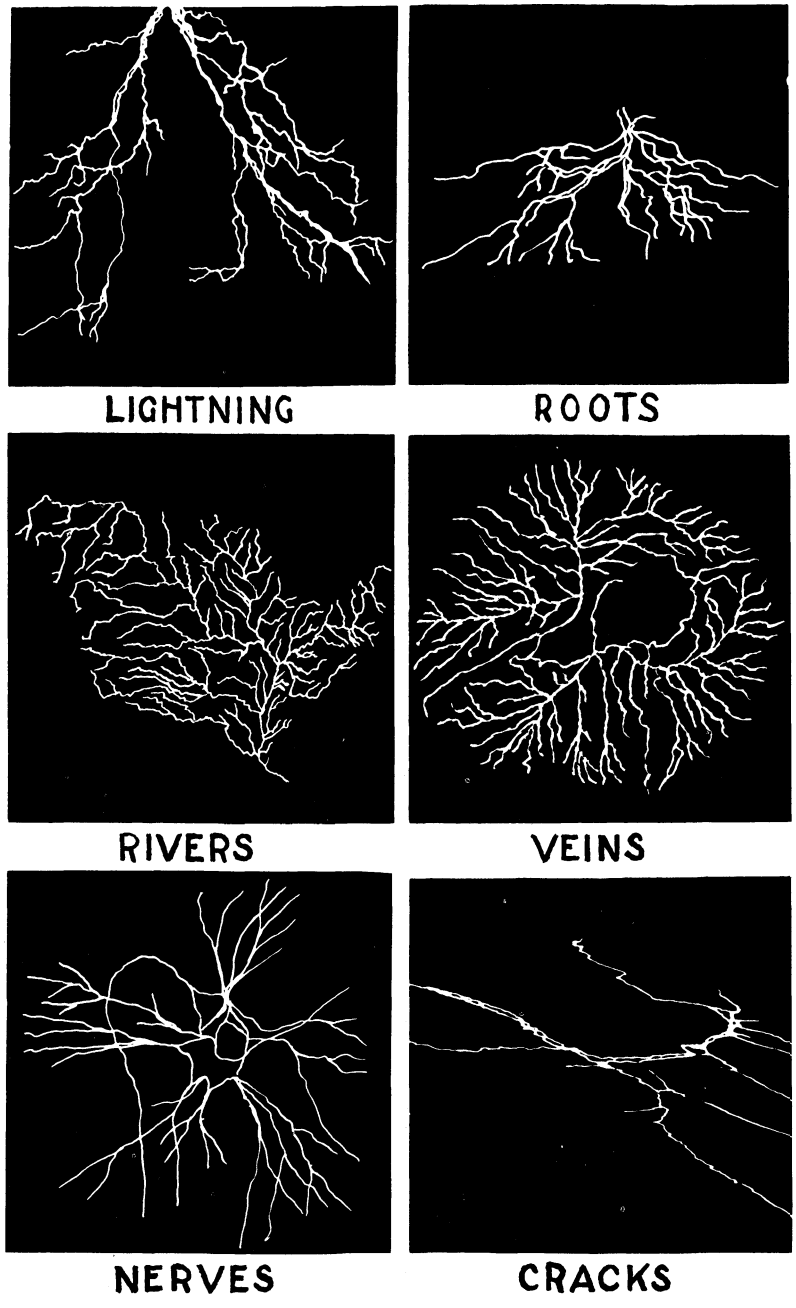
STOP PRESS MORE LIGHTNING

The *Sun,* 9-11-37, tells of a bolt which skinned a tree, followed a big root 37 feet, then a stream of water (underground) to a house, *up* through the floor, up a bed-post to the foot of a sleeping lad, through him and out his chest, across the room to an aluminum kettle—this is still the same lightning—from the kettle to a *radio,* out by the aerial and across lots to another house where it did more damage and finally, tired out, dissipated itself along telephone wires! The youth of unstated age died, but Mr. K. B. McEachron of the General Electric Artificial Lightning and High Voltage Laboratory lived to say that he had "observed" this.

GOLD!

A very vague and uninformative despatch from Novosibirsk, Russia, 9-4-37, appears in the *World-Telegram,* which quotes *Science Service,* which quotes *Soviet Telegraphic News Agency.* Somewhere along the line the point was dropped out. However, gold found in Tass, Russia, rivers comes in 8-sided crystals.

WHERE DOES MOTION GO?



"Motion follows the course of least resistance," says the text. And Charles Fort asked: "Which *is* the course of least resistance?—and how do you know?" Well—it seems that whatever path motion takes is it—and you know *because motion takes it!*

Above are six results of motion taking the course of least resistance—or something. One or two of them are the result of very rapid motion; three or more are the result of "growth", at various rates of speed. They all have an underlying similarity, yet their so-called "causes" are very different.

The picture appears in connection with the lightning stories in this issue. No conclusions are drawn—but the seed is planted. The Secretary suggests that the "law" of probability be invoked, then he withdraws and leaves you to your contemplations.

THEY TEACH MINDS TO KNEEL

by
Tiffany Thayer

The soul-withering horror that grips my bowels and makes me writhe in futile frenzy is the nefarious and noxious means by which the Glory of Modern Science and all its works is maintained. Popular education has been forced upon mankind in the guise of a boon. THEY taught us to read!

By radio, newspaper and pulpit-despatch the public is today being warned about "propaganda". The methods for instilling hate and patriotism and the martial spirit are on the dissecting table and whether one wishes to listen or not the inside story of how and why wars are waged is being revealed—with counter-trimmings. It is esteemed important that peace remain and that those who have been taught to read—at least the short words—shall have their precious lives spared and their homes equipped with approximations of the things John D. Jr., likes.

What escapes the revelators of "Capitalist-propaganda"—or—what is considered unimportant by them—is the inescapable fact that what passes for education the world around is a sublimation of the very thing they are decrying.

It is a folly to scream about a "bourgeoise ideology" foisted upon us by "Privilege" when the far more dastardly crime is the debasement of learning. Creel made us hate Germans; Damon Runyan made us hate Bruno Richard Hauptmann; granted. But what about this—

"Recently there arrived at the optical shop of the California Institute of Technology, distant only a few hundred feet from where I am speaking, an enormous disk of glass nearly seventeen feet in diameter, about two feet thick, weighing twenty tons. Its successful completion, after several years of skilful experimental research by its makers, represents the first important stage in the construction of the 200 inch telescope . . . An exact copy of one of Galileo's telescopes is here before me, made from the original in Florence; its tube, less than 5 feet long; its object glass, an inch in diameter—smaller than a spectacle lens. If the 17 foot disk of glass seems gigantic compared with Galileo's tiny objective, let it be remembered that the disparity between today's knowledge of the heavens and that preceding Galileo's invention of the telescope is even greater."

No comment is necessary. That is headed: *Recent Scientific Progress in Astronomy* and it was issued as "news" by Carnegie, 10-11-36.

And this:

"Gateway to the Stars

The World's Greatest Observatory at Mount Wilson—Exploring Interstellar Space. . . . (*caption*) Using the 150 tower (*power?*) telescope at the Mount Wilson Observatory Dr. Charles E. St. John made his final observations in verifying the Einstein Theory of Relativity. (From that I must assume that Dr. St. John either died or went blind.) This is the largest telescope in the world for the study of solar phenomena. . . . (*Caption*) Towards Infinity—The Hooker telescope of Mount Wilson is a miracle of mechanical ingenuity and the most powerful instrument of its kind ever devised by man."

I grow weary and sick of heart—as well as of stomach—at this repetitious pretension and empty braggadocio. That immediately above is quoted from *Travel,* January, 1934, by Harold Ward. I dare not turn to *Nature Magazine* where Isabel M. Lewis gushes monthly and where the late Charles Fitzhugh Talman held forth regularly on meteorology in general. In their hands propaganda sunk to a level lower than any Hearst or McFadden ever dreamed of. Instead, let us take up a sober tome, *The Earth and the Stars,* by C. G. Abbot.

"Preface

"To those who wish to acquire by easy reading a general survey of the universe they dwell in, it is hoped that this book may be helpful. The wonderful progress of the last quarter-century has brought about a most happy and fruitful marriage of astronomy and physics. From the structure of the atom to the structure of the universe, we seem to follow a definite thread of reason. Many observations which formerly were interesting and curious, but apparently isolated, now seem to fit beautifully into a general scheme. (Which somehow never gets stated in the book!) It has been the aim of the author to present the most salient of the facts (sic) in simple words, and in such relations as will display our present views of why and how the celestial host came to be as it is.

"This book is for non-technical readers, and not for the professional astronomer. Ten times its size would not cover so wide a range of subjects thoroughly enough for him." And so on—always and forever the old build-up, the old mock-modesty, the foot-thick patronization of mere mortals who must be addressed in "simple words".

Every text book, every essay, every paper for undergraduate or for popular use—not alone in astronomy but in every other field of Science as well—is written like mail-order advertising copy dipped in syrup. None of it purports to *tell,* it sets out blatantly to *sell.* To sell the student man's importance, his superiority to every other thing *except* Science; then to sell Science as the greatest achievement of noble man; then to sell the Scientists' mastery of Science—which puts any and all practitioners of any and all sciences well above and beyond any and all gods. And that is the pith, essence, object and sole result of popular education.

It is *not* the result of an economic system. It is not the handiwork of Capital—for the children of Capital stand in the same awe of the Scientific Priestcraft as do the children of Oswald Phipps. I grant that Science is the handmaid and harlot of Capital, but that metaphor should be carried on—for at no time and in no place has the enslavement of king and commoner been more complete than it is today. Strumpet, Pope, Dictator, Favorite, the fawning, strutting, pompous and windy thing that is Science today perpetuates itself under a system of popular delusion so complex that only one man in ten thousand recognizes its baseless posturing at its true assay. If the public-spirited who are now devoting so much energy to making peace permanent would espouse a worthy cause, let them turn their attention to *this* endeavor. To hell with human lives—there will always be more than enough of those—such as they are. Let's save human intelligence which is nearer its end today than at any other time since Galileo. The great difficulty in getting support for a truth so bald as this one lies in the unflattering nature of the truth itself. Whereas the Scientists pour unctious flattery before they exalt themselves, the Fortean begins by exacting the admission that ignorance is well-nigh universal with stupidity a close second in prevalence. And who is going to buy a bill of goods like that?

T. SWANN HARDING JOINS FORTEANS

The Secretary is proud to announce that the author of *FRAUD!—THE DEGRADATION OF SCIENCE* and *THE JOY OF IGNORANCE* has become a member of the Fortean Society, the only known body organized for the perpetuation of dissent.

In *Joy of Ignorance,* which all Forteans will read with pleasure, he has data of hens and pigeons changing sexes. Mr. Harding will contribute some exciting observations of his own in an early issue.

A SCIENTIST GOES SANE!

Unless he is a lot more careful, W. C. Allee, Professor of Zoology, The University of Chicago, is going to be de-frocked by his Archbishop. In the Literary Guild selection for September, *The World and Man,* edited by Rev. Forest Ray Moulton, the offender opens his stint, "Evolution and Behavior of the Invertebrates," with this horrid burst of sanity: *There is no reason for the generally accepted division of the animal kingdom into the invertebrates and vertebrates other than that supplied by the fact that man is a vertebrate and is the animal doing the classifying.*

Just one more crack like that and he'll be scourged from the Temple. The only thing that saves him now is that "animal kingdom". He left that in to prove that he's still one of them. There is, however, ample evidence throughout the book that *there is no sensible reason for dividing the roughly organized world into animal, vegetable and mineral "kingdoms"* save that given above by Professor Allee. (The book can be read unless you are particularly irascible.)

MRS. CHARLES FORT DIES

Anna, who found no interest in life after the passing of her husband in 1932, died on August 25, 1937.

SLEEPING SICKNESS

Miss Ruth Gaudnier, Peekskill, N. Y., died (9-1-37) at the age of 38 after suffering from "sleeping sickness" for 18 years.

YAWNERS

Mrs. Rita O'Connor, 36, San Rafael, Calif., has been yawning once every three minutes for eighteen days.

Patricia Maguire, 31, had slept 5½ years in Oak Park, Ill. She died 9-28-37.

Verona P. Nichols, 36, Portland, Me., "mysterious malady" for 16 years, died of "sleeping sickness" 9-30-37.

Members are asked to report—yawners, hiccoughers, laughers, sleepers and all fantastically incurables. A system of regularly checking on their conditions will be devised and extra-medical theories about the unfortunates will be entertained.

Mrs. Jesse O. Hinshaw, Charlotte, N. C., had yawned for 225 hours on June 5, 1937.

Daily News, N. Y., 9-13-37—Marie Basenburg, 19, Birmingham, Ala., has talked for 12 days straight and can't stop.

INHUMANITY OF MAN

Mrs. W. M. Coble, 77, of Omaha, Nebraska, has (according to her physicians) a "blood clot on her brain" which will keep her in a state of coma as long as she is wilfully kept alive by a liquid diet and drug injections. (8-31-37)

HORSES TOO!

The Agriculture Department reports (9-10-37) that about 4000 horses have died of sleeping sickness in the Middle West in the past year.

PAGING EMILY POST

N. Y. *Times,* 9-10-37: William Falhaber, 68, cafe owner, Spokane, Wash., died of rage because his cook insisted on drinking coffee from the saucer.

FIVE DIE "AT" FIGHT

Five persons died, one at the ringside and four at their radios (8-31-37) listening to the Louis-Farr fight for the heavyweight boxing championship of the world.

THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS

Robert Bosler, flying instructor, Camden, N. J., "believes" that Josef R. Norvath or Horvath (spelling is always guess-work when you quote the *World-Telegram*) "fainted at the controls" before he crashed (9-3-37), killing himself.

GREEN EGGS

Times, 9-7-37: A two-year-old Leghorn owned by Bryson Foster, Twin Elm, Ontario, has begun—abruptly, it seems—to lay eggs with grass-green yolks.

THE FOUNDERS



BOOTH TARKINGTON ON CHARLES FORT

Next Issue—BEN HECHT.

A letter to The BOOKMAN:

Who in the name of frenzy is Charles Fort? Author of *The Book of the Damned.* I'm just pulling up from influenza and this blamed book kept me all night when I certainly should have slept—and then, in the morning, what is a fevered head to do with assemblies of worlds, some shaped like wheels, some connected by streaming filaments, and one spindle shaped with an axis 100,000 miles long?

A clergyman, old brilliant friend of mine, "went insane" one summer—got over it when his wife came home from Europe but that summer he was gone. I remember when I caught him: he spent all of a hot afternoon telling me, at the University Club, about a secret society of the elect—adepts—who had since days immemorial welcomed (and kept hidden) messages from other planets. That's where this alleged Charles Fort shows his bulliest dementia—but he's "colossal"—a magnificent nut, with Poe and Blake and Cagliostro and St. John trailing way behind him. And with a gorgeous madman's humor! What do you know of him? And doesn't he deserve some BOOKMAN attention? (I never heard of the demoniac cuss.) People must turn to look at his head as he walks down the street; I think it's a head that would emit noises and explosions, with copper flames playing out from the ears.—B. T.

Introduction to NEW LANDS:

A few years ago I had one of those pleasant illnesses that permit the patient to read in bed for several days without self-reproach; and I sent down to a bookstore for whatever might be available upon criminals, crimes and criminology. Among the books brought me in response to this morbid yearning was one with the title, *The Book of the Damned.*

I opened it, not at the first page, looking for Cartouche Jonathan Wild, Pranzini, Lacenaire, and read the following passage:

"The fittest survive.

What is meant by the fittest?

Not the strongest; not the cleverest—

Weakness and stupidity everywhere survive.

There is no way of determining fitness except in that a thing does survive.

'Fitness' then, is only another name for 'survival'."

Finding no Guiteau or Troppmann here, I let the pages slide under my fingers and stopped at this:

"My own pseudo-conclusion:

That we've been damned by giants sound asleep, or by great scientific principles and abstractions that cannot realize themselves: that little harlots have visited their caprices upon us; that clowns, with buckets of water from which they pretend to cast thousands of good-sized fishes have anathemized us

for laughing disrespectfully, because, as with all clowns, underlying buffoonery is the desire to be taken seriously; that pale ignorances, presiding over microscopes by which they cannot distinguish flesh from nostoc or fishes' spawn or frogs' spawn, have visited upon us their wan solemnities. We've been damned by corpses and skeletons and mummies, which twitch and totter with pseudo-life derived from conveniences."

With some astonishment, I continued to dip into the book, sounding it here and there, but did not bring up even so well-damned a sample of the bottom as Benedict Arnold. Instead I got these:

"An object from which nets were suspended—

Deflated balloon with its network hanging from it—

A super-dragnet?

That something was trawling overhead?

The birds of Baton Rouge.

I think that we're fished for. It may be we're highly esteemed by super-epicures somewhere."

". . . Melanicus.

That upon the wings of a super-bat, he broods over this earth and over other worlds, perhaps deriving something from them: hovers on wings or wing-like appendages, or planes that are hundreds of miles from tip to tip—a super-evil thing that is exploiting us. By Evil I mean that which makes us useful."

". . . British India Company's steamer Patna, while on a voyage up the Persian Gulf. In May, 1880, on a dark night about 11:30 P.M. there suddenly appeared on each side of the ship an enormous luminous wheel, whirling around, the spokes of which seemed to brush the ship along . . . and although the wheels must have been some 500 or 600 yards in diameter, the spokes could be distinctly seen all the way round."

". . . I shall have to accept that, floating in the sky of this earth, there are often fields of ice as extensive as those on the Arctic Ocean—volumes of water in which are many fishes and frogs—tracts of land covered with caterpillars—"

". . . Black rains—red rains—the fall of a thousand tons of butter.

Jet black snow—pink snow—blue hailstones — hailstones flavored like oranges.

Punk and silk and charcoal."

". . . A race of tiny beings.

They crucified cockroaches.

Exquisite beings—"

But here I turned back to the beginning and read this vigorous and astonishing book straight through, and then re-read it for the pleasure it gave me in the way of its writing and in the substance of what it told. Doré should have illustrated it, I thought, or Blake. Here indeed was a "brush dipped in earthquake and eclipse"; though the wildest mundane earthquakes are but earthquakes in teapots compared to what goes on in the visions conjured up before us by Mr. Charles Fort. For he deals in nightmare, not on the planetary, but on the constellational scale, and the imagination of one who staggers along after him is frequently left gasping and flaccid.

Now he has followed "The Book of the Damned" with "New Lands" pointing incidentally to Mars as "the San Salvador of the Sky," and renewing his passion for the dismayingly significant "damned—" tokens and strange hints excluded by the historically mercurial acceptances of "Dogmatic Science." Of his attack on the astronomers it can at least be said that the literature of indignation is enriched by it.

To the "university-trained mind" here is wildness almost as wild as Roger Bacon's once appeared to be; though of course even the layest of lay brothers must not assume that all wild science will in time become accepted law, as some of Roger's did. Retort to Mr. Fort must be left to the outraged astronomer, if indeed any astronomer could feel himself so little outraged as to offer a retort. Lay brethren are outside the quarrel and must content themselves with gratitude to a man who writes two such books as "New Lands" and "The Book of the Damned"; gratitude for passages and pictures—moving pictures—of such cyclonic activity and dimensions that a whole new area of a reader's imagination stirs in amazement and is brought to life.

—B. T.

Booth Tarkington Recalls, New York SUN:

Few of us nowadays have the wit or the temerity of Mr. Charles Fort. "Granted that there will be posterity," Mr. Fort says in his book, *New Lands,* "we shall be predecessors. Then what is it that is conventionally taught today that will in the future seem as imbecilic as to all present orthodoxies seem the vaporings of preceding systems?

"Well, for instance, that it is this earth that moves . . ."

Mr. Fort speaks convincingly of "the swiftly moving sun," and he notices "successive appearances in local skies of this earth that indicate this earth is stationary."

Mr. Fort, however, as the title of his book implies, is less interested in this unmoving earth than in the new lands that move or are rigidly set in the sky. "A Balboa of greatness now known only to himself will stand on a ridge in the sky between two auroral seas.

"Fountains of Everlasting Challenge.

"Argosies in parallel lines and rabbles of individual adventurers. Well enough may it be said that there are seeds in the sky. Of such are the germs of colonies."

Mr. Fort would have the young man of today go not West but Up. "He will, or must, go somewhere," he says. "If directions alone no longer invite him, he may hear invitation in dimensions. . . . Stay and let salvation damn you—or straddle an auroral beam and paddle it from Rigel to Betelgeuse."

Any one who is interested in unorthodoxies, who is "air-minded," who enjoys having his imagination staggered and his mind dazzled by visions of a future on the constellational scale, should read Mr. Charles Fort's vigorous and astonishing books: *New Lands* and *The Book of the Damned.*

ANOTHER SLEEPWALKER GOES

Maybe he was walking in his sleep. (See last issue for three or more somnambulists gathered to their fathers.)

Times, 8-27-37: A Sleepwalker Missing from Ship. . . . Police are investigating the mysterious disappearance of John G. Lowe, wealthy retired manufacturer of Dayton, Ohio,—now resident of N. Y. C. . . . express belief he walked overboard from a Boston boat. . . . $214 cash and $1400 travelers checks, two sealed, stamped letters found in stateroom. Police asked Post Office permission to open letters. The superintendent of the building where Mr. Lowe had a "terrace" apartment said that the tenant had a five-foot iron picket fence built around the terrace because he was an habitual sleepwalker.

World-Telegram, 8-27-37: Sound Gives Up Body of Missing Ohioan. . . . Business associates and relatives scouted idea of suicide. "In his room were found two sealed letters, one addressed to his housekeeper . . . and one to 'Brother Jack.' When police opened the envelopes they were found to be empty."

Times, 8-28-37: Coast Guards Recover Body of John G. Lowe—Sleepwalking Theory Discounted. . . . "In the light of the fact that the body was clothed the theory that Mr. Lowe had walked off the ship was doubted."

Times, 8-29-37: At an inquest, the verdict was that John G. Lowe had died of drowning while walking in his sleep.

HEADSTONES OVERTURNED

William Judson wrote to *Letters* (8-5-35) about 210 gravestones overturned in Salem, N. J., the watchman had heard no sound. "It was as though a tractor ten feet wide had rumbled through the graveyard." Some of them weighed half a ton apiece.

6-6-36. "Vandals" visited Trinity Church Cemetery, 153rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue, June 4, overturning 164 slabs. Twenty-four hours later "they" returned in spite of extra vigilance and police and damaged between 40 and 50 more. The "marauders" were "believed from footprints" to have been the same *two.* "Some of the monuments toppled to the ground were five or six feet in height."

TRAIN CATCHES FISH

The streamline train, City of Denver, arrived at Chicago (6-7-37) with its headlight broken. Inside the shattered lamp lay a dead trout. The published explanation was that the train, going eighty miles an hour, struck an eagle flying across the track with a fish in its beak. The account does not give the engineer's name nor does it say that any trainman saw the eagle. It does not mention feathers or blood or any other vestiges of any bird. It says a dead *trout* was found inside the broken lamp.

COW CATCHES UP TO MRS. DIONNE

Quintuplet calves were born (8-28-37) to "Spot", a Guernsey-Shorthorn, owned by Hiram Long, Stroud, Okla.

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE

by ERIC F. RUSSELL

(Mr. Russell announces that he is taking up with a group which calls itself "The Probe," *an Association whose members and associates are concerned not only with the investigation of mediumship, but also with all forms of psychic phenomena and unusual happenings, which may throw a light on the PURPOSE of humanity's terrestrial existence.* He will report.)

British *Daily Telegraph* gave off the following between 8-18 and 8-20 *incl.* 1937:

Inquests on two men who fell to death from buildings were held yesterday. Mr. Ingleby Oddie, the Westminster coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind (sic) on David Taylor, 48. He dropped 11 stories.

No light was thrown at a St. Pancras inquest on the mystery of the death of James Edward Craggs, 28. The coroner, Mr. W. P. Purchase, recorded an open verdict. Albert Jenkins, a neighbour, stated that he heard a crash about 12:30 a.m. Craggs was in work, had no troubles or worries and was in good health. "His sister suggested that he might have opened the window because of the hot weather." (Sleepwalker?)

People walking in Oxford Street at 7:25 last night saw a girl fall 60 feet from the third floor of a department store. Her condition was serious.

"The third inquest in London this week on victims of falls from windows was held by Mr. Ingleby Oddie at Paddington.

"Recording an open verdict on *Miss* Peggy Gooden, *47,* Mr. Oddie observed that it was one of those window tragedies where it was difficult to say what had happened. (Miss Gooden) was of a happy disposition, *had no love affair,* and had never spoken of suicide.

"Despite extensive police inquiries (*sic*) complete mystery surrounds the discovery of a young woman lying, on the point of death, beneath the boards of a wooden staging on Herne Bay beach." She had been there several days, dying of starvation. . . . Taken to hospital—"spoke no word before she died." . . . No clue to identity beyond initials "C. V."

"One puzzling circumstance is that she should have been wearing only one shoe. Prolonged search has failed to discover the second." She had 2s 5d tied in one corner of her handkerchief.

"A series of cases just published in the *British Medical Journal* by Mr. Geoffrey Jefferson, the surgeon, strengthens recent changed views regarding the human brain. Owing to the presence of tumours, he successfully removed a frontal lobe of the brain in six cases. In every case there was immediate improvement and no mental symptoms followed as a result of the excision."

(This recalls numerous reports of brain removal in the United States, from none of which has there been consequent loss of "mind" or of any faculty. A group of these is being assembled and will be printed in an early issue. T. T.)

Geneva: Vaslav Nijinsky, the most famous of all men dancers, whose mind became unbalanced during the war, when he was 29, and who has spent more than 21 years in a sanatorium at Kreuzlingen near Zurich, may recover his sanity sufficiently to be released.

Mrs. Nijinsky has never lost hope for her husband's recovery and the last few days have rewarded her by a marked change in his condition. She says: "I myself danced for my husband Karsavina's part in *Le Spectre de la Rose.* It was not very easy for me as I am not a dancer. He seemed interested for the first time and at last he joined in. I would not say that he danced as he used to, but he knew the steps. Today I tried him with the music of *Petrouchka.* He seemed greatly interested and pleased to hear it."

Treatment has been largely insulin injections under the direction of Prof. Sackel of Vienna.

Liverpool *Echo,* 8-19 to 8-21-37: Three women had remarkable escapes from serious injury when an explosion occurred at a knitting factory in New Street, Crewe. All three were in a room of the factory when a heating stove burst, shattering windows and doors and making a hole in the roof. The explosion was heard nearly a quarter of a mile away. A Miss Anderson described the scene thus: "Everything went black, and we rushed for the door. In the adjoining machine room five girls were working. The whole building was shaken. I saw three people emerge from the office. They were covered with soot and dashed for the door leading to the street. The explosion was followed by a fire. The stove was lighted this morning for the first time since the spring and the explosion, *it is stated,* was probably due to gases collected in the flues." The stove was blown across the room and completely wrecked.

Robert Sottler, a mechanic of Yugoslavia, has invented a device in which every individual can literally walk on the clouds. The apparatus resembles a couple of umbrella "domes" fixed one above the other on a long shaft, complete with foot pedals and a wheel worked by hand. Using no other power, the cloud-walker may rise 900 feet vertically. The apparatus is also recommended for mountain climbing—and *for putting out fires.*

British Sunday Times, 8-22-37: Harry, a "police boy" for the last ten years, has gone home to die with his tribe, the Waggamans, Northern Australian aborigines, because another aborigine pointed a "death bone" at him. There is absolutely nothing wrong with him but police officers with long experience amongst the natives say that he will certainly die in a few weeks. He was strong and healthy until shortly after the "death bone" had been pointed. Then he collapsed and refused to speak or to eat.

"Death bones" are given their virtue by native priests at a *corroboree,* and a devitalizing ceremony can nullify the bone's power. However, there doesn't seem to be anything anyone can do after a "pointing"—that is final.

Note: The following excerpts are taken from a correspondence which appears to be absolutely on the level.

The Pillar of Fire—from Major Jarvis, late Governor of Sinai:

Sir,—In Professor MacBride's letter on the pillar of fire during the exodus of the Israelites, he states that an extinct volcano in the north of Sinai was active in the days of Moses. During my fourteen years in Sinai I tried to solve the mystery of the Forty Years Wanderings, and the theory that the Peninsula was actively volcanic some 3,500 years ago would go far to prove many of the fiery manifestations. Unfortunately, all the geologists and surveyors who have worked in Sinai are unanimous in their opinion that the country has not been actively volcanic for at least a million years—possibly two million.

From the Rev. Dr. Guillaume, Principal of Culham College:

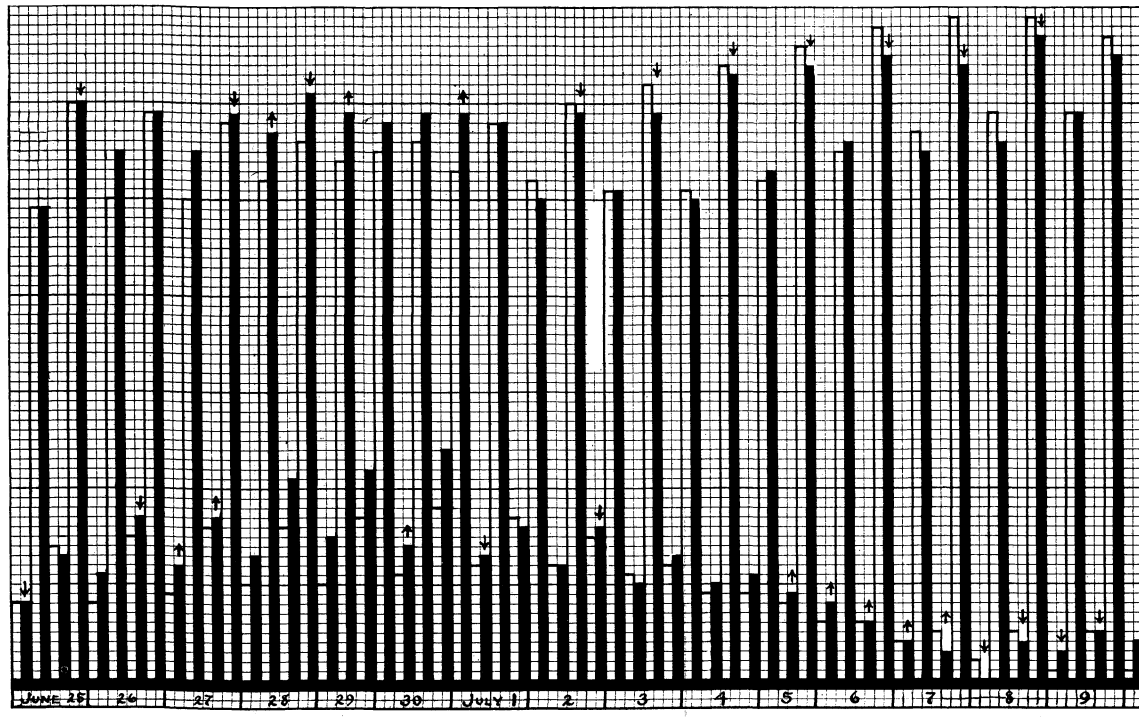
Sir,—I have been most interested in Professor MacBride's theory of the origin of the pillar of fire in Exodus. He suggests that Moses learned about naphtha from his father-in-law, Jethro, "and when he led the exodus, a huge cauldron of it was carried at the head of the marching hosts." . . . With reference to Professor MacBride's second principle that men saw direct acts of God in natural phenomena and had no conception of natural law (sic), it should, I think, be said that the Hebrews were wonderfully justified in this belief, for the sea parted for them by the joint action of wind and tide at precisely the moment to secure their safe passage and the cutting off of pursuing force; the storm clouds gave them light while they threw their enemies into confusion; they found manna (*see Fort*) and quails when they were at the point of starvation; and lastly, when they were faced by an impassable river in flood, an earthquake dammed the river and overthrew the walls of Jericho.

These "coincidences" failed them when they forsook their God—perhaps another coincidence.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

ENGLAND:
ERIC F. RUSSELL, Liverpool.
AUSTRALIA:
ROBERTSON MCKAY, Sydney.
GERMANY:
H. KLOSS, Stuttgart.
DENMARK:
CHR. K. THOMSEN, Copenhagen.
CUBA:
VICTOR BATISTA, Habana.

National Association of Fortune Tellers convention was held in New York, 8-27-37.



THE TIDES OF NEW YORK HARBOR

June 25, 1937 *to July* 25, 1937, *inclusive.*

The solid lines indicate the height of the water as recorded by an automatic gauge at the foot of Whitehall Street. The open lines indicate the predictions of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, made a year in advance. The object of compiling this data is not to criticize the work of the men in the government employ. It is simply and entirely to provide Forteans with a suggested means for further examination of the theory that the tides of Earth's oceans are caused by Luna. The little arrows indicate the probable direction of the tidal current at the interval of record. Arrows pointing up mean that the water was still rising or probably had been lower. Arrows pointing down mean that the water was still sinking or probably had been higher.

Where no arrows occur, it may be assumed that the water was almost, if not quite, at its maximum high or low. Each square indicates 1/10 *of a foot. The scope of the scale is from* 1 *foot below mean low water to six feet above. The tendency of the fortune tellers seems to have been to anticipate most extremes from* 14 *to* 20 *minutes or more.*

The chart is strictly for Forteans. It requires some concentration for its fullest enjoyment. All who are quite content with the explanation that "the moon causes the tides" and are blissfully willing to leave the comprehension of that brash allegation to others are warned off. Run away, the chart will bite you.

EARHART — NOONAN

Checking back on his own trouble-making, the Secretary scrutinized the trans-Pacific flying of the China-Clippers. Their hop is from Wake Island to Guam or *vice versa.* They cross "Thayer's Line" every time, yet—they make it every time. They have steered by radio from the inception of the service.

But—there was a flight by Kingsford-Smith —and Ulm and Lyon and Warner; Lyon navigating. They flew the *Southern Cross* from San Francisco to—or near—Brisbane, Australia. The neatest trick of that flight was landing at Suva in the Fijis, a feat comparable to the one Noonan failed to accomplish, and across "Thayer's line", too.

With pride he hopes is pardonable, the Secretary points to the map in last month's issue of this paper with his left hand and to the *National Geographic Magazine* with his right: "We looked down on a world of tumbled vapor ranging away in ragged fringes on every side. Above us glittered the Southern Cross, the constellation whose name we were proud to bear on our ship. It gave us a genial welcome after the stress of the battle far below. It gleamed on the port bow like a shower of diamonds, in a vault of the deepest blue. There were other stars, there, too, but we hardly saw them. The Southern Cross was to us the symbol of success. It looked good.

"Ulm awoke from a doze at 11:33 p.m. to have Lyon pass him a note saying that we had just crossed the Equator. We were in our own hemisphere once more! This fact and the benevolent twinkle of the Southern Cross put us in the highest spirits.

"Lyon's dead reckoning indicated that we had worked off our course, and at midnight he set a new course direct for Suva, and we swept ahead with the motors sounding as harmonious as ever." (Oct. 1928 *National Geographic,* p. 392.)

It is the Secretary's guess that the change in course at exactly that time saved all the lives aboard and that it was a mite to the starboard, that is, the change was several degrees to the West.

POST-ROGERS FATALITY

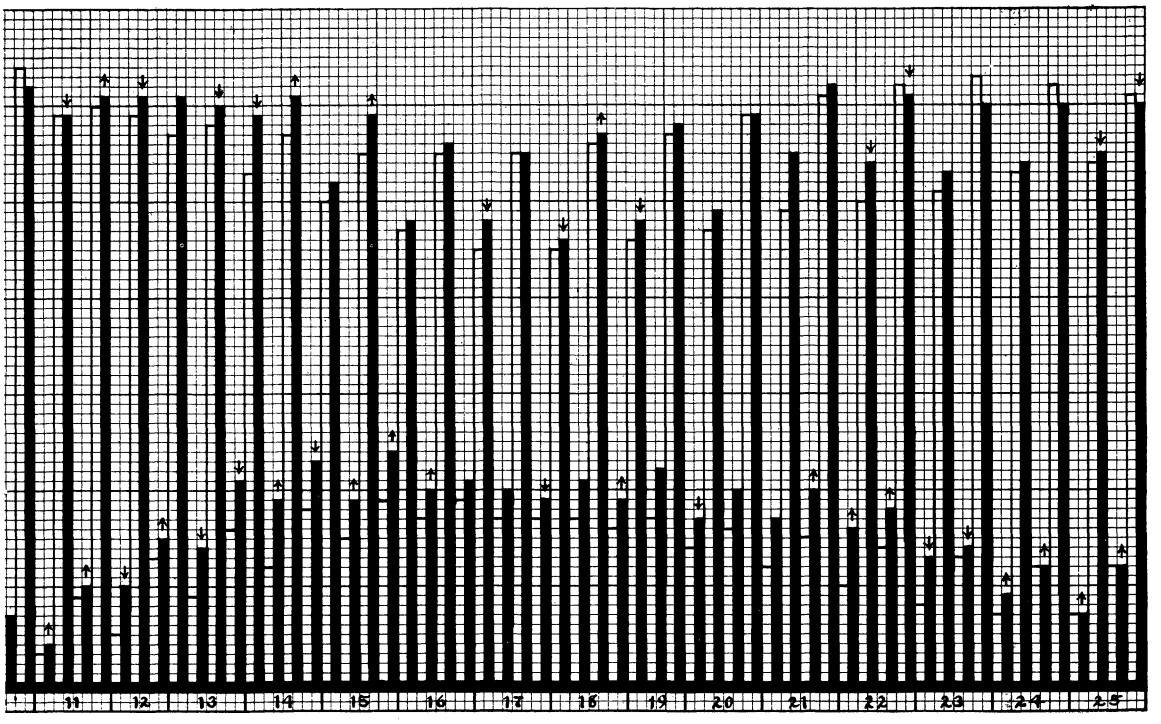
Although "bullets" fly about Lakehurst, N. J., and are never explained away, when a dirigible explodes—that is St. Elmo's fire. When Wiley Post and Will Rogers crashed that was probably eczema!

Los Angeles *Examiner,* 2-28-35, told of a mysterious abrasive substance found in four places in the motor of Wiley Post's plane, Winnie Mae, after he had been forced down from the stratosphere. The grit had apparently been placed in the oil deliberately. Was the oil searched after the crash that killed him and the comedian?

MORE BULLETS IN THE AIR

Those "shots" fired at the Navy blimp ZMC-2 (7-31-35), mentioned here last month in connection with the "St. Elmo's fire" which caused the Hindenburg disaster, were not the first ones known to Lakehurst. The AP story of the "rifle fire" says: "This was the third time since 1928 that the ship has been a target for snipers."

Spencer Bransby, an engineer, member of the Hastings Voutary Rifle Club, was shot through the brain at the Palace Chambers Range, Hastings, England (5-18-35). Only five men were shooting, Bransby and four others. Each shot at his own target and



every target was hit. Five mushroomed bullets were found in front of the targets. "The bullet which had pierced Bransby's brain was not found."

Carol Ann Berry, 6 or 7, Altadena, Calif., was shot through the neck (8-25-35) while playing at 9.00 a.m. in the Wrightwood Playground in Swartout Canyon, about five miles from Big Pine.

George W. Barnes, Jr., was seriously wounded (11-28-35) as he flew over a wood near Bryan, Texas, at a height of approximately 800 feet.

DON'T CRY, LITTLE GIRL

The New York *Times* need not feel badly about attributing the most recent New York earthquake to "fireworks" because the Los Angeles *Examiner* (which should know more about such things) reported (3-5-36) that what residents of Arcadia (Calif.) *thought* was a quake was only "blasting operations in nearby "hills". Names and addresses of blasters or reason for blasting or knowledge of any blasting intended—not even hinted at.

WRINCH'S MOLECULE

The news that the protein molecule had been "mapped" and its effigy created in a three-dimensional model was exhilarating until one read the entire story.

The model was displayed at Nottingham, England, 9-3-37, to the Eucharistical Congress of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH?

Isabel M. Lewis, *Nature,* August 1930, *In the Shadow of the Moon:* p. 117—"No longer than six weeks before the event, the path of the eclipse as published in the American Ephemeris for 1930 had been revised by James Robertson, Director of the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac, and the new figures sent out to all observatories. Were they correct?

"Now that we have returned to the East with still photographs and moving pictures of the total eclipse, unusual because they show the little-seen Baily's Beads, and have proved that Mr. Robertson's figures were correct to the furlong and second, we can perhaps laugh at our qualms that memorable morning."

Same article, p. 120: "Lieutenant Gehres has written in the report of the expedition the following description of the advance of the shadow on the clouds: *Just at the indicated time of totality the pilot observed a distinct shadow, purplish to black in color, darker than the surrounding dusk, which seemed to pass almost instantaneously across the clouds parallel to, but a mile south of, the predicted path of totality.* . . . Both the shadow film and that obtained on the ground furnish excellent proof that we were in the shadow of the moon. The observed time of totality on the ground was correct within one or two seconds."

TOLMAN UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Because William S. Barton, Science Editor of the Los Angeles *Times,* eulogized the sense of humor and the inclination to dissent from Orthodoxy possessed by Dr. Richard Chace Tolman, Caltech the Secretary has offered to send Fort books to him for comment. We'll see—

When Charles Fitzhugh Talman, since deceased, was offered some of Fort's books to read, he answered (3-20-35): "I am quite familiar with Fort's books but do not care to express my opinion of them to a Fortean." He was then Chief Librarian of the Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Agriculture. He was the author of several unreadable books about the weather.

That fellow Barton of the Los Angeles *Times* is the man who very nearly received the booby prize for 1935 from the Astronomers' Local No. 2 of the Holy Ess, Mt. Wilson. *What's New in the Progress of Science* (8-18-35): "The fact is that even now probably half of the Mt. Wilson research is being conducted with the sixty-inch instrument. Ordinarily the Mt. Wilson observers divide their time equally between the two telescopes. For, without its sixty-inch 'step-brother,' the Mt. Wilson sky-scanners would be blind to all objects within twenty-seven degrees of the North Star.

"This is because the 100-inch reflector cannot be turned toward that part of the sky due to the interference with the turning mechanism caused by a mercury tank."

The Secretary offers a broken-down model T Ford to be put on the track in the way of the new 200-incher so it can't be moved to the North at all, and if the institution is smart it will have Millikan stuffed and set on the other side so the instrument can't be moved South. Then everybody can go back to sleep and the astronomers won't *ever* have to look at the sky.

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CALENDAR

That *pistache* the Secretary ran up last month was much more elaborate than necessary, it took time from more important matters and it was probably as full of errors as an eclipse prediction from Harvard. Accordingly, this month the material is served unminced.

Sol's rise and fall is left out because it is your watch that's wrong. The tides are left out because the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey cannot supply the *records* of the gauge reading in less than 60 days. Accordingly, elsewhere in this issue is a comparison of the latest available tide data—June 25 to July 25, 1937. That feature will be continued, but unless the membership has use for the daily tidal predictions in advance, they will not appear in the Calendar. If there is other data you would like to have included, ask for it.

Because the membership of the Society is international—and because the native membership is scattered from coast to coast, it has been decided to eliminate data on daily phenomena which can be noticed only in local time. It is not fair to the membership at large to devote so much space to predictions which can be checked or verified only in restricted districts. Accordingly, Luna's meanderings are dropped from the Calendar and members are urged to use their local newspapers for the basis of their criticism.

That leaves us with only the planetary configurations and Luna's occultations for this department. Predictions in those two fields for the month of October are given. Time given is *Greenwich Civil Time* and the Authority is *The American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac*. Instruction for finding *your local time* for these events follows the tables. (Hours are numbered from 0 h—midnight, to 23 h—11 *p. m.*)

THE PLANETS

Oct. 2, 4:28 Conjunction Venus-Luna. Venus 6° 39′ N.
3, 0:42 Conjunction Neptune-Luna. Nep. 6° 30′ N.
3, 6:25 Conjunction Mercury-Luna. Merc. 7° 03′ N.
5, 15:00 Mars—Greatest Hel. Lat. S.
9, 23:00 Merc.—Greatest Hel. Lat. N.
11, 6:00 Conjunction Venus-Neptune. Venus 0° 20′ N.
11, 18:00 Conjunction Mars-Luna. Mars 4° 52′ S.
12, 6:00 Venus in Perihelion.
12, 12:00 Quadrature Jupiter-Sol.
12, 16:38 Conjunction Jupiter-Luna. Jup. 3° 58′ S.
18, 7:48 Conjunction Saturn-Luna. Sat. 7° 51′ S.
21, 1:19 Conjunction Uranus-Luna. Uranus 2° 38′ S. (Please try to check that one. Uranus is a difficult object for the amateur to find.)
29, 10:00 Superior conjunction Mercury-Sol.
29, 17:00 Conjunction Mars-Jupiter. Mars 1° 30′ S.
30, 8:28 Conjunction Neptune-Luna. Nep. 6° 36′ N.
30, 13:00 Mars in Perihelion.

OCCULTATIONS

(In the following table where a city name appears, "and vicinity" is implied. The time given is Greenwich Civil Time.)

72° 30′ W. Long., 42° 30′ N. Lat.="New York"
91° 0′ W. Long., 40° 0′ N. Lat.="Chicago"
120° 0′ W. Long., 36° 0′ N. Lat.="Calif."

Time of immersion only is given. *You* watch for reappearance and report time.

Date	*Star*	*Magnitude*	*Time*	*Visible*
Oct. 1,	14 Sextantis	6.3	8:15.0	New York
8,	147 B. Librae	6.1	2:21.9	Calif.
11,	128 B. Sagittarii	6.4	20:27.8	New York
12,	266 B. Sagittarii	6.1	20:46.8	New York
	266 Sagittarii	6.1	20:36.7	Washington
	36 Sagittarii	5.1	3:47.9	Calif.
13,	27 G. Capricorni	6.2	23:45.1	Chicago
14,	27 Capricorni	6.2	0: 7.6	Washington
	27 Capricorni	6.2	0:18.5	New York
16,	44 Aquarii	5.8	5:10.6	New York
	44 Aquarii	5.8	5: 4.7	Washington
	44 Aquarii	5.8	5: 2.5	Chicago
	51 Aquarii	5.8	8:19.6	Calif.
21,	Rho Arietis	5.6	4:48.8	Calif.
	Rho Arietis	5.6	5:38.0	Chicago
	Rho Arietis	5.6	6:23.7	New York
	Pi Arietis	5.4	2:24.9	New York
	Pi Arietis	5.4	2:18.6	Washington
	Pi Arietis	5.4	2: 1.3	Chicago
	45 Arietis	5.9	5:21.5	Chicago
	45 Arietis	5.9	5:51.8	New York
	45 Arietis	5.9	5:40.0	Washington
	45 Arietis	5.9	4:59.2	California
21,	54 Arietis	6.5	11:28.8	Calif.
	54 Arietis	6.5	11:49.4	Chicago
	54 Arietis	6.5	11:53.1	New York
	54 Arietis	6.5	11:55.3	Washington
22,	53 Tauri	5.4	14:58.8	Calif.
23,	Iota Tauri	4.7	4:59.8	Calif.
	Iota Tauri	4.7	5: 9.3	Chicago
	Iota Tauri	4.7	5:31.6	New York
	Iota Tauri	4.7	5:21.3	Washington
	105 Tauri	6.0	7:57.8	Washington
	105 Tauri	6.0	8: 9.2	New York
			6:55.9	Calif.
	105 Tauri	6.0	7:33.2	Chicago
	330 B. Tauri	6.3	6: 9.3	Chicago
	330 B. Tauri	6.3	5:24.6	Calif.
27,	Alpha Cancri	4.3	5: 4.5	Washington
27,	Alpha Cancri	4.3	5: 7.6	New York
	Kappa Cancri	5.1	11: 9.4	New York
28,	14 Sextantis	6.3	14:21.3	Calif.

FLIES and COLORS

by

Faber Birren

From England comes a series of notes on flies and colors. "I have just returned from France, where I was afforded an opportunity of inspecting various hospitals and clinics. On asking why walls were painted a medium blue, I was informed by doctors and architects that flies showed a noticeable dislike to the color." A Mrs. Hornsey counters with, "I have had the walls of my kitchen painted bright primrose yellow in the same belief. I chose this colour after a visit to the London Zoo, where I noticed it was much in evidence on walls of cages. I was informed by a keeper that this was because flies dislike primrose yellow." Denmark subsequently indicates a favoritism for blue in factories and abattoirs—the flies presumably shun it.

Do flies or any other insects see colors? Darwin supposed so. Von Frisch (1915) proved to his satisfaction that bees see blue and yellow, but not red or green. Evidence would suggest, however, that *arthropods* are mostly color-blind. They not only see no "colors" but their range of vision differs strikingly from man's.

Most have compound eyes. Lutz (1933) "discovered" vision for ultra-violet in butterflies. He also found that certain flowers reflected ultra-violet *in addition* to color. Red zinnias are not ultra-violet, red portulacos are. Both have very much the same color to humans but must look respectively black and white to insects, if Lutz is right. He also "proved" that insects saw ultra-violet targets invisible to humans—and that they could not see red targets that had the brilliance of stop-lights to human eyes. Again, butterflies and moths had ultra-violet markings that differed from their regular color (red, yellow, etc.) markings. The female luna was ultra-violet, the male luna was not.

Lubbock placed worker ants and their larvae in a trough illuminated by a spectrum of light. (Larvae are always kept in the dark.) The ants hurriedly carried their children out of the ultra-violet end (black to us) and deposited them in the red end (visible to us). Apparently ants see ultra-violet but not red.

Regarding yellow zoos and blue abbatoirs, the suspicion is that color is secondary. There must be something else. What would happen if fluorescent paints were used, coupled with some invisible ultra-violet radiation? What if things were painted in terms of the insect's vision, not man's?

Barnacles grew less on a white hull than on a black. Presumably it's not "color" but queer radiations that thrill and trouble clinging, creeping and flying creatures.

TO DETERMINE TIME

First, learn the exact "longitude" of your place of observation. Second, locate on a map the nearest point to your "station" at which one of the designated "degree" lines passes, *i. e.*,

72° 30′ — 91° 0′ — 120° 0′.

The first passes through Boston (although it is slugged "New York"), the second is very close to—if not inside the city limits—

of Burlington and Muscatine, Iowa (although it is slugged "Chicago"), and the third passes through an orange grove (if not through an orange) in the Imperial Valley—correctly slugged, "California".

Third, determine the distance between your station and one of those lines of longitude in *degrees,* measuring on a straight East and West line. For each degree you are West of one of those lines you must add 4 minutes to the local standard time of expectancy. Thus: if an occultation is due at Boston at 10:10 and you are watching for it in New York you cannot expect to see it until 10:14 to 10:15 because New York City is a little more than 1 degree West of Boston.

If your station is East of a "standard" longitudinal line, *subtract* 4 minutes from the time of expectancy for every degree you are East of it.

To convert a stated hour of Greenwich Civil Time into Standard Time of the three zones indicated, subtract 5 hours for "New York," 6 hours for "Chicago" and 8 hours for "California."

Now—none of your observations will agree with prediction, so, when you have noted carefully the difference between the time when the event occurred and the time it was predicted to occur, take your figures to the nearest astronomer and ask him to explain the disparity.

PERIOD

It was reported (8-20-37) that the Bureau of Air Commerce had abandoned the idea of a direct air route between Hawaii and the Antipodes over which Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were lost. No plane has ever landed at Howland Island.

EARTHQUAKES

8-20-37. Two sharp shocks—the worst in 40 years—damaged Manila, 8:00 and 8:24 p.m., cutting off lights and cracking many buildings, breaking water mains. The first temblor lasted more than three minutes. The foundation of the Great Eastern Hotel sank four inches below the pavement level. Many injured, no deaths reported. A baby born about that time was named Lindola—"child of an earthquake" in a native dialect.

The quakes continued for three days in some nearby islands, notably Alabot, where the 2,000 all-native population wished to be evacuated. Their houses were all down and the earth was cracking apart under their feet. There had been other shocks here the week before.

8-22-37. Strong quake 6:08 a.m., local time, Fairbanks, Alaska. There had been several lesser shocks at 6:26 p.m. 8-21-37. University of Alaska seismograph recorded another "shortly after" 1:00 p.m. 8-22. Epicenter 500 miles S-W in the Pacific.

9-3-37. When he was 375 miles S-W of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, 100 miles S. of the Aleutian Trough, Captain Lindley of the steamer Kirkingsbury "felt two shocks" which he attributed to quakes. Time 18:50, Greenwich Mean, but *no date* in the *Times* account. (See ship's log.)

9-3-37. Berkeley recorded a "very large" quake 2,000 miles away but was very secretive about it. High Priest Byerly said the shocks began *about* 10:59 a.m. and were still going strong at 2:00 p.m.

9-3-37. Moderate quake shook Plymouth, Montserrat, British West Indies, "early today". No damage.

9-6-37. "Fairly strong" quake felt at Ponce, Puerto Rico. No damage.

KAEMPFFERT

The technique of presenting Scientific "news" does not differ from the method of presenting "history" in the public schools or from the propaganda style of all text-book and other advertising writing. The effort is, first, to stun.

The newspaper best known for sedulously avoiding the sensational in its manner (if the *Christian Science Monitor* is excluded from the reckoning) is the *New York Times*. The Science Editor of the *Times* is Waldemar Kaempffert. In the rotogravure section of the Sunday Times (9-5-37) under Herr Doktor's by line: (First sentence!) "Some 250,000,000 light years—that is the distance to which space has been plumbed."

He actually inverts the natural order of syntax for the purpose of socking the reader between the eyes with that sledge-hammer of zeros. From that point on the mortal is supposed to be so groggy that he will follow the awe-shot rhetoric of the spellbinder, entirely incapable of anything resembling thought but amenable to every suggestion and completely docile in his dazed worship.

WELLS RUN DRY

H. G. Wells told (9-2-37) the British Association for the Advancement of Science that he thought what passed for education today was "pretty poor stuff". Bravo! He then proceeded to outline a plan for increasing the dosage of that same poor stuff! He doesn't want a populace just half asleep, dopey and groggy. He wants the entire citizenry of the world absolutely comatose and prostrate before the Great White Throne of Science.

ICE IN THE AIR

The appearance of Sol varied in size and shape in different localities across the central part of Ontario (5-11-37). Some saw a ring around it, others reported a rainbow, others said the center of the orb was black. Officials of the Dominion (of Canada) Meteorological Service were "just a little" mystified by the phenomenon. Dust storms and ice crystals in the air were suggested as possible explanations but the High Priests were at a loss to explain why there should be more ice crystals than usual in the air and there have been no major dust storms for some time.

Although refraction is not the only phenomenon noted, it is the one the astronomers picked on. But there are crystals other than those of "ice" which refract.

The Secretary suggests that the laboratories get busy and make a list of the elements arranged not by atomic weight but in the order that the pure substances crystallize beginning with the one requiring the lowest temperature. This list may come in handy when the Sainted and Ordained Cosmologists take up the suggestion made here last month that a single unit of ray travels from its parent star in a straight line until something stops it; that it is expanding as it travels; that it grows at its positive (N) polar end by accretion; that at a very early stage in its development after it is kicked out of its "sun" by what temporarily may be called "negative repulsion" it becomes a crystal of the cubic order—with a polarized heart in the shape of a sphere buried in the cube.

JULIAN HUXLEY

(at the age of 6)

In a caption to a diagram (p. 512) in *Simple Science,* his book, Julian Huxley says: "The earth behaves as if a great magnet were buried in it."

For the benefit of his awakening mentality, the Secretary suggests that he consult any competent crystalographer. In all crystals of the cubic order, the field of polarity, magnetic and optical—that is—of light or/and electricity—is as a sphere *buried* in the cube. Since—so far as he knows—Earth is not a crystal, he may have a little trouble orienting himself. Since—so far as he has guessed—Earth is not a cube, he may be still more confused. But, Julian's young. We have great hopes for Julian. It's Wells who is hopeless.

BAD NEWS—BAD NEWS!

The Secretary *must* be wrong about Earth and Luna being crystals because Carnegie is sniffing around the (cubic) edges of the same idea. Dr. Leason H. Adams, Father Confessor of the Geophysical Laboratory of Carnegie Institution, in a recent (7-30-37) lecture on the structure and composition of the earth said that the earth has long been known (*sic*) to be as rigid as steel, and that seismological data show the earth as a whole to be "solid". Whether, however, its substance is crystalline or glassy is more difficult to decide, "Dr. Adams said."

And added: "One of the most cogent reasons for believing that the earth is crystalline is that in no other way can we easily account for the fact that the crust differs so markedly from the interior. Granting that the earth was once [or a hundred times—or never at all] molten and well stirred, we apparently must admit that the separation into zones on so large a scale took place either by the falling of a heavy insoluble liquid to the bottom (thus producing the iron core) [and thus stating in obtuse fashion the process of inner precipitation which may be forward at the core of Luna today] or by the residuum of a process of crystallization, this residuum becoming the crust."

The Secretary hates like the very devil to give up that notion, but Fort always said that sanction of Authority cast immediate suspicion upon any idea no matter how beautiful or beloved.

WOULD SWELLING DO IT?

Mr. G. O. Rawstron picks a Lunar sore in *Popular Astronomy,* June-July, 1937. There are lights on the moon which won't stay put. Dear Mr. Rawstron:

Do you suppose that pressure from *within,* as if a cube of mountain-stuff were trying to hatch through the crystal-shell of Luna—trying to poke a Mount Everest beak through the "ice"—do you suppose that might account for the shifting light pattern on Pico, situated on the Mare Imbrium a little south of Plato? Love and kisses, 33°.

Explorers

The projection of Earth's surface employed this month is the invention of a Fortean who rebelled at the distortion of Mercator's projection and set out to make a better. His method was patented in 1913; his map shows the old globular Earth on a flat surface with a minimum of distortion; its usefulness, practicality, and its possibilities must be apparent to anyone who will study the matter, yet, you cannot buy this map or any map drawn on Cahill's projection anywhere in the world. The story of this *Damned* thing will be told by Mr. Cahill himself in an early issue of the *Fortean*.

1. MacMillan: Party returned to Gloucester, Mass., 9-4-37. Found iron, sulphur and copper; "discovered" that Baffin Land is rising. (Nobody has thought otherwise for several decades.) 20,000 plants and 215 birdskins were brought back by the teachers or the college students who were the crew.

2. Washburn is back (9-5-37). His companion was Robert Bates, English, University of Pennsylvania. They took pictures for New England Museum of Natural History.

3. Goodwin expedition announced by Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., has apparently been changed to a hunting party for the Lerner family. "Michael Lerner, field associate, will leave today (8-27-37) for the Cassiar Mountains."

4. Dillon party?—must have tossed in with the Lerners or lost interest in mammals. No news.

5. Carter party to leave in November.

6. Dr. Anthony went on the Grand Canyon Expedition to the top of Kaibab Plateau, Arizona, instead of (or before) going to Burma.

7. This is the Anthony-Walter E. Wood, Jr. party (Mrs. Wood too). It seems there's a sort of enchanted mesa such as Herriman draws as background for Krazy Kat, and God only knows *what* you're liable to find there. We'll see. (9-27-37: They are back and they found *nothing!*)

8. No news of Crile (Cleveland). Either he has a bad press agent or *maybe* he is doing some serious work.

9. Keily-Mac Kiernan in Cuba. No news; assume they are still there.

10. This is the "Cumberlandite" party. The Secretary hopes to have a good story from them next issue.

11. Gross after bird calls. No news. They should be back.

12. Clark-Kissel: Back in New York after hunting and painting and living aboard a yacht. What a life!

13. MacGregor! This party has had a hell of a time. Stopped at Igdlorsuit, Greenland for repairs late in August. Had to abandon idea of base at Fort Conger because ice and gales were too tough. Blown out of anchorage off Reindeer Point, 8-2-37, but finally landed supplies and started erecting buildings 8-5-37. "Every one is in good spirits and turning to with a vim," says Clifford J. MacGregor.

14. Beebe is back.

15. No news. Assume they are still studying Gibbons.

16. Louis Rosado Vega, Mexican Government. (See *Carnegie* in this issue.) A new and "important" archaeological zone is reported by them near Chilapa in the State of Guerrero.

17. Soviet weather station. It's getting colder but they are still drifting.

18. Dr. William Hall Holden, staff surgeon of the Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., leads a party into the British New Guiana jungle. They left New York 8-28-37 and intend to stay six months. You'll be hearing them on the radio, N.B.C. Principally a medical expedition but there is a snake man and a botanist in the party.

19. The French "weather ship" *Carmiare,* at sea-anchor to assist German and French trans-Atlantic fliers in the new competition for supremacy in the tourist business.

20. Dr. Lange Koch, Danish explorer, abandoned (8-28-37) the ship, Gustav Holm, and walked with his party of fifty to Scoresby Sound.

21. Where Ottar Davidson, master of the sealing ship Gudrum picked up (8-8-37) a relic of Major Andree, lost 1897.

22. Captain and Mrs. Robert Muir plan to sound the waters off Cape Horn and make themselves generally useful to Science aboard the 110-foot ketch, *Normona.* Smithsonian assists. Plan to sail in October.

23. Where Bartlett took the boys from Harvard and Yale. (He goes every year.) The party returned (9-2-37) to Brigus, Newfoundland, with two baby walruses for the Brookfield Zoo, Detroit; a polar bear cub for the New York World's Fair—and the undergraduates.

24. Mount Stupendous, 250 miles north of Vancouver, ascended (8-28-37) by Edith Munday, "young". It's 9,000 feet—they say.

25. Rainbow Bridge-Monument Valley Expedition saw some ruins here (Arizona). This is the fifth year of the outfit's existence. Miss Amy H. Andrews was flying Dr. Charles Del Norte Winning of New York University this summer.

26. Where the Soviet is doing all sorts of Scientific experimenting. Read *40,000 Against the Arctic,* by Harry Peter Smolka, Morrow, $3.50.

27. Bellot Strait, where Major McKeand says there is and Al Bumstead says there is not a Northwest Passage. The Major made the trip and Bumstead draws maps for *National Geographic Magazine.*

28. Dr. James L. Clark, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., looking for Elk to stuff. (North Dakota.)

29. Oneida Lake, where a "field party" from the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences dug up some Indiana bones and artifacts which Dr. Arthur C. Parker says are from 1,000 to 2,000 years old—and "mysterious". He does not state the mystery. Maybe it is how they could have been there so long without being found.

30. Stanley P. Young and party, under the auspices of the U. S. Biological Survey, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Smithsonian Institution and the National Zoological Park, taking photographs of birds.

31. King William Island, where Francis K. Pease of Disley, Cheshire, England, will search (October) for the body and log-books of Sir John Franklin, lost with 129 officers and men and *two ships,* in 1847 or 1848.

For a fine account of this expedition and a subsequent mystery connected with it, see *Oddities,* by R. E. Gould.

32. Dr. Alfonso Caso, chief of the Mexican Government Research Department busies himself and party here. They recently learned that the Zapotec compass had *five* cardinal points. Backers: Mexican Government, Pan American Institute, Carnegie, Ortiz Rubio, Mrs. Dwight Morrow—and others.

33. Guatemala City, where A. V. Kidder is trying to learn something.

34. Chichen Itza—where Carnegie has branch offices.

BALLOONS ON PIKE'S PEAK

Professor Bryan O'Brien of the University of Rochester has been playing with ultra-violet ray balloons on Pike's Peak. He isn't sure yet (9-4-37). Maybe.

POLITICS AND ELLSWORTH

The Army wouldn't give (8-18-37) Lincoln Ellsworth the title of Lieutenant Colonel. He didn't know the right people. . . .*Sun,* 9-10-37: Ellsworth is "shopping for a plane" to fly the African side of the Antarctic. He "gave no details" of the project. (See last issue—when it was the North Pole he wouldn't talk about!)

PANAMA LENDS BONES

The Republic of Panama let (8-28-37) Carnegie export 39 skeletons and 6 skulls with filled teeth. The bones have to be returned within six months.

CARNEGIE

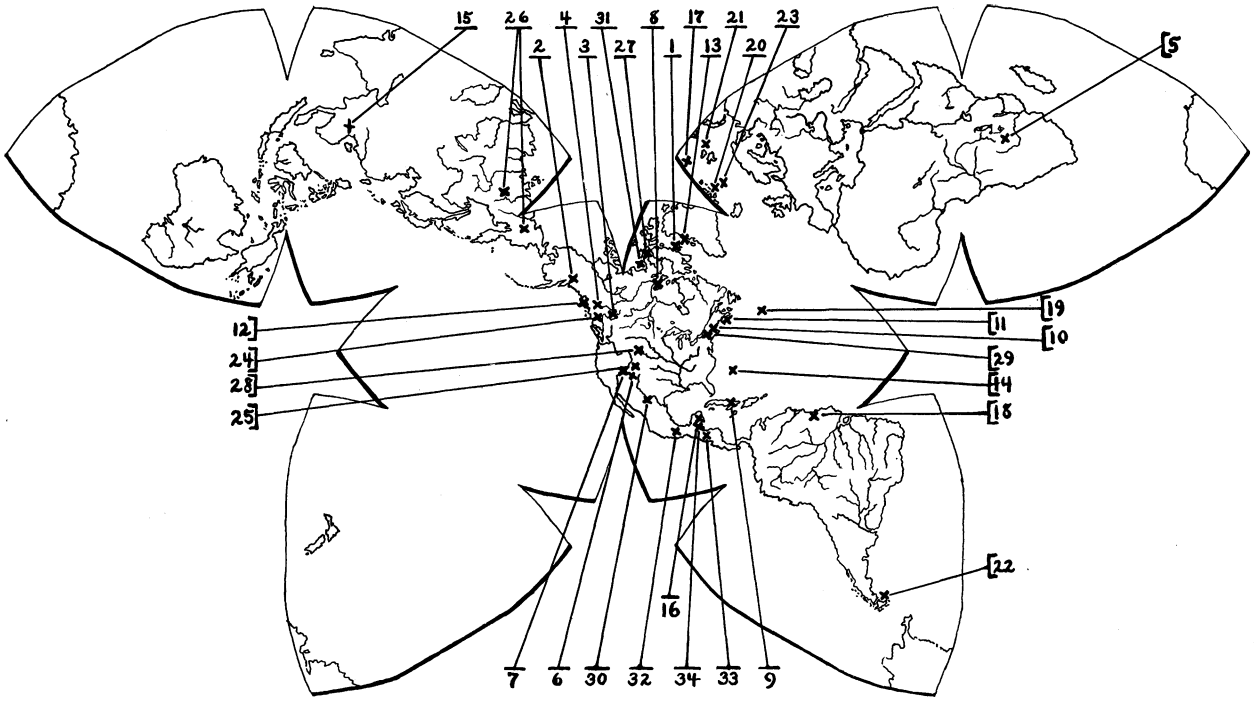
Dr. Oscar Riddle, Genetics, was asked (7-29-37) if he thought that "growth hormones" or "mixtures of Pituitary hormones" will prove useful to normal children and young people who wish to become taller.

The Dr.: "At some future time, yes. And this may not be a distant future. At present, however, none of these hormones can be prepared in a pure state, and for a time *this whole subject should remain in the hands of the few investigators and clinicians who are especially competent to deal with it.*"

Just like astronomy and television, and mammals and bird-calls, eh, Doc?

Gentle reproof is mildly administered to "Mexican archaeologists" (8-17-37) who announced that El Castillo, the great Maya pyramid-temple at the ruins of Chichen Itza,

B. J. S. Cahill's Butterfly Map



Yucatan, contains concealed within its pyramidal base a much older pyramid with surmounting temple chambers. That "discovery" says Carnegie, is "the indirect result of the experience which Earl Morris of the Carnegie Institution staff had in 1926."

There is no use letting those ignorant Mexicans get away with anything; after all, they are operating partly on Carnegie money.

The following, from a recent (8-18-37) lecture by Dr. Leason H. Adams, Geophysics, is printed almost without comment. It will be referred to later: "It is now generally accepted that the earth was created from the parent sun (Sol? or another "sun"? T. T.) about 2,000 million years ago through tidal disruption by a passing star. The subsequent liquefaction and solidification of the detached mass of glowing gas formed the juvenile earth. . . . Although accepted for many years, the (nebular) hypothesis was finally discarded on purely mathematical grounds.

"The significance of the modern theory (Jeans' and Jeffreys'), for the purposes of this discussion, lies in the supposition that *the earth for a brief time after its creation was entirely molten* (Carnegie's italics), well stirred by convection, and, to the extent that the component substances were capable of being mixed in the liquid state, quite homogeneous in composition."

SMITHSONIAN

"Western Utah" is as close as this Institution comes in announcing (9-9-37) a find of "fossil sauropod" bones by Dr. Charles W. Gilmore, Paleontology. Dr. Gilmore would be the last person on Earth to precipitate a *bone rush*. "For about 20,000,000 years they were the dominant forms of life. There were no creatures of anything like comparable size to dispute their supremacy. Then, for some reason that has never been cleared up, they became extinct." (There's your chance, Forteans! The gods nod! The great Holier than Thous *admit* they don't know.) "There may have been a major climatic change to which the highly specialized giants could not adapt themselves."

A *major climatic change* might be caused by Earth blundering through a dark nebula like that thorn in Orion's side which pricks the astronomers more than it does the mighty hunter. Or it might be caused by the natural expansion of Earth which—150,000,000 years ago—was still causing periodic glaciation as it scratched forth and back under the edges of the polar "ice" caps. When posterity watches that happening on Luna it will wonder how anything so obvious could have escaped Orthodox Guessers so long.

Further—from the same despatch about "Western Utah"—"Dr. Gilmore also obtained there six skeletons of a small lizard—a creature about 3 feet long—which apparently was abundant in the Cretaceous (era) but which represents a type of ancient animal hitherto unknown to science."

Dr. Carlos de la Torre, former president of the University of Habana, is showing (9-3-37) his snails in the foyer of the Natural History Building (Washington). They are "delicate sunrise tints of pink, blue, violet, green and yellow . . . like rare jewels." Which leads Dr. de la Torre into that happy land where Darwin and Thayer of coloration fame had such a difficult time making up their minds which turn to take. Hist!—"The brilliance of the shells, Dr. de la Torre says, is an example of warning coloration. In taste the snails are very bitter, and no bird will intentionally attack (sic) them. The color serves notice that only a disgusting mouthful is to be had. In a few instances there may also be an element of protective coloration, where shell tint blends into the hue of bark or foliage." Or—if one theory won't serve, he is a poor Scientist indeed who does not have another handy.

PRINCETON

The fossilized remains of an hitherto unknown type of lizard (*sic*—see above!) was announced (9-5-37) by Dr. G. L. Jepson who has been looking for such things near Powell, Wyoming, for eleven years. This one is 6 inches long and is said to have lived 50,000,000 years ago.

NOTRE DAME

A group headed by Rev. Raymond W. Murray has been digging frozen bones out of the ice of the Yukon Valley and St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea. Although the pronouncements upon their return have the usual hollow rumbling sound associated with Authority clearing its throat, the truths brought back are as empty as a Catholic's head. The net result of the excursion was a pleasant vacation from routine for the priest and his assistants.

FIRE!

Second fire within five days at Columbia-Ideal Quilting Co., Long Island City, N. Y., 8-23-37. "No indication of incendiarism."

A blaze started in the Venetian blind of a private room in the Hospital for Joint Diseases, New York City (8-23-37) while "the patient was out of the room". "Ignited in an undetermined manner."

THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT

Continued from the
September *Fortean*
Edited by
TIFFANY THAYER

The following is the last printed entry in the previous selection of notes with the missing two words supplied.

From Box 1—Nov. 9, 1810—9:15 p.m. Exeter, New Hampshire. Account by Judge Samuel Tenney—sound under his feet and a tremendous report. Atmosphere dry—did not shake the house. Mem's. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 2-16.

1810 Box 1 (Continued)

Nov. 10-11 Night; damaging high tide. Boston, England, Bells Weekly Messenger, Nov. 18.

23 Sound near Orleans, France, about 1:30 p.m. B.b. Brit 45/397. Stones at Chansonville (Meung) (Loiret) 46/94. (Reverse) BA-'60.

29 (1809), Nov. 28, 1810, Nov. 29, 1820, Nov. 30, 1821, Nov. 28, 1822, Nov. 27, 1823, Nov. 27, 1824, Nov. 26, 1831, Nov. 29, 1839. Athenaeum, 1840-1013. (Reverse) List of aerolites fallen last of November, by M. Capocci, director of Observatory of Naples. (Noted)

28 Aerolite? See Nov. 29, '09.

28 Fireball "evidently aerolitic" fell between Cape Matapan and Island of Cerigo, Greece. BA 60.

29 Violent shock at sea south of Cape Matapan, 11 a.m. BA 54.

Dec. 3 London Times, p. 3. Quake at Travancore / Eng.?

(Aside: Apparently Fort did not trouble to check the geography at the time he took the note. Travancore is in South India, 10.0 N 77.0 E. T. T.)

10 Vesuvius.

25 2 a.m. Parma, Italy (?) etc. Severe shock and probable detonating meteor. BA 54.

25 Emilia, Italy, small quake.

25 Formosa, Greece, small quake.

1811

Jan. Azores volcanoes continue to August at least. Gentlemen's Magazine 81/2/275. (Reverse) London Times, March 21, p. 3.

16 London Times, p. 3. Disappearance of house and land. (+)—? (Fort's question. T. T.)

1811 Winter Larvae / Saxony. (Either "fell" or "appeared" is implied, of course. T. T.)

Feb. 1-9 Violent submarine eruption off Azores. Again in June. BA 54.

1 etc. Azores. At Gineta (?) 25:45 W; 37:52 N For several weeks been shocks—submarine volcano Feb. 1. Bells Weekly Messenger, March 24. Had been shocks here in July, 1809, at least to 5th / at St. Michael's. (Reverse) vast column of sludge rising from the sea.

18 Small quake at Rome. BA '11.

18 Almutz fireball. BA 60.

March 1 Konleghowsk (Ischernigoff) Russia, meteorite weighing 15 pounds. Gentlemen's Magazine, 81-2-181.

12 Kuleschovka, Pollava, Russia, meteorite. (F)

18 Violent quake in China.

Box A (Resumed)

1811
Spring Case of Mary Reynolds, Harper's New Monthly Magazine, May, 1860. One Sunday, spring 1811, Mary, about 19 years old, after for a year having been subject to occasional attacks of "fits", she had an attack of unusual severity. She was found insensible. When she recovered she was blind and deaf and continued so 5 or 6 weeks. Hearing returned suddenly and entirely; seeing returned gradually. About 3 months later she was found in a state of sleep so profound that it was impossible to awaken her. After some hours she awoke and had lost all recollection, knew neither father nor brother nor mother, sisters. She was ignorant of the commonest details of everyday life. Had no consciousness of having lived previous to the moment of awakening. Her mental condition was that of a new born infant. She used a few words, but showed that they had no meaning to her. But unlike an infant she rapidly learned to adjust to a new world. So she continued about 5 weeks, when one morning she awoke in her natural state or first state. She had no recollection of the state during the 5 weeks. All knowledge of her 19 years returned to her. A few weeks later, she relapsed after another profound sleep into the second state, taking up the second life, where it had been interrupted by her return.

These alternations continued 15 or 16 years, and then the second state remained for the rest of her life. All transitions were during sleeps. First state said (to) be sedate, almost melancholy, mentally rather slow—2nd gay, given to versification said to been of merit. The two handwritings differed "wholly" / Resemblance to amnesia cases—once she went to visit her brother, and there changed—found herself in strange surroundings that she could not account for until saw her brother, who was known to her in both states.

Spring Mary Reynolds. Relig. & Phil. Jour., Jan. 11-6-1, 1879 / Y R A / published letter from Daniel Scott and a copy of an account of Mary by Rev. Timothy Alden, who knew her—After arriving at adult age—violent convulsions and blindness and deafness. (Reverse) No periodical regularity in her transitions — usually some foreknowledge of the changes to other character.

Spring See Fancher—that 5 different characters possessed her.

Box 1 (Resumed)

1811
March 25 Comet. Gentlemen's Magazine 81/2/280.

26 First great comet of century.

26 The comet appeared.

1811 / Comet coincided with great heat and fruitful vintage. Flammarion. Popular Astronomy, p. 528.

May 12 Bonsall Peak, Derbyshire. Whirlwind and fall of chunks of ice. London Times, May 25. (Reverse) M B D 25th? / wrong / D—176.

15 Geneva and Paris / meteor and train like an S. B.b. Brit. 47/105-203-309.

18 Comet at Jamaica midway between Orion and Gemini. Gentlemen's Magazine, 81/2-79.

19 Sheffield. Hail from 1 to 5 inches circumference. Rollo Russel, Hail, p. 8.

24 Opposition Mars / A 1.

30-Aug. 11 Great quakes China. BA '11. (See if noted.)

June 8 (?) Ice / Birmingham / D 176. IX.

June Volcano Kloet, Java. N. M / C. R 70-878.

10 etc. Volcano Azores. Had been also Jan. Annual Register 1812-485. Was in sea near island of St. Michael's. etc. Quake. Caraccas.

13 Again off coast of Azores violent submarine eruption. See Feb. 1-9. BA 54.

July / Gelat / Germany. D-50.

4 and Aug. 5 / Eruptions reported from N. of Norway. Said been doubtful. BA 54.

8 Meteorite, 8 p.m. village of Berlanguillas between Aranda and Roa, Spain. B.b. Brit. 48/162. (F) BA '77-149.

15 Quake at Modena, Italy. BA '11.

Aug. 10 Meteors so great not equalled

until 1857 in Germany. BA 57-153.

(Aside: Obviously, the Perseids; but how they have changed! T. T.)

29 Comet in the London Times—also: Sept. 3, 5, 12 / July 6, Oct. 2, 10, 24.

Sept. 10 and Dec. 16 and between the two dates many meteors seen. Edin. New Phil. Jour. 31/301. (Reverse.) Quakes at Charleston, S. C.

11 Tornado, Charleston, S. C. Finley's Report.

Oct. 4 Small quake in Austria.

5 Violent quake in Philippines.

Oct. / Etna. B.b. Univ. 11/191.

25 London Times, p. 3. Comet and quake.

Nov. 9 London Times, p. 2. Quake at London.

18 Same as Jan. 8, 1812.

22 Fireball, New Orleans. BA 60.

23 Panganoor, meteorite. In BA 60 says "Iron-fall ? contains iron and nickel."

Dec. 3 London Times, p. 3. Meteor, Portsmouth, Portsea, Gosport.

16 Quakes begin New Madrid Mission, on Mississippi, 65 miles below mouth of Ohio. Smithsonian Report 58/42 or 421. Lasted for years.

1812

1812 / Shocks at Bald Mt., Nor. Car. N. Y. Times 1874 March 21-1-4. (N. M.)

Jan. 6 Quake New Madrid—took place after a long series of very heavy rains such as had never been known there before. American Journal of Science 3/20. See Dec. 16, 1811.

8 Shock and sound like discharging cannons. Edin. N. 31/115. Oxfordshire and neighboring.

17 Shocks cloudless sky but a thick fog. Comptes Rendus 17-617.

27 London Times, p. 3. Quake—Oxfordshire, Telsworth, Islip, Blechingdon, Radby, Woltircott.

28 Carlsruhe fireball. BA 60.

30 Louiseville fireball. BA 60.

Feb. 8 Outburst of the New Madrid quakes. Smithsonian Report 58/422.

9 "Moodus" sounds (2 explosions) East Haddam, Conn. Am. Jour. Sci. 39/339.

(Aside: Fort mentioned the "Moodus" sounds of East Haddam more than once in his books and I have further data on this phenomenon since his death. East Haddam residents are respectfully but urgently requested to inform the Society of any and all recurrences. T. T.)

March 19 Small quake in Rome.

22 Quake and sound like thunder, 3 a.m. Rome. BA 54.

22 and etc. Quake at Caraccas. Not a drop of rain had fallen for 5 months. BA 54.

26 4 p.m. Great quake at Caraccas. Gentlemen's Magazine 82/1/581 (Reverse.) Holy Thursday crowds worshiping also La Guayra in ruins.

26 Quake Caraccas. Quarterly Jour. Royal Inst. 2-400. For 5 months no rain had fallen. 20,000 perished in Venezuela. Quakes continued days / as late as October a violent shock.

26 In following Dec., had not ceased. Annual Reg. 1813-508. BA '11.

April 5 Especially violent at Caraccas. See March 26.

1812 / April / No quakes in BA '11.

April 10 Perigueux. Dordogne. Globe of fire at least size of moon to the south of P. B.b. Brit. 50/62. About 8 p.m. and Toulouse detonation heard and stones fell. See p. 159. (Stones) (Reverse.) BA '60./ Great fall. L'Annee Sci. 4/169.

13 or 15 (F) Erxleben, Saxony, 4 p.m. Stone, 4½ pounds fell. BA '60.

26 Several thousand meteoric stones in Normandy. Mag. Nat. Hist. 7-302. (Reverse.) This was ?? etc.

May 1 London Times, 23, 24, 26, 30. Volcano St. Vincent's. (Reverse.) See quake drought Venezuela / U. S. Col. March 22. See if rains.

1 According to Schornburgk, ashes fell 500 to 600 miles to the east (windward) of Barbadoes. (Reverse.) Not learn till the 6th that it was eruption upon St. Vincent.

1 Black rain and detonations, meteors or globes of fire and a glow in the sky "resembling the *Aurora Borealis" large flock of birds* "sand and ashes". Schornburgk's History of Barbadoes, p. 69.

April 30 Eruption St. Vincent. European Magazine (?TT) 62-66. Also at Martinique. At M. Continued into June.

May 1 New / Zurcher (?TT) says that May 1, 1812 detonations heard at Barbadoes and ashes fell. Volcano at St. Vincent's. 106 (?TT).

1 (+) "The Phenomenon at Barbados" Phil. Mag. 40/71. (Distance like ?TT) About one o'clock in the morning "a very heavy and quick firing" was heard. The Governor hastened to take charge of the garrison, suspecting that a naval battle between French and English vessels was occurring. But in the morning the sun rose eclipsed by vast dusty blue clouds. Darkness increased. At 8 o'clock in the morning darkness was intense. A substance like "the dust of wood ashes" fell from the sky, but in greater (accumulations ?TT) was like powdered rotten-stone. The inhabitants who ventured out carried lanterns.

1 (2) See Phil. Mag., 40-66 that it was St. Vincent volc. / The writer of the letter preceding had no more knowledge of what it was all about than had the people of Montreal, Australia, etc. Being in a volcanic region, he hoped it was from a West Indian volcano and not of unknowable origin.

1 Neath, Gloucestershire, shock and sound like heavy artillery. Edin. N. 31/115.

1 6:20 p.m. Distant from phe / Gloucestershire / noise like thunder and quake. BA 54-98 (Reverse) Gentlemen's Mag. 82/1/479.

2 Small quake Nantes, France.

10 Mercury inferior conjunction. (A1).

13 Small quake Germany near Cologne.

24 Venus greatest elongation. (A1).

1812 Box A (Resumed)

June 12 New York Sun, 1911, Nov. 19-5-4 / Margaret Lyall, of Denniland, 3 miles from Montrose (Scotland?) fell asleep June 12—not wake up for 2 days. Again on July 1 and slept till Aug. 8.

(Aside: All ?'s are Fort's unless the initials TT follow thus—?TT. The above is Fort's question. T. T.)

1812 Box 1 (Resumed)

June 18 Oxfordshire and around, quake and sound like gun fire. Gent's Mag. 82/1/80.

23-24 Tidal wave, Marseilles. BA 54.

July 5 8 a.m. Quake in West and rain at East Haddam. BA 54.

5 "Moodus" sounds—East Haddam, Conn. Am. J. Sci. 39/330 (*et seq.* TT) One explosion.

6 Vesuvius. London Times, p.2.

17 Small quake Germany.

Aug. 1 11h. Venus inferior conjunction. (A1).

5 Meteorite, Chantonnay, Vendee, France. (F).

Sept. 5-6 Borodino, near Moscow, Russia—meteorite. (F).

11 Florence, Sept. 15, Naples—quakes. BA '11.

13 Segovia fireball, BA 60.

15 Small quake Florence, Italy.

22-23 Quake—Shenton, Hoverington.

Oct. 8 Violent quake California.

21 Medium quake California.

25 Small quake Treviso, Italy.

27 A fresh eruption at Etna. Gent's Mag. 82/1/77.

1812 Box A (Resumed)

Oct. 28 Soldiers / C 209 +.

1812 Box 1 (Resumed)

Nov. / The extreme cold wave that destroyed Napoleon's army in retreat from Moscow.

Nov. / Quake and phe. Audobons account of the New Madrid quake as he saw and felt in Kentucky. Science H S. 21-748. He was jogging along on horseback when he saw "a sudden and strange darkness rising from the Western horizon. He had gone about a mile when he heard what he thought was the distant rumbling of a violent tornado then came severe shocks. "The fearful convulsion, however, lasted only a

few minutes, and the heavens again brightened as quickly as they had become obscured." Shocks continued almost every day. / Began Dec. 16, 1911.

Nov. 11 Small and medium quake or quakes, Jamaica, B. W.

15 Carlsruhe-Vienna fireball. BA 60.

25 London Times, p. 3. Quake at Cannonore Eng?

(Aside: Looks like a typo in the Times. T. T.)

1812 Box A (Resumed)

1812-14

Dec. 2 (A newspaper clipping.) MYSTERY OF WAR OF 1812. The mystery of the "blue lights," which appeared on the shores of New London harbor, Conn., on the night of December 2, when Commodore Decatur planned to run the British blockade, has never been solved.

(Aside: The clipping is from an American paper served by the "Premier Syndicate"—1924. T. T.)

1812 Box 1 (Resumed)

Dec. 7 Violent quake in Japan.

8 Violent quake in Alaska; small quake in California.

21 Small quake in California.

1813

Jan. 27 Brünn / detonating meteor. BA 67/415.

Feb. 1-2 Small quake Roumania.

Mar. 8 Stonefall according to Baumbauer. BA '60.

14 Fall was at Idria, Carniola, according to Quarterly Journal Roy. Inst. 27-430.

14 See March 14 1823.

14 Story of frightened people in churches etc. Date verified. (Reverse) An Soc. Met. de France. 1903-73.

14 Cutro, Calabria / stone fell. Ph. Mag. 4/8/459.

14 Same story as March 14, 1818.

14 Red powder at Carniola. "Boiling water separated a yellow, vegetable, gummy matter. Mag. Nat. Hist. 7-304.

14 Idria in Carniola. Abundant fall of red snow. Comptes Rendus 15/583.

14 This dust analyzed and chemist astonished at high per centage (24%) of organic matter, and of "titane" 3.75% (look this up). A very rare metal upon this earth. An. Soc. Met. de France. 1903-74.

14 About 2:15 p.m. Gerace, Calabria, sun obscured—sky as if afire —Deeper darkness and frightened people crowding into the cathedral. People sounds in the sky and a rain of blood—nevertheless said that the substance was pale yellow. B:b Brit. 55/356.

14-15 night of / Red rain Calabria. Yellow snow fall Tuscany. Brownish yellow snow Bologna. Stain is sign animal matter. Quarterly Journal Roy. Inst. 7/189.

21 6:20 a.m. Shock at Exmonth. Gent's Mag. 83/1/278.

21 About 10 p.m. New Haven. Meteor about size of moon. Amer. Jour. Sci. 13/36.

April 3 Quake-sun. 3:45 *a.*m. "terrible noise" and shock Leghorn and Pisa. "The light of the sun appeared dim during the day." BA 54.

20 10:15 p.m. West by North to East by South at New Haven, Conn., great detonating meteor. Miles' Weekly Register. Sept 25.

May to Dec. Vesuvius.

May 30 Small or medium quake Peru.

July 28 Great rain and violent quake Jamaica. C.R. 16-1290. BA 54.

30 Opposition Mars. (A1).

31 Tottenham / starlit night / flashing light about to storm in Hastings and in France. Tim's Year Book 1853. p. 270 (*et seq.* T. T.)

31 A new star in Capricornus reported from Cincinnati. Niles Weekly Register, Aug. 21. (Reverse) Capricorn in zodiac? Issue Aug. 28, correspondent writes that was the planet Mars then in opposition.

Aug. 6-7 Illyria "Carinthie" tremendous rainstorm and quakes. C. R. 17-619.

7 1 a.m. Laybach. Quake and heavy rain. BA 54.

22 2 shocks at Irkatsk / B Assoc. '54/101.

August / Icicles / Near the pass of Maya in the Pyrenees mass of ice size of hen's egg—F. Transparent ice —on them were "icicles about the length and thickness of the prong of a common silver fork. Edin. Phil. Jour. 9/195.

August / Vesuvius active / 26th gigantic column of flame also following night. See Dec. Q. J. R. Inst. 8-28.

27-29 Extraordinary spots on the sun noted in English and American papers. Gent's Mag. 1815/1/639.

August or September / Malpas, Cheshire, meteorite. BA 60.

September to October / small quakes in China.

Sept. 2 Fireball Berne. BA 60.

10 Adare, Limerick, Ireland. Meteorite. L. T. Nov. 14, 1886. (F) (Over) An. de Chimie, 2/31/260 / 9 a.m. About 9 a.m. Gent's Mag. 83/2/39.

21 8:40 a.m. Forli, Italy, quake. "The sun appeared with a pale color. BA 54.

22 1:45 a.m. Shocks / Grisons. during thunderstorm. BA 54.

24 Evening. Stamford etc., England. Shock West to East. Gent's Mag. 83/2/391. London Times, Oct. 4, p. 3.

Oct. 4 London Times, p. 3. Stamford etc. Quakes.

20 Swabia fireball. BA 60.

Nov. 8 England—a light considered auroral. In the evening, many shooting stars. Mag. Pop. Sci. 3/61.

8 Woodfort fireball. BA 60.

10 Sunderland fireball. BA 60.

10 Bishopwearmouth / Stream of light in sky. Annals of Phil. 1813-456.

12 Quakes Jamaica. "Three tremendous concussions. Gent's Mag. 83/1/80.

Dec. 13 Aerolite—Viborg in Finland. No nickel in it. A. J. Sci. 6/397. (Reverse) (F) For another see June 15, 1822 / Oct. 21, 1901.

December / Epirus. Great quake and thunderstorm. BA 54.

December / Quakes in Greece. BA '11.

Dec. 25, 26 / Great eruption Vesuvius Q. J. Roy. Inst. 8-29.

28 4 p.m. Quake East Haddam during rain. BA 54.

28 Moodus sounds like explosions. East Haddam, Conn. One explosion. Am. J. Sci. 39/339.

1814

1814 / Madras, India / meteorite. (F)

1814-16 Auroras, Great Britain. Am. J. Sci. 14/96.

1814 / Frogs / near Amiens, France. Monthly Weather Review. 45/221.

1814 / Dry fog / extreme dryness London and Dublin. Chambers' Tour, 9-308.

Jan. 12 Small quake in China.

15 Vesuvius. London Times, p. 2.

21 7:35 a.m. Alencon, Orne, France. Quake. BA 54.

27 Zurich fireball. BA 60.

28 Quake—Knill Const. Mampton (?TT), Norton, Old Radnor. London Times, p. 4.

Feb. 1 Mayon Volcano, Philippines / over / (Ref) (+) (Reverse) Report on the Seismic and Volcanic Centers of the Philippine Archipelago, by M. S. Maso.

1-10 / An. Reg. 1815/510. Volcano Philippines 5 towns destroyed. Mayon Volc been quiet 13 years. (Reverse) to 10th / Gent's Mag. 89/2/641.

1 Small quake in Peru.

2 Small quake Philippines (Albay)

THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT ARE PRINTED HERE *for the* FIRST TIME