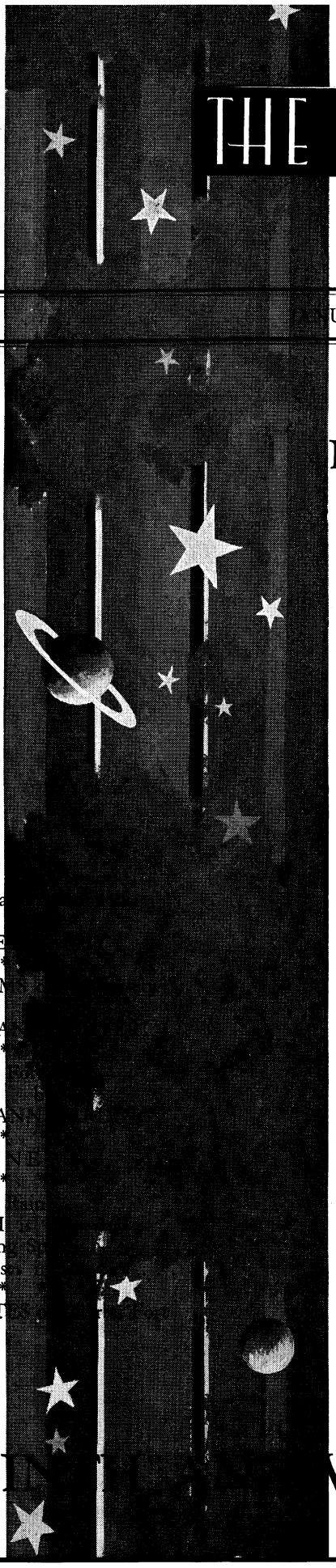


THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

No. 3. UARY, 1940 25c a copy

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WE HAVE THE FREEDOM BUT WHERE'S THE PRESS?

by
TIFFANY THAYER
Secretary of the Fortean Society

So that your mind and mine would be ready and willing for the "declaration of war" now imminent, the greatest propaganda campaign in history was launched in the United States of America about six or eight years ago. It has been so successful that scarcely anyone realizes he has been victimized. That is the real test of successful propaganda. When you hate Hitler and can document your own hatred with reasons you think you *know,* take off your hat to the boys who put it over. They have done a sweet job.

One of the slickest moves in this long game was a loud sham-battle *in* the press about the freedom *of* the press in the United States. It resounded through '36, '37, '38 and we still hear its echoes. The point was to establish the veracity, integrity and complete freedom of our daily papers before the atrocity stories started—so long before that you would have forgotten how and when your faith in "news" was bolstered.

Another aim was to give you something to fight for. "Freedom of the press" is a figment to cherish as one of the major human liberties. However well the campaign has succeeded elsewhere, it has failed completely in my case. Because, although I am a writer and the Secretary of a Society which is heterodox — to say the least — and I might, on these accounts, be expected to regard the press's freedom highly, I am unable to attach any importance to the freedom of something I don't have and can't get. We have the freedom—but where's the press?

Anybody in the U. S. A. — at the time of writing — has the privilege of stating in print anything it pleases him to state so long as he does no personal damage to an individual and so on — within the statutes covering libel. That freedom exists now before the declaration of war.

Tonight I am able to write these lines and tomorrow I may find a printer willing

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to print them if I can pay him. When they are printed, if I act promptly, I can mail them to as many hundreds of my fellow citizens as I can afford to reach at 1½ cents apiece. That is $15 per thousand, for postage alone.

In a few weeks — after war is declared — if I attempt to do any such thing I will be clapped in jail.

According to "usually well-informed sources" — and who is better informed in these matters than one's banker? — the date set for United States participation in the European mass murder was not later than the first week in February. Of course, the European politicians can do our bureaucrats dirty and call off the shambles before the American office holders can get their feet in the trough, but that isn't likely, all being gentlemen if not scholars, and all being members of the same club.

So I am distributing this issue of the magazine while I may. After — say, February 15th — it will probably be impossible.

But through these past few years of so-successful propaganda—while the completely free and untrammeled press was being established by the various associations of publishers, owners and editors of daily papers — they were not thinking about publications like ours, with limited circulation. Nor are you ready to kill men to defend my right to publish and your right to read such a brochure. Nor am I. The press they set up as being so worthy of your tax-money for defense and, if need be, your blood and your life, is the National press which issues newspapers, magazines and books in astronomical quantities, the same press which dominates radio. They are one—be not confused. And that is the press which I say does not exist for any man who has anything detrimental to say about anything.

Have you ever tried to buy time on the air? Have you ever written a letter "to the Times"? Have you ever written a magazine article *against* anything? Have you ever tried to get a book published?

Try any or all the above exercises in freedom of the press and see where you end up. Since the effort involved is arduous, I will save you the trouble by telling you. You *can't* buy time on the air to criticize anything that is basically wrong. You can't get a letter to your editor printed unless it's in favor of something he's in favor of. And no magazine in the country will print an article that tells the truth about anything at all.

Although I am a well known writer — even "famous" by some standards — capable of expressing myself clearly and sometimes entertainingly, if I wish to say these things to my fellow creatures, this is the only means at my command. Under a government which was founded to guarantee the freedom of the press, there is not one newspaper or magazine which dares to or cares to print such undeniable facts as are assembled here, although most of this material has appeared in one paper or another — but in a considerably different guise.

There is not one radio station which will permit me to read this paper over the air.

If I feel called upon to make these statements public, I must devise my own means and pay the bills the best way I am able. None of the usual channels for public pronouncements is open to me or to anyone else who wishes to speak the truth or to state unadorned facts.

In this country founded for the preservation of religious liberty, any stupid cult of Holy Ghost worshippers which cares to is permitted to spout its nonsense over the air as many hours as it will pay for, poisoning the minds of children with its noxious doctrine of fear, ignorance and superstition. Let us be thankful that they don't get many of the kids because the youngsters — unless they are bound hand and foot — are too smart to waste good time listening to such buncombe. But the point is that all the gold the government took away from the people and buried down there in Kentucky could not buy one minute on the air for an atheistic criticism of Christian doctrine and morality or of Jewish folly or criminality.

A recent publicity release from the publishers of John Steinbeck's books announced that he was writing a series of articles on the causes of unemployment. The statement was that the articles *would* run in a magazine which had not yet been chosen. Well, if anybody in that publishing company would like to lay a little dough on that, I am ready to match it. If Steinbeck tells the truth about the causes of unemployment, he can't get the articles printed in any periodical in the United States today. So instead of "choosing" the lucky sheet, what Viking Press will have to do is *start* one.

Books are slightly different. Of the four branches of Freeprez, the book publishing business is the most nearly free — chiefly because the people who deny us the run of their periodicals, and so on, know that hardly anybody reads books, so publication in that form is a sort of burial.

In the face of this condition — here is another issue of the Fortean Magazine. It may be the last one "for the duration". Accordingly, I take this opportunity to tell briefly what the Fortean Society is and what it hopes to do. Be assured that — no matter what else happens the work of the Society *will continue*. The Society will be nine years old, January 26, 1940, and the work has gone forward steadily all that time. Do not assume that because the magazine is not issued regularly or because the name of the Society doesn't appear in the papers, that it is disbanded or disorganized. It has been arranged so that if I go to jail someone else takes over — and if the "Negative Absolute" gets him — his successor is ready. There's no stamping us out, although many persons wish that were possible.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

1. To perpetuate the name and the mental attitude of Charles Fort.
2. To remove the halo from the head of Science.
3. To make human beings think.
4. To destroy scientists' faith in their own works and thus force a general *return* to the truly scientific principle of "temporary acceptance".
5. To inform the general public of the political and self-preservative character of most work done under the ambiguous cloak of "pure" science, principally astronomy and physics.
6. To inform the general public that the "cosmic order" Science pretends to have established in the flux of existence is simply a mental discipline imposed upon mankind as an expedient to enforce social and economic "order" under what must be — at longest — an ephemeral *status quo*.
7. To prevent scientists from further development of any hierarchy, Brain-Trust, Court of Wisdom, authoritarian dictatorship of intelligence or learning, which would — if permitted — lead to a more powerful domination and consequent paralysis of human mentality than any ever imposed by any Church or State or Press in history, not excluding any of the ideologies current today.
8. To destroy awe for Authority, as such, in the youth of the world at as tender an age as possible.
9. To provide the means for the perpetuation of dissent from any and all dogma as long as time shall last.

IT'S MENTAL ANTITOXIN

The Fortean Society is the Red Cross of the human mind. Its business is to provide antitoxin against all forms of mental paralysis and intellectual stagnation, and especially against the poison of such words as "faith" — "belief" — "authority" — "education" and "patriotism". These are the words that *damn* our minds to extinction if we do not stop their abuses in time.

Faith forbids thought. *Belief* stops thinking automatically. *Authority* attempts to awe, impress or otherwise bludgeon the potential thinker into a state of coma. *Education* is the wilful and malicious effort to maintain public intelligence at the level of its own police force. *Patriotism* is the sanctified cloak for all the machinations intended to perpetuate human stupidity at a point where it will contribute millions upon millions of dollars for an indestructible chicle quid and a burnt-sugar belch in a bottle.

The Society does not concern itself with economics, sociology or politics. Its sole concern is with mentality and the thinking processes. Any opposition to the aims of the Fortean Society is a tacit admission that mental exercise is inimical to the "welfare" of the individual or organization which attacks us. If Church or School, Science, Capital or State disapproves of the existence or the activities of this Society, by that disapproval they confess that intelligence is a menace to them.

The welfare of mankind, as regards feeding, clothing and housing, this Society leaves to other men and to other organizations. But what mankind is fed by the eyes and the ears to warp and twist and retard the normal growth and development of its mentality — that is definitely our concern, and from the endless diapason of a purposefully subversive influence, this Society offers a sanctuary for free inquiry.

For the benefit of those who discover us here for the first time:

The Society was founded nine years ago and named in honor of Charles Fort, the author of four books. Some typical, aphorismic quotations are:

THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED (1919)

We shall have a procession of data that science has excluded.

* * * * *

That firmly to believe is to impede development.

That only temporarily to accept is to facilitate.

* * * * *

Science is established preposterousness.

* * * * *

Intelligence is the confession of ignorance.

NEW LANDS (1923)

It is within the power of anybody, who does not know a hyperbola from a cosine, to find out whether the astronomers are led by a cloud of rubbish by day and a pillar of bosh by night —

* * * * *

We conceive that it is well that a great deal of experience should be withheld from children, and that, anyway, in their early years, they are sexually isolated, for instance, and our idea is that our data have been held back by no out-spoken conspiracy, but by an inhibition similar to that by which a great deal of biology, for instance, is not taught to children.

* * * * *

Char me the trunk of a redwood tree. Give me pages of white chalk cliffs to write upon. Magnify me thousands of times, and replace my trifling immodesties with a titanic megalomania — then might I write largely enough for our subjects.

* * * * *

Judging by our experience in other fields of research, we suspect that this earth never has been traversed except in conventional trade-routes and standard explorations.

LO! (1930)

If in any Court, in any land, any scientific pronouncement should be embarrassing to anybody, that is because he has been too stingy to buy two expert opinions.

* * * * *

I believe nothing. I have shut myself away from the rocks and wisdoms of ages, and from the so-called great teachers of culture, and perhaps because of that isolation I am given to bizarre hospitalities. I shut the front door upon Christ and Einstein, and at the back door hold out a welcoming hand to little frogs and periwinkles.

* * * * *

Scientists, in matter of our data, have been like somebody in Europe, before the year 1492, hearing stories of lands to the west, going out on the ocean for an hour or so, in a row-boat, and then saying, whether exactly in these words, or not: "Oh, hell! There ain't no America."

WILD TALENTS (1932)

The science of physics, which, at one time, was thought forever to have disposed of werewolves, vampires, witches, and other pets of mine, is today such an attempted systematization of the principles of magic, that I am at a loss for eminent professors to be disagreeable to.

* * * * *

I have a venerable, little story . . . of an eighteenth century scientist, whose theory it was that human females can be pollinated, and who experimented, by exposing a buxom female to the incidence of the east wind, and of course was successful in establishing his theory.

* * * * *

I conceive of nothing, in religion, science, or philosophy, that is more than the proper thing to wear, for a while.

THANKS TO MEMBERS

Fortean data has been received from the following active members:

Edward Peters
Donald J. Snively
R. T. Springett
W. A. Clemmons
Fred Keating
Herbert Smith
F. S. Hammett
Alfred H. Barley
L. F. Bain
J. M. Davis
Mrs. Alice Vail Holloway
Albert E. Page
A. V. White
L. V. Dilbeck
B. J. S. Cahill
Raymond H. Cass
George Marks
N. M. Layne
Norman Macbeth, Jr.
Chandler Ide

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

EARHART-NAVY FIASCO

Horace McCoy, author of *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* and other books, writes that he has access to photostatic copies of the log book of the Cutter *Itasca,* for the period of the so-called "search" for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan. He says: "This stuff will curl your hair." Mr. McCoy, being a writer, would like to sell an article setting forth his information to a magazine — such as LIBERTY, for instance. The name of the magazine recommends it for such an article, but if the facts ever appear there or anywhere else — except, perhaps, right here — your Secretary will take Holy Orders in any monkery that will have him.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

POPE STEALS BLADDER

The new Pope is out for the slapstick- and-bladder honors heretofore shared by Sir Hubert Wilkins and Prof. Auguste Picard. Instead of looking for a North Pole in a submarine or shooting TNT pellets at toy balloons in the "stratosphere", His Holiness — sole dictator of 385,000,000 souls (Catholic estimate) — has denounced dictators! ! !

Further, he has invited Jeans, Jeffreys, Peneth, all of England, H. A. Russell of Princeton, and other High Priests of mathematical guesswork, to attend a seance of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican in December, 1939, "to discuss theories of the earth's age".

This bit of horseplay puts Picard and Wilkins in the discard with Einstein. The Pope of Rome is now one up on all the other scientists in the Cap-and-Bells Sweepstakes.

BARKING SPIDER

Dentist Rickles, Eagle Pass, Texas, heard something barking at him at night. He got out of bed and found furry spiders 4 inches in diameter. He chloroformed one and sent it to College Station, Texas. They didn't know either, so it was sent to Alexander Petrunkvitch, spider specialist at the Morgue of Mystery on Central Park West, or at Yale. (The Society has two accounts and the scene of the professor's specializing is given two ways.) The critter was a new one on him, but he had a name for it: "of the genus *olios,* family *sparasidae".* To do the man justice, it is possible he has been misquoted.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

HONEY BEE MENACE

Death of humans due to bee stings outnumber fatal spider bites 10 to 1 in the records of the Society. Obvious reason for Science ignoring this is that spiders don't make honey. Authority even goes so far as to declare persons who die from bee stings are "unusually allergic" to bee venom.

That was said (8-4-38) of Svend Hansen, Irvington, N. Y., when he died *fifteen minutes* after a bee stung him.

When Mrs. Nancy Shaffer died (7-15-38) at Ligonier, Pa., *twenty minutes* after being stung "in the throat", the story was that the swelling had strangled her.

There was no alibi offered in the death (9-2-39) of Floyd Stevens, Watkins Glen, N. Y. Whatever killed him did it "within half an hour after he had been stung by a bee".

Emanuel Alves did not die (8-4-39) until next day. The medical examiner's "tentative finding" was "death due to paralysis of the heart induced by the insect bite". *Insect,* please note, the name of *bee* must not be maligned.

A pony stuck (7-12-38) its head in a hive and was stung to death by the swarm — Providence, R. I.

Four horses were stung to death (8-18-38) and two men severely injured by a swarm of bees near Seppenrade. Westphalia. *Brit. Corr.*

On the other hand:

A scorpion stung (7-15-39) Raymond Lile, Phoenix, Arizona. In 40 minutes he was unconscious but he lived for fifteen days.

In this connection there is a deal of work going on in laboratories with the venom of various snakes for medicines, especially pain killers, also with bees — for arthritis.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

SHE DIED OR SHE DID NOT

Theresa Neumann, internationally known stigmatic of Konnersreuth, Germany, was reported to have died in the night, September 7-8, 1939. The report has been denied, but you can have your choice.

NEW REASONS TO HATE

It is now possible to hate Germany more because Dr. Reimuth, Heidelberg, says (8-10-39) he discovered a new "planet" and he calls it *Danzig*.

And hatred of Russia may be stepped-up a bit also, because a Soviet air expedition has located (9-25-38) the Siberian site of the largest meteor man knows anything about. Yes, must have been larger than the one suspected to have hit Arizona.

In this connection, note that in the United States a certain pest is called the "Japanese" beetle. . . . In Germany they have a bug they call the "Colorado" beetle!

But the German atrocity likely to have the greatest ultimate effect upon mankind is always treated humorously. That is changing the number of degrees in the circle from 360 to 400.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

FREAK ECLIPSE DOES NOT COME OFF

Theoretically there are certain Lunar eclipses which occur while Sol is still visible at the Western horizon. One of these was supposed to have come off 11-7-38. To see this rare sight, F. Trubee Davidson left the Vatican of Natural History on Central Park West with some High Priests and reporters and ascended in a plane to a height of 15,000 feet. But—let the *Times* reporter tell it his own way—it's funnier that way:

"The eclipse was visible across the entire United States, but the odd celestial 'balancing act,' making it possible to see the totally eclipsed moon and the setting sun simultaneously from opposite ends of the horizon, was not visible for a distance of more than 200 miles inland from New York.

"Because of atmospheric haze neither the setting sun nor the eclipsed moon could be seen from the ground in the city. Nor were the moon hunters above the Manhattan clouds able to see the eclipsed moon while the sun was still above the horizon."

Or—in simple English—without the hazy phrase about haze, the show did *not* come off as predicted.

The folly in this case is the theory of "refraction" which for years has been used as a compensator for inexplicable phenomena of light. Whenever observations do not agree with theory, "refraction" is blamed. In this case the handy tool turned around and cut the manipulator.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

BOOKS FOR FORTEANS

Television: a Struggle for Power, by Frank C. Waldrop and Joseph Borkin, Morrow, 1938.

Nine Chains to the Moon, R. Buckminster Fuller, Lippincott, 1938.

Scientists are Human, David Lindsay Watson. Watts, London, 1938. (The Library of Science and Cultural Series)

Science Today and Tomorrow, Waldemar Kaempffert, Viking, 1939.

Twilight of Man, Earnest Hooton, Putnam, 1939.

An Experiment with Time, and *The New Immortality,* both by J. W. Dunne.

Fate of Man, H. G. Wells, Longmans-Green, 1939.

Not all of the above books are Fortean. Some of them will infuriate you, that's why they're recommended.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

INSERT EINSTEIN

The World's Fair and Westinghouse publicity departments buried an assortment of junk in a "cupaloy" tube called a "time capsule". As evidence of the quality of the contents, Einstein was the scientist who wrote a letter for enclosure to posterity—6939 A. D.

His letter is lots sounder than his physics, but it leaves out a very important phrase. Here follows the paragraphs in question with the needed phrase inserted in the Secretary's characteristic italics:

"Our time is rich in inventive minds — etc. —

"However, the producton and distribution of commodities is entirely unorganized, so that everybody must live in fear of being eliminated from the economic cycle, in this way suffering for the want of everything.

"Furthermore, people living in different countries kill each other at irregular time intervals, so that also for this reason anyone who thinks about the future must live in fear and terror. This is due to the fact that the intelligence and character of the masses are *purposely and maliciously and perpetually maintained at a level* incomparably lower than the intelligence and character of the few who produce something valuable for the community."

Without the insert, the implication of the paragraph is a vicious, nefarious lie.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

CAR CRASH DRIVER GONE

A large closed car was stolen. A few hours later, a motorcycle cop saw it doing 75. He pursued and his speedometer registered 92 m. p. h., but the car was going faster. It crashed. The cop stopped. The car was a total wreck. There was no one in it.

All that in and near Santa Rosa, California, August 3 and 4-38.

The cop says not more than 60 seconds elapsed between the crash and his examination of the wreck. A small bottle which had contained a doctor's prescription was the only clue.

OUR LOSS

Forteans everywhere mourn the loss of three clear-thinking, enlightened skeptics—and of a fourth great mentality not quite so skeptical of his own works. Sigmund Freud was never admitted to the Society because he *believed* his own findings and had not sufficient cordiality for ideas other than his own. The three who maintained, each to the day of his death, an eager welcome for every new development of the flux which is our existence were Clarence Darrow, Havelock Ellis and Harry Leon Wilson. Wilson was a Founder Member of the Society.

In our concern for the state of human mentality we can only hope that among the millions of carefully paralyzed minds now attempting to grow in the world, there will be three more such as they, strong enough to withstand all the poison of education and energetic enough to rise above the Scientific Dogma of today. Every Fortean should read all the books ever written by Clarence Darrow, Havelock Ellis and Harry Leon Wilson.

At the moment of going to press, the Secretary sorrows to report the loss of still another member of the Society, and a well-beloved personal friend, Felix Riesenberg. He wrote many books but he should be known to Forteans as the author of *Endless River.*

OUR GAIN

George Bernard Shaw: "When I was 16 I believed everything that the scientists said. I was what you may call a scientific fundamentalist. Now that I am five times 16 and have seen scientific facts crashing, one after the other, until even (sic) Newton is left with only a pragmatic sanction, all my freethinking skepticism challenges science and leaves the religious legends alone as comparatively harmless."

Shaw is a Fortean!

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

Dr. Rollo G. Reynolds, principal of the Horace Mann School, told the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers that the purpose of a school *should be* to make children think! In that, he admitted, the public school system of the United States has failed.

Reynolds says "failed"—but the truth is that the public school system has never been permitted by the politicians to *try* to accomplish that. And for the very good reason that a *thinking* electoral body would be the end of politics.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

At the opening (10-9-37) of the Medical School at Columbia, Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, Psychiatry, said: ". . . it is necessary to guard against a dangerous tendency to accept as valid a plausible explanation and then look for facts to support that explanation. . . . Above all never refuse to see what you do not want to see or what might go against the views of authority. . . . When a finding or an idea is contrary to authority or even to common sense, it may be the clue to follow. . . . Every advance in science has been made at the expense of someone's reputation as an authority."

Every once in a while, some scientist whose brain has not yet entirely atrophied says something like the above quotations from Shaw, Reynolds and Lewis, but this has no effect on their colleagues or on the press.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

The FORTEAN MAGAZINE
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The Fortean Society

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TIFFANY THAYER
BEN HECHT
BOOTH TARKINGTON
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ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT
JOHN COWPER POWYS
HARRY LEON WILSON

Application for membership — which includes the Magazine—should be addressed to the Secretary, TIFFANY THAYER, Box 192, Grand Central Annex, New York.

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

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January, 1940

THE POLES—N AND S

There's more to this trip of Byrd's than we are likely to know for a number of years. The simple graft to be taken from the government's "initial" appropriation of $340,000 seems insufficient explanation, even with Poulter's $150,000 Folly considered. The published yarn is that Byrd goes to protect the claims of the United States to sections of the alleged Antarctic continent. The guess is that something more valuable than oil is there and they are not talking about it.

Poulter's contraption is an apartment house on wheels. The tires weigh 1900 pounds each. It's supposed to cross crevasses in the ice without difficulty, but, it got stuck so many times between the factory and the ship — on which it has finally departed — that the waggish N. Y. *World Telegram* asked in a headline: "What will they do if winter comes?"

Wilkins hasn't had a break since the Soviet sent him to look for their men lost in the Arctic. While there Sir Hubert picked daisies. He keeps yapping about weather stations with no takers. STOP PRESS! 11-21-39. Sir Hubert had luncheon today at the Explorer's Club — *with old DOC COOK!*

Ellsworth claims to be going to Antarctica in the winter of '40-'41. Right now he's in Italy.

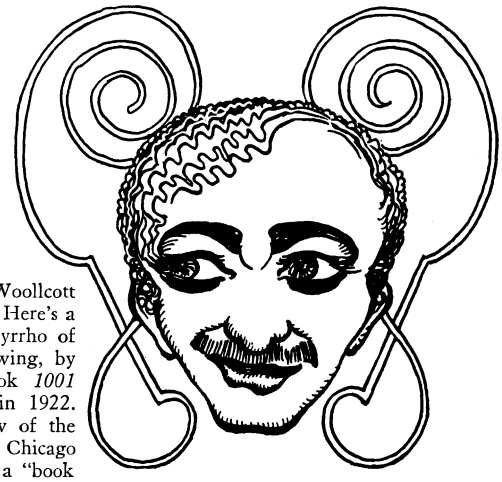
Steffanson, who doesn't rate very high with the politicians because he has been heard to speak favorably of the Eskimo's "ideal Anarchy," is in Greenwich Village, writing.

In this connection, note that the Eskimo tongue has no word for "war". In the same connection — remember the stink about Rockwell Kent's post office murals?

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

THE FOUNDERS

BEN HECHT



We have heard from Alexander Woollcott and Booth Tarkington in this place. Here's a third founder of the Society, the Pyrrho of our Cook-County-Athens. The drawing, by Herman Rosse, is from Ben's book *1001 Afternoons in Chicago,* published in 1922. That book is a collection of a few of the outstanding pieces he wrote for the Chicago *Daily News,* and the item below is a "book review" he wrote for Harry Sell's famous Wednesday Book Page in that paper in 1919. It is a review of *The Book of the Damned,* by Charles Fort.

PHANTASMAGORIOPHOBIA

By Ben Hecht

I am the first disciple of Charles Fort. He has made a terrible onslaught upon the accumulated lunacy of fifty centuries. The onslaught will perish. The lunacy will survive, intrenching itself behind the derisive laughter of all good citizens. I, however, for one, rush to surrender my homage. Whatever the purpose of Charles Fort, he has delighted me beyond all men who have written books in this world. Mountebank or Messiah, it matters not. Henceforth I am a Fortean. If it has pleased Charles Fort to perpetrate a Gargantuan jest upon unsuspecting readers, all the better. If he has in all seriousness heralded forth the innermost truths of his soul, well and good. I offer him this testament. I believe.

Who is Charles Fort? Charles Fort is an inspired clown who, to the accompaniment of a gigantic snare drum, has bounded into the arena of science and let fly at the pontifical seats of wisdom with slapstick and bladder. He has plucked the false whiskers off the planets. He has reinvented a god. He has exposed the immemorial hoax that bears the name of sanity. In the light of all reason he stands — a gibbering idiot thumbing his nose at the awful presence of world intelligence.

It is all in the point of view. The point of view of Charles Fort is the point of view of the Mad Hatter and the Jack of Clubs. Science — a pompous imbecile with cigar box whiskers and a swivel tooth. Human reason — a stagnant dream overgrown with the moss of inertia. Modern Wisdom — the tragic puerility of a flickering match against the gulf of night. The Human Race — a faintly animated spawn muling at the end of an umbilical cord.

If I should attempt to record here the theories, the excited surmises, the nightmarish leaps, the sulphuric revels of the brain of Charles Fort I should achieve instant prominence as a humorist — an unconscious humorist, of course. Yet it is a deplorably selfish thing to deprive the heroic readers of Mr. Sell's page the pleasure of a laugh. I therefore mention the fact that Charles Fort has to his, and incidentally my, satisfaction discovered that the moon is a salt mackerel and God is the grandfather of Ezra Pound. Further, he has discovered, to our satisfaction, that the interstellar spaces are full of gold and purple argosies, which carry grain between Mars and Saturn, that what is vulgarly conceived to be the vast unknown is as a matter of fact an aquarium curiously lacking in tadpoles. In short — and now we speak with the martyrlike whimsicality which will henceforth distinguish the utterances of all Forteans — Charles Fort has taken issue with the conventions of astronomy, geology, anthropology, ethnology and philology, and shot the scientific basis of modern wisdom full of large, ugly holes — holes through which monstrous ideas poke their unearthly heads, through which awful shapes and demoniac colors whirl for an instant in an apocalyptic dance.

Is it true? Has science by a process of maniacal exclusion of telltale data, of telltale phenomena, foisted an algebraic Mother Goose upon the world in the name of Astronomy? Has reason by a process of bewildered refutation of significant, of vital evidence, buried itself in a morass of sterile superstition? Laughter — the immemorial laughter of today's sanity — answers. I have a picture in my mind of Charles Fort stand-

ing with his thumb to his nose grinning back — no, laughing back. The laughter of the world at Charles Fort and all other Forts who have been is the conventional guffaw — the croak out of the stagnant dream that calls itself reason. And the laughter of Charles Fort I, his disciple assure you is the shriek of the banshee that has ever haunted and troubled this dream.

The book into which Charles Fort has put his shriek is called *The Book of the Damned*. It is published by Boni & Liveright. Perhaps you have no time for such nonsense. You prefer the concrete eruditions of poppycockiana, political and moral perunas. If so you will ignore a delicious opportunity to laugh with or at Charles Fort. For it is written that the theory he has hurled into being is destined, like some phantom gargoyle, to perch itself astride every telescope and laboratory test tube in the land. For every five people who read this book four will go insane.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

GROWING PAINS

If it is possible to judge by appearances, the so-called "planet" Earth is not the shrinking, shrivelling, cooling apple of the text books and never has been. All the evidence indicates that it is growing constantly larger in all its dimensions and has been doing so for centuries, probably through all time.

That was intimated in this paper in September, 1937; it was emphasized in the October, 1937, issue; and since then an abundance of corroborative data has been received.

It is entirely unlikely that Science is blind to this evidence. But, the High Priests who dictate to the government and to the press and to the radio what you shall be told for your own good, and what shall be kept from you for their own good, are fearful that you can't take it. They think you'll be afraid to live on soil that is liable to crack under your feet any minute. For years they denied that the San Francisco "fire" was caused by an earthquake. When that could no longer be denied, they tried to concentrate the danger spots over what they called "faults" in the "rock crust" of the earth and they concentrated on methods of construction which would make buildings at least partially safe for use in such localities so that capital would not run away. They explained every shock, tremor, temblor and quiver in local terms — and they still do.

With a great cliff cracked wide and plopped down in the Middle of Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, and a farm split open in Idaho, a dam sunk near Kansas City, an enormous pock-mark dropped out of another farm near Wichita; with the entire Middle-West shaken until its teeth chattered twice in one week (3-2 and 3-5-37) and with New York City itself feeling the planetary ague, it is a little difficult for even the highest Authority to conceal the facts much longer.

The New York *Times*, faithful to its trust, tried to explain one New York shudder by saying "fireworks" had caused it. But the notion of some pin-wheels or Roman candles, or even several tons of TNT making the planet Earth shake is a laugh that starts low in the abdomen and continues for days.

At a meeting (3-26-37) of the American Concrete Institute in New York City, Mr. Jacob J. Cresskoff, addressing his fellow engineers said: "It is commonly believed that destructive earthquakes occur only in particular regions of this country. Analysis of the earthquake history of the United States (for the past 300 years) discloses, however, that it is a mistake to assume that they are confined to a few localities. Also, a number of shocks are found to have occurred in regions where, from geological conditions, great earthquakes would not be expected.

"Again, sections long dormant have suddenly become active. All in all, the data are of such nature that it would be rash to predict immunity from earthquake damage for any region."

The data referred to above are:

Park Hill, Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, which moved a road and a bridge out of its way, slowly and with no apparent malice, October and November, 1937.

At about the same time, the *sinking* of the Wyandotte County Dam near Kansas City. An estimated 800 feet of dam sank 50 feet. If the river bed widened, a dam might sink 50 feet. That might also pull bridges apart. See below.

The crevasse in the farm at Buhl, Idaho: The traffic got so heavy that the farmer charged 50¢ a look.

Another hole in a farm — full of green water (9-23-37) — Potwin (30 miles N E of Wichita), Kansas.

Since that time there are more data:

Fishing around from the deck of the "scientific ship" *The Atlantis* (sic!) the Scientists *led* (10-2-37) by Dr. Stetson were "mystified by the speed with which great valleys" (in reality, *canyons*) now at the bottom of the sea must have been formed.

For God-Himself-knows-how-long, the story has been that the Colorado River *cut* the Grand Canyon, and "erosion" has been an eminently respectable phenomenon advanced as the explanation for any number of land cracks, ever since geology has been an *exact* science. No child has ever been stupid enough to believe that, but the scientifically preoccupied witless made nothing of swallowing it themselves and foisted the assumption upon all students as fact.

Now Dr. Stetson has taken time out from his "leading" long enough to admit that no river and no erosive agent could possibly have cut these submarine canyons. They are too deep, too young, and too close to what is now dry land.

But — if Earth *were* growing like a bud, or swelling like a blooming popcorn — —

Dr. W. Uhink, Physics, Berlin, announces (10-17-37) a deviation in the "speed" of Earth's revolutions on its axis. The deviation is not constant but ranges from 0.02 to 0.25 seconds per day. "If the effect were measured on the equator . . . it would mean that points on the surface of the earth were displaced by about 750 feet." *Her-Trib.*

Dr. Leason H. Adams, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie, is willing to admit that Earth may be crystalline. The character and nature of crystals is easily found in any respectable encyclopedia. And John Tyndall rather anticipated such admissions many years ago. But he was "successfully refuted".

Dr. W. W. Watts, a British geologist, in a report to Smithsonian states that he has found evidence of "glacial drift" — an ice sheet — over equatorial Africa, South America and Australia. Could that mean that the Poles were once closer together than they are today? In short — that Earth has grown and is growing still?

There was a "sudden subsidence" in a South Shields, England, street, "covering 15 ft., to a depth of 5 ft. Gas and water pipes were fractured." 1-18-38.

Landslides at Terril, near Charleroi, Belgium, 1-31-38. *Cass, Hull.*

Snowdon — the highest mountain in England and Wales — is reported (2-3-38) shrinking.

In Courcelles, Belgium, the earth rumbled and houses were torn apart. It is *not* called an earthquake, but, "a subterranean landslide". Ottawa *Evening Citizen* (2-9-38).

"Torrential rains" were blamed for washing out a railway culvert near Portneuf, Quebec. Guilty or not, the rails and bridge at this point were in such condition (9-2-38) that a train was wrecked.

The same storm and a bolt of lightning were blamed for a landslide that buried houses at St. Gregoir, Quebec, same date.

One leaf of a drawbridge — South Channel Bridge, Cross Bay Boulevard, Long Island — was discovered (9-4-38) to be three inches higher that the other leaf. The statement was that "the north pier of the span" was sinking. Engineers blamed "scouring caused by tidal conditions" and they dumped sand and gravel at its base.

In a Smithsonian bulletin which contradicts itself flatly, Earny Brown, Astronomy, Yale, notices (9-20-38) irregular changes in the rate of Earth's rotation. The cause may also "provide a clue to the mechanism of mountain building". The observations are reminiscent of those of Dr. W. Uhink.

Reverend Brown's observations "would be accounted for by an increase of five inches in the earth's radius".

It would make a neat parcel if an increase of 5 inches in radius gave us an increase of 750 feet in circumference (*a la* Unhink). Unfortunately, it doesn't. But, here's another man ready to think of an Earth that can grow — even if he does contradict himself in order to be able to think of it.

"The displacement of an electric rail at Kensal Green interrupted (10-6-38) the L. M. S. electric train service from Watford to Euston for 40 minutes." *Brit. Corr.*

Since it was an "electric" rail displaced, the Official Inquiry is not likely to find that it was done by human hands. See below.

"A whole mountain appeared to have parted (11-23-38) and toppled over" in *a series* of landslides at Castries, St. Lucia, B. W. I., the next island S of Pelee (bad actor) on Martinque. The meteorological station there had predicted some activity with considerable accuracy. Witnesses said the slides began with loud detonations, "perhaps of volcanic origin".

The next day the landslides continued. And the next day — in the papers — the whole series with more to come was blamed on rain.

2,000,000 cubic yards of earth are slowly sliding (1-28-39) *below* Grand Coulee Dam, Washington. This is the second major slide at this site. The first was stopped by sinking refrigeration pipes and freezing the earth. That is a little like flagging the 20th Century Limited by throwing snowballs at the engineer.

In the *Scientific Monthly* for December, 1938, Dr. William (Geodetic) Bowie writes on "The Shape and Size of the Earth". He doesn't say a thing. . . . A new measurement is in process. "It will certainly be much more accurate than the international standard used at present."

2-24-39. Union Pacific's Pony Express left the rails near Laramie, Wyoming. "Mysterious factors" were hinted at by H. C. Mann, vice president in charge of operations. "Preliminary investigation, he declared, disclosed that the wreck was not caused by a broken axle . . . but by a broken rail."

"broken rail"? — or a "displaced" rail? — perhaps by two rails being pulled apart?

3-11-39. A "moving mountain" near Gilroy, California, has been sliding toward U. S. Route 101, the Canada-to-Mexico Highway, for a week. Moves "more than a foot an hour". The mass of earth broke away from the "Dead Hills" which straddle the San Andrea "fault", a familiar name in quake tales. The next day the movement slowed. It was a quarter-mile wide, 100 feet high, and it moved a mile and three quarters in 6 days — but "only a little more than three yards (3-13-39) yesterday".

6-4-39. Scribbler John J. O'Neill holds forth on quakes and mountain building in the Sunday *Herald Tribune*. A sort of Republican Kaempffert, he restricts himself to orthodox hedging although the unmentioned purport of nearly 4 columns of type is simply that Earth is growing. He says: "A new continental land mass is slowly rising under the waves of the mid-Atlantic almost from pole to pole."

He follows popular error by saying that the Eastern coastline of North and South America is something of a fit against the Western coastline of Europe and Africa. The land masses of Earth fit together neatly enough but not in that position. If Mr. O'Neill and his seismographic friends will quit thinking about "floating continents" long enough, they can make a much neater picture puzzle of the surface of Earth by a system your Secretary wots of and will publish in due course.

7-3-39. Near the village of Sinks, Kentucky, near Mount Vernon, a landslide estimated at 6,000 tons.

7-23-39. Seven miles from Huntingdon, Pa., at Alexandria, a bridge over the Juniata River collapsed under a twelve ton truck. Photographs of the accident reveal that the truck was not fully on the bridge when it gave way. The appearance is that only about half the truck was on the bridge. The collapse came at the point where the bridge joins the shore, the logical place for a bridge to be weakened by pulling apart, *if* Earth *is* growing.

8-11-39. The National Park Service has announced that Mount Massive, Colorado, is the highest peak in the United States—10 feet higher than Mt. Rainier. The Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, custodians of Rainier, threaten to pile more snow on their mountain to reclaim the record. The Secretary suggests that they simply hire rival Experts to remeasure their pride and joy.

Streamliner City of San Francisco was wrecked 200 miles E of Reno, 15 miles W of Carlin, Nevada, at 9:32 p. m., "Coast time", 8-12-39. People were killed. "Railroad officials took newspaper men to the scene and showed them where the entire rail had been moved four inches inward." —And *spiked* there—according to the findings of the subsequent investigation. Any man who wishes to believe that is at liberty to do so. Your Secretary thinks it is a yarn spun from the fertile minds of the public relations counsel for the railroads, because that wreck is a case in point in a current study of the metals for "streamlined" coaches and the sabotage alibi is no longer even mentioned.

9-7-39. Carnegie announces that Dr. A. G. McNish finds Guatemala making mountains. Dr. E. G. Zeiss did the field work and reports that "at least one mountain has been built to a height of 2 miles in the past 35 years and the process is continuing."

9-8-39. Bowie and Heck, Geodosy, and Dr. F. A. Vening-Meinesz, same, Netherlands, say Earth is elastic instead of rigid, "continually bulging or sagging". They mentioned the standard causes but growth was not one of them.

10-10-39. A 200-foot section of state road has sunk several feet near Lake Galacia, E of Fairmount, Indiana. "Legend says the lake is bottomless." *Times*.

"Hosenburg Mountain" in Bohemia goes first this way, then that, according to the *American Weekly* (10-22-39). It moved as much as 200 feet in 1900, not quite that much in 1898. As of this date it is 65 feet off its base and moving 47 feet a day.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

QUAKES AND VOLCANOES

From September 8, 1937, to November 19, 1939, there have been 140 earthquakes (not counting multiple shocks only minutes or hours apart, but classing all such groups as part of one quake) reported to the Society. Space limitations make listing here impossible but the Secretary will supply the data to students especially interested. Send stamps. Twenty-one volcanic eruptions reported in the same period as above.

FALLS OF FROGS

With the usual "up from one place down in another" explanation, the *American Weekly* notices (9-24-39) a shower of thousands of little frogs at Trowbridge, England, reported by a Mr. Ettles of that place.

"Hundreds of thousands"—about half an inch long—during a cloudburst (8-29-37) at Tarpa, Hungary.

9-25-37. Rain of frogs "and perhaps turtles" at Decatur, Indiana. Indianapolis *Star*.

10-7-37. Rain of frogs, Batavia, N. Y. *World-Tel*.

FALL OF FISH

A dozen fish, "apparently perch", between three and four inches long, fell (3-21-39) from the sky at the feet of Mrs. Iola Martin, 1122 East D Street, Ontario, Canada. Los Angeles *Herald-Express*.

Rain of fish, South Bend, Ind. reported in the Los Angeles *Times*, 7-16-37.

WATCH OTTERSON

The word "propaganda" has taken such a thorough beating in the past few years that it has lost all meaning. Harking back to its original use and digging under the layers of modern lard smeared on to disguise it, your good Fortean will still find that no genuine "propaganda" is *ever* disclosed as such. At any given period the *bona fide* article that gets results—*i. e.*, does a slick and silent selling job without awakening suspicion—is called, variously, "news" or "entertainment" or "education".

Since there is so much *news, education* and *entertainment* ever rampant in the land, it is not always possible to identify "propaganda". Your Secretary gives you one touchstone. . . . If Johnny Otterson is close to it, you may be fairly sure that the banks, the Federal Government, the U. S. Navy, and the manufacturers of electricity are solidly behind whatever comes out of that shop be it "news", "education" or "entertainment".

John E. Otterson is in *Who's Who* with a very revealing record. High lights of it are:

Graduate of Annapolis.
Retired from Navy 1915 a Lieutenant.
President Winchester Repeating Arms Corporation.
President Electrical Research Products, Inc.
President Western Electric Company of Argentine, of Asia, of Chile, of Brazil, of Cuba, of Mexico, of Roumania, of Near East, of the Orient, Ltd.
President PARAMOUNT PICTURES.
And now (July 1939) President of the Radio Wire Television Corporation of America.

Otterson does not appear to be a director of the Chase Bank but who shall say that the Chase Bank is not a director of Otterson? At any rate if you wish to know where the next injection of the Simon Pure article, propaganda, is coming from—watch Johnny Otterson as he moves from presidency to presidency. It will take some watching too, because all good little Associated Press newspapers tuck away the tales of his movements on p. 28, bottom of the column, under the most innocent headlines they can write.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE

by Eric Frank Russell

Blue flashes in the southern sky at 8:35 p.m. 10-2-38, were noticed by Kingsley Nethercot, Hassocks, Sussex. Then a "sudden rift in the sky where a most beautiful blue-green radiance shone. Through this there appeared to drop a fiery body, vivid and lovely, which disappeared in a second. After this there was only one faint flash" of the light previously described.

Under circumstances which caused the coroner to say: "From all my experience I have never come across a case so very mysterious as this."—Phyllis Necombe, 22, was burned to death, at midnight, 8-27-38. No flame was near her, there was no way for a discarded cigarette to touch her. Her dress burst into flame.

Termites penetrated (10-9-38) "an inch of earthenware" (tile?), ate their way through "a generous coating of arsenic and vaseline, pierced a lead cable a quarter of an inch through and ate the insulation off the telephone wires" between Port Augusta and Darwin, Australia. They carried in wet earth which caused a short circuit.

A correspondent writes *Cavalcade* from Hayes Common, Kent, asserting that vivisection has been practiced by licence since 1876, that 918,960 experiments on animals have been conducted, that the public is forced to pay 3,000,000 pounds a year for this — and *not one* specific remedy, either preventive or curative, for any disease has been developed.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Astronomer Royal H. Spencer Jones, wished to prevent the B. B. C., from broadcasting horoscopes of movie stars, etc. He wrote: "Astrology is a cult entirely devoid of scientific foundation, and thrives on human credulity." . . . He does not state what astronomy thrives on.

"As most people are aware nowadays (sic), *light travels at a speed of 187,000 miles per second. This is round figures, but the speed can actually be measured within a few inches."* Mr. R. H. Lister, Glasgow, *The Great Illusion.*

Professor A. Michelson arrived at the figure *"approximately* 186,300 miles per second" by shining a beam of light upon one face of a revolving twelve-sided block, each side of which was a mirror. This made successive flashes of light. The reflected rays were sent a distance of about a mile to another mirror which reflected them back again. The "light" traveled no more than *two* miles and the distance the twelve-sided mirror had moved in that unit of time was the basis for figuring the "speed of light". The margin of error is at least a thousand miles, for the time unit by which the experimenter arrived at his *amazing degree of accuracy* was "about" one one-hundred-thousandth part of a second.

Every attempt to ascertain the speed of light to within a hundred miles has failed utterly. Before an estimate could be accurate to within *one thousand* inches, it would have to be based upon an experimental time-period correct to within one twelve-millionth of a second. "The Great Illusion" is right!

A mysterious "gas" attack produced a state of confusion among people at the junction of Queens-drive and Muirhead-avenue, West Derby, Liverpool, affecting an area of about 30 square yards. It was invisible to the naked eye (*sic*) but had an unpleasant effect on eyes, nose and throat.

No one was seriously injured but many people, including workers, in the vicinity experienced headaches.

It appears that some fluid, not identified, was spilled on the road, possibly, it is thought, through some receptacle falling from a lorry. Whether the gas was due to the fluid itself, or through it coming into contact with the roadway, is not known.

Policemen covered the fluid with soil, and the Corporation cleansing department used hoses to remove it. *Evening Express,* Liverpool, 9-23-37.

Men loading hay at Eastwood, Tarrington, Hereford, were astonished to see one haystack rise "slowly" in the air to a height of 20 feet or more. "It remained in the air steady and intact for several seconds then dispersed slowly (sic) over the field." London *Mirror,* 8-17-39. (See Fort's NOTES this issue, Nov. 4, 1815, where "stones" are said to have "risen". T.T.)

A light flickered and roamed around Tabor cemetery, 20 miles NE of Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, Canada for more than three weeks. A great many people claimed (December 3-5, 1938) to have seen it, and not all the reports are contradictory.

(Mr. Russell especially remarks the increase of fractured skulls and human burnings in England. Scores of data on broken heads from very short falls vie with instances of apparel combustion when no fires are in grates and no candles lighted. As in Fort, many of these fires occur in beds and most of the victims are women. — T. T.)

SINCE SULFANILAMIDE SCANDAL

Probably not since the barbers were forbidden to let blood against the King's disease and falling sickness has the medical profession been caught with its collective trousers so low as they were when sulfanilamide killed about 100 people, 1937. Despite the frantic efforts of the press to cover up for them and despite the best efforts of alibi-artist, Morris Fishbein, the prestige of the current tribal medicine-men suffered a healthy relapse as the death toll of their latest epoch-making "advance" rose with a ghastly grimace of irony to indict them.

Still—there were no convictions—so death-by-doctor's-prescription goes right on:

Ensol, "a successful treatment for cancer", is said to have killed (3-31-38) six women in Orlando, Florida, from *tetanus!*

Amy Carter had some teeth pulled at a Gainsborough clinic. She died. The coroner speaks: "No reflection is cast on the clinic or the dentist." *Brit. Corr.*

By Science Service to the *World-Telegram*: ". . . Sulfanilamide for prevention of gonorrhea was only hinted at" in San Francisco, 9-1-38.

9-7-38. Beginning January 1st, British pharmacists will require a prescription for sulphanilamide and you'll have to sign the "poison book" to get benzedrine. *Brit. Corr.*

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* Fishbein's own personal Freeprez, three Minneapolis physicians reported (9-8-38) that sulfanilamide, "the drug used to fight streptococci infections" (sic!), had been found useful in preventing complications in scarlet fever cases and even in preventing the disease itself.

It reminds one of helabore! That used to be the specific for everything—in 1640. So this is Progress!

Mrs. Edith Norton was having some teeth pulled under anaesthetic at Stretford near Manchester. She died.

At the inquest:

Dr. Arnold Renshaw: "Pathological opinion many years ago was that no such condition (*status lymphaticus*) would cause death. But this summer a very large number of pathologists considered that there is such a condition, and that it occurs very suddenly."

Coroner: "The medical authorities have turned a somersault then?"

Dr. Renshaw: "Yes."

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded. *Brit. Corr.*

Jean Louis Baneteau, a "brilliant" young "cancer specialist" of Paris, was summoned as a witness in a law suit over a dog fight on the stairs of his office building. Only then was it discovered that the cancer specialist was an escaped lunatic.

In Tucson, Arizona, they arrested (11-5-38) Bill Clements under the impression that he was driving while drunk. "It was sulfanilamide," said Bill.

Two patients at the Rockland State Hospital (N. Y.) are dead (11-8-38) and three others are in a serious condition. The story is that they were given injections of salvarsan instead of neo-salvarsan.

Governor Lehman was about to order an investigation when he learned that at the Harlem Valley State Hospital (N. Y.) a man had died from a dose of bromide and chloral given to him instead of epsom salts. The Governor was nonplused.

11-13-38. The fourth victim of the salvarsan died. The fifth is in a critical condition.

Dr. Keith Simpson, said (12-30-38) at the inquest that an injection of arsenic and

bismuth administered at a clinic killed David Finlay. The doctor's alibi was that the victim "had an acute sensitiveness to arsenical treatment" . . . his was "one case out of 25,000". *Brit. Corr.*

In Chicago, a mix-up of blood donors killed a woman. Her husband sued. The doctor was absolved of blame and liability.

This Week, October 29, 1939: "Last year the people of the United States consumed about 187 tons of sulfanilamide."

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

FORTEAN TRIUMPH

There was a noise in the sky over Brooklyn. People called (1-9-39) the police and the newspapers. It was such a noise that no listener could explain it, so the reporters called all the Curators in town from Joe (Temblor) Lynch to Harold "Lost World" Anthony. And one after another these Savants each contributed his mite to a genuine 20th century miracle. They all said they did *not* know!

It is the first time since your secretary lisped: "What makes the grass green, teacher?" that Teacher has been without a ready rubber-stamp answer. That is genuine advancement. But, how the school teachers alibied for their betters when the youngsters came to school next day is not part of the record.

Subsequently there were two explanations of the sound in the public prints. Leonard Lyons in the *Post* said it was a press agent stunt. If it was, it didn't sell a ticket because there was no attempt made to connect the phenomenon with any commercial venture. And one Andrew L. Brown, a radio engineer, stepped forward to save the good name of Science. He said it was "an oblate ellipsoidal sound shell" formed by colder temperatures in the higher atmosphere . . . that the sound originated from a gas plant letting off steam along the Gowanus Canal and that atmospheric conditions had carried the sound from the steam valve to the one area in Brooklyn which was on the same level as the steam valve.

This quotation was in the *Times* and that sheet adds in its gentle way: "Mr. Brown said he could prove it with a book of physics."

F. T. M. C. Bristol, England, writes to the London *Telegraph:* "At the breakfast table on Tuesday (1-10-39, that is, the morning after the Brooklyn noise) a friend staying in my house asked if anyone else had heard a noise which woke her, she thought, at about 2:30 a. m. She described it as 'like that of a very loud aeroplane'. She got out of bed and went to the window, but could see nothing." *Brit. Corr.*

The difference between time, Bristol and Brooklyn is nearly five hours, which would make it about 3:20 a. m., in Bristol when the sound was heard here.

What was called a "ghost fire alarm" woke persons "at 3 a. m. and again at 4 a. m.", in Dorchester, England, 2-26-38. It sounded like the local fire whistle but no fireman heard it. There was no fire and so far as could be learned the siren had not been sounded. *Cass, Hull.*

DANGER!

Let every living human creature be warned! Science has given Law a new tool for our further enslavement. It is the so-called "lie detector" — a machine invented by a professor at Fordham University, a Catholic institution which, by arrangement with other institutions of learning, has so far specialized in earthquakes.

The potentiality for abuse inherent in this electro-mechanical contraption was pointed out in your Secretary's article — *A Nation of Babes in Arms* — published in the late and unlamented KEN, a magazine, June 3, 1938.

Now: Two convicts in Folsom Prison, California, were condemned (10-21-38) to the dungeon "after a police lie detector pointed to their guilt as perpetrators of a plot" etc.

Probably the men were guilty. That is immaterial. The menace lies in the use of that machine to determine guilt. You may note that the thing is not called a "TRUTH detector". And, so far there is no record of it having ever proved or even "pointed to" a man's innocence. Put one of these lethal weapons in the hands of Torquemada Dies in his Senatorial Inquisition and we would *all* join Fritz Kuhn and Earl Browder in cells or at the bar of alleged Justice in defense of our physical liberty if not of our lives.

* * *

In the above connection, it is noteworthy that in a recent (8-11-38) case at law in England, the defense refused to accept spectrum analysis as reliable. . . . Further — the Walla Walla, Washington, police department was reported (4-3-36) to have discovered two men with identical finger-prints. The men are William Schmitt and Harley Fait. The news editor of the Walla Walla *Union-Bulletin* now denies the story — for good and sufficient reason. What would become of "positive identification" in law courts if *that* story were not promptly squelched?

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

NO METEORS

The Freeprez is tireless in its campaign to sell us the exact knowledge of Science — especially Astronomy. At regular intervals through the year "meteor showers" are announced as forthcoming with all the certainty of a R. R. time table. Perseids, Leonids, etc., etc., every year the same tub-thumping — and every year, as the showers fail to materialize, absolute silence about the false-alarm.

In 1937, in spite of the fact that the Perseids were a complete washout, as they had been year after year before that in spite of ballyhoo, Roy Chapman Andrews, Director of The American Museum of Natural History, started his article (9-12-37) in *This Week:* "As a result of the meteor shower that occurred from August 10 to 12, we are just about due to have someone try to sell the American Museum of Natural History a fake meteorite." Under the spell of his own hypnosis, he thinks there *should* have been a shower of meteors on that date so he declares the shower occurred.

And a picture of the faking public fabricating spurious meteorites in its cellars to sell to the Vatican on Central Park West is conjured, thereby establishing that the glorified side-shows called "museums" are manned by barkers who know the difference between "true meteoritic material" and "matter of terrestial origin".

Charles Fort very clearly pointed out that the basis for such classification by Authority was entirely arbitrary. Very few of the chunks of metal and stone which Science declares are *true* meteorites have ever been seen to fall. The vast majority of these pieces were *found,* on the surface of the ground or buried in it. Scores of them have been plowed up by farmers. Nevertheless, if the objects have certain charactersistics they are accepted as true meteorites no matter where they are found. On the other hand, no object which does not fit the standard is ever accepted by Authority as meteoritic even if its fall has been witnessed by scores or even hundreds of people. Time after time after time - a light in the sky, a rush, a roar, heat, perhaps an explosion. Witnesses rush to pick up what dropped. Authority shakes its head. "Fake!" they say. "That was on the ground in the first place because it is not true meteoritic material."

Los Angeles *Examiner* 3-4-36: A farmer near Wooster, Ohio, heard a whirring sound, looked up and saw a trail of red fire. A minute later an object crashed into the snow. It was a molten mass in the shape of a half-moon, six inches long.

The Secretary wrote to the man and received this reply:

"It was on Christmas Day, 1935. It was snowing. I was about sixty feet from a small creek. Ice was about three inches thick. I heard a noise like an airplane . . . excessive heat and yellow light caused me to look around. The heat was so intense I put my hand to my cheek to ward it off. When the object struck the ice on the creek the sound was as though hundreds of giant fire-crackers had been set off. I ran my hand in the hole in the ice—about 2 x 3 feet—and brought up the object . . . I did not see the object while it was in space, it was so brilliant, yellow, like hot iron. I broke the matter open with a hammer and saw that it contained a bright metal that looked like silver or aluminum. The outer surface was covered with a reddish yellow substance not unlike ochre. . . . The object came down from a westerly direction at an angle of about 45°. In space the object seemed to be the size of a bushel basket . . . I suppose that the brilliance of the object made it appear that size. When it was cold it was about the size of the average man's fist. I should guess it weighed about 2½ or 3 pounds . . . A professor of Wooster College examined it and pronounced it of terrestial origin, pyrite, etc. He said it was a hoax. But I assure you it was not. I never heard of a hoax falling from the sky, did you? (signed) Daniel L. Cayo."

The Society's records hold innumerable similar damnations by Orthodoxy, but they are not to the point of the present dissent.

What aggravates the Secretary here is the publicity given the so-called Draconids, announced for October 9, 1939. If a theatrical press-agent promised the papers a spectacular event in Times Square, on such a date at such an hour, and nothing whatever happened, he would be laughed out of the office the next time he came around with a yarn, but Astronomers are sacred. They've been guessing wrong since the year 1 and correcting their bum guesses with still sillier ones since the year 2. But the papers continue to scent their paths with incense for the same reason they kow-tow to the Church, *i.e.,* they don't want to throw a lot of empty-headed stuffed-shirts out of gainful employment.

The Times (10-8-39) ran a double-spread feature story in its Sunday magazine section, blowing up the allegedly forthcoming display of Draconids. It must be said for Ernest Cherrington, Jr., the author of the article, that he has "may be" — "if" — and "perhaps" in his first paragraph. Those words are serving him very well right now. An anonymous editorial writer was a little more brash in the same paper next morning. Under the heading — TONIGHT'S METEORS — he writes: "Why are astronomers so sure about tonight? Because the earth will cross the orbit of the Giacobini-Zinner comet, which gives rise to the Draconids, a shower of meteors first observed on October 9, 1926."

But the show did not come off.

However, your Secretary observes that October 10th broke all records for heat in many places, and he passes on the Fortean suggestion that perhaps Giacobini-Zinner has "burned" itself out but that its "wake" is still alive with minute particles too small to see but plenty large enough to agitate Earth's atmosphere and cause "hot weather" . . . There is no charge for these suggestions. (Weather was "unseasonably hot" and many people complained of "colds" and other slight illness the same week in 1938.)

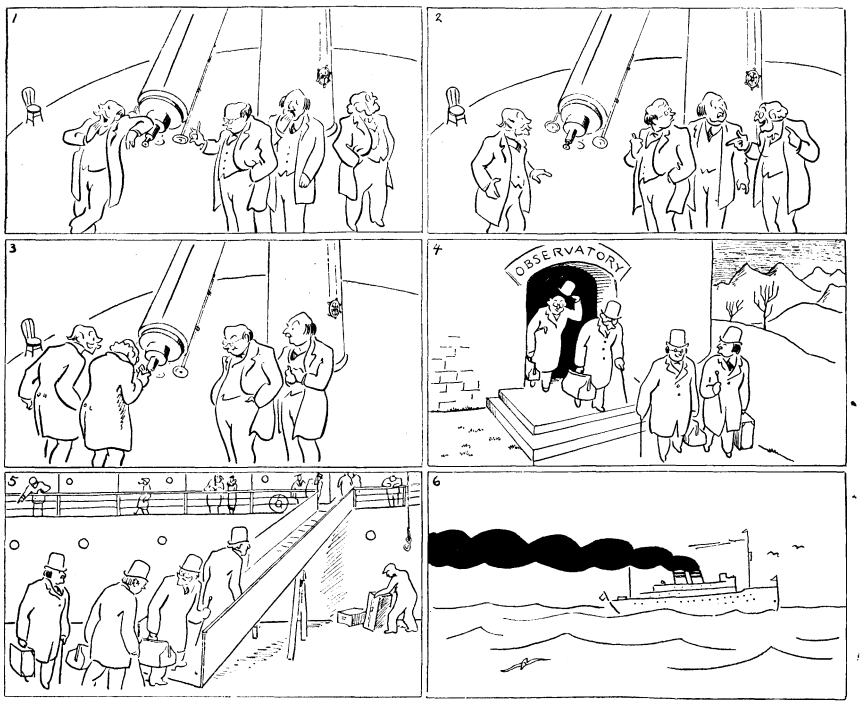
Members of the Society reported seeing dozens of meteors which were *not* on the Astronomers' schedules in the past year. Space prevents listing, but students will be supplied with data on request. Send stamps.

TENNESSEE LAW

One State Representative in Tennessee was smart enough (2-16-39) to introduce a bill for the repeal of that State's anti-evolution law. The rest of the Representatives were smart enough to defeat it. The sharecroppers don't have much, but God is still their father.

BOUNCING BED

Grandma called it "witchcraft". "Scientists" said it was the doings of 9 year-old Bertha Marie Sybert. Bertha said (12-24-38) she didn't have anything to do with it. The bed just bounced. Jonesville, Virginia, was the scene of this solemnity. The investigating "scientists" were from the department of "Psychology", University of Tennessee.



PARADOXES

Emma Butler's *cereus* bloomed (9-14-37) in broad daylight. Albion, N. Y.

Mrs. Hannah Foulger broke her leg. The police looked for her relatives and found her husband in hospital with head injuries from another accident. *Russell, Liverpool.*

Two coastguards dropped (10-28-37) dead the same night, one at Sheringham, one at Wells, both on the Norfolk coast. *Cass, Hull.*

Brothers died (1-10-38) within a few hours of each other, one in London, one in Stoke-on-Trent. *Ibid.*

"A robin which has taken to fishing is puzzling (9-19-37) scientists at Churchhill, Manitoba. They claim it is the first case of its kind." *Russell, Liverpool.*

Henry Stanley-Laird Cox, manager of an outfitting shop committed suicide by rubber-tube-auto-exhaust. Within two weeks, the new manager, "almost unkown" to his predecessor, was found lying in a wood. "A bottle was by his side." *Ibid*

While examining (Penobscott?) Indian skeletons thought to be more than 400 years old, Gust Carlson dropped (5-21-39) dead, at Vinalhaven, Me.

Miss S. M. Scott, Village-way, Pinner, states she saw (8-22-38) a white blackbird in her garden. *Brit. Corr.*

A 16-year old girl who lived alone with bears in the mountains of Adana, Anatolia, for 14 years, was discovered (8-13-38) by Turkish hunters.

"Bearded and naked," a real-life Tarzan has been found (8-13-38) in the forest of Sanski Most, Bosnia. "The man appears incapable of speech, and shrieks wildly at sight of money." *Brit. Corr.*

Mrs. Alison Travers, Dere Cottage, Buxton Lane, Caterham, states (9-7-38) that "an albino starling" visited her garden "the other day." *Ibid.*

The Cree Indians told (9-9-39) P. G. Downes that they had seen and killed several "amphibious" moose, in their time, around The Pas, Manitoba. They call it *Pikwutchee Kwaskaypitchikaywin.* Said to be like any other moose but shorter of leg and generally thicker throughout—and capable of living under water.

BACK TO ASTROLOGY

Get a wand and a crystal ball for Swami Ellsworth Huntington, Yale. In his studies as chairman of the Committee on the Atmosphere and Man and the Committee on Human Heredity, of the National Research Council, he has rediscovered astrology and is now confirming statements practicing astrologers have been making for centuries.

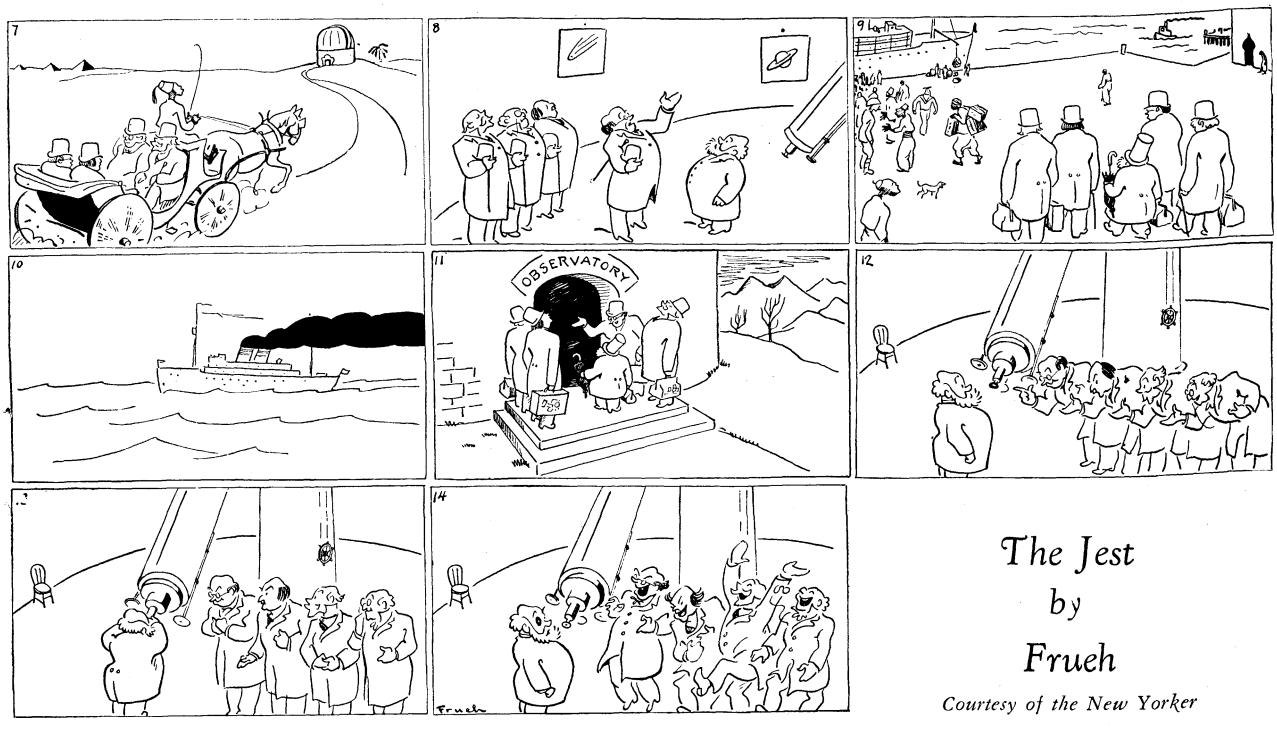
Dr. William F. Peterson, U. of Illinois, told (4-6-39) the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Philadelphia, that "broadly speaking, more females are conceived in warm weather and more males in cold weather".

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

SWALLOWS BREAK RHYTHM

October 23, 1938 the Capistrano swallows departed on schedule as they are said to have done for 162 years. March 19, 1939 they came back on time. BUT — on September 7, 1939 Father Hutchinson informed the papers that the swallows had gone two months ahead of schedule. One Dr. Pottenger, described as a "scientist", linked the birds' untimely departure to the Northern lights.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW



The Jest
by
Frueh

Courtesy of the New Yorker

ANOTHER "LOST WORLD"

You'd think the Fakers would have taken a lesson from the Shiva Temple fiasco of 1937, when Harold "Lost World" Anthony of the American Museum of Natural History exploded like a balloon full of particularly noxious gas. But, no, Peberdy, Pincus and Pain—on my honor!—left (9-6-38) Georgetown, British Guiana, to collect specimens in what is called a "Lost World", because Conan Doyle wrote a thriller of that title using that locale.

11-18-38. Paul Zahl, Union College, is going to fly that same "Lost World".

For the benefit of those who missed it at the time, the Secretary's report on Dr. Anthony's report follows:

If the literate portion of the English speaking world had not been made literate by the use of text books written expressly to put the questioning mind to sleep, it could not read Dr. Harold E. Anthony's account of his "conquest" of Shiva Temple without disgorging. A more palpable intellectual fraud has never been perpetrated. Trusting entirely to the soporific awe inherent in all "Scientific" pronouncements, Dr. Anthony and Science Service, a "non-profit", Scripps-Howard-endowed, institution of Washington, D. C., have foisted upon the public a series of articles which for genuine effrontery rival of the book of Genesis.

In the middle of the past summer, there flashed upon the view of an amazed populace, the "news"—sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History where Dr. Anthony is curator of mammals—that the tops of at least two plateaus in the Grand Canyon had been isolated for upwards of 20,000 years, that any vegetable or animal life on those plateaus had been forced to subsist without intercourse with the rest of the world and, accordingly, might show idiosyncracies induced by and peculiar to that environment. It was even suggested that if there was no "free" water there, animals marooned atop the sheer bluffs (prophetic phrase) might have evolved so as to be able to live with little or no water, or so as to obtain the modicum that they still might need from such grass and leaves as they would find there to eat. Man, it was confidently stated, had never scaled those cliffs.

The build-up campaign continued for several weeks and Dr. Anthony was inflated to hero proportions by the press, always more than a little anxious to report even the mildest flatulency in anything called a curator.

When excitement had reached white heat, about the eleventh of September, Dr. Anthony, leader, ascended the bluff of what he called Shiva Temple, with a few companions, and discovered that the plateau had never been either inaccessible or isolated. Mammals large—up to deer—and mammals small—down to mice—had come and gone, back and forth, if not with ease, at least with frequency. There were arrowheads and pots—and hand-made ovens in which Indians had cooked. Plants and animals found living there were exactly like plants and animals in other parts of that section of Arizona. The whole notion of a "lost world" and the isolation of the area had been a myth.

Instead of stating plainly that an error had been made, that getting up and down had really been easier for 20,000 years than Dr. Anthony had imagined, the great Scientific hero wrote a series of articles for syndication by Science Service, filling space with such bilge and offal as my eyes have seldom if ever before seen or read. There is really only one word for such a product and that is a very unpretty and discourteous word. Insofar as the text of the articles says anything at all, the statement is that the specimens collected must be studied thoroughly before the findings are published. Dr. Anthony still hopes to find differences in his Shiva mammals even if the area was not isolated! The stories do not indicate to what looney influence the hero will attribute any changes he does find, but a suggestion is available in the officially recognized cause of the Hindenburg disaster. Since the animals were *not* isolated, if they differ at all, the difference can be blamed on St. Elmo's fire!

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Members in good standing for 1940 will receive little pasteboards to carry in their wallets — for all the world like Elks, Masons and other respectable people. The difference between "joining" the Forteans and "joining" any other organization is explained on the cards. They will be issued only to paid-up members. Pay your dues for 1940 — NOW.

LOBSTERS

9-1-39. A *blue* lobster was caught by Captain Harold Kip, Montauk, Long Island.

10-2-39. A "light" blue lobster with beige claws spotted with bright blue was caught at Guilford, Conn., by Fred Blaha. "It will be sent to the Peabody Museum, Yale."

FORTEANA

By

T. Swann Harding

Author of "These National Tax-Eaters" and "Degradation of Science"

The edges of Niagara Falls turned from green to velvet red, which was said to have been caused by engineers dredging up river seven miles. However, the engineers were not dredging that day and they bring up blue, not red, clay when they do dredge.

* * *

Dr. John M. Cooper of the Catholic University announced that the Northern Cree Indians on Hudson Bay were prey to many mental and nervous diseases, 85 percent of the female adults being subject to hysteria with convulsions, hallucinations, melancholia, insensibility to pain and catalepsy. Noted psychiatrist holds the human race has become neurotic because they have gotten away from the simple life of primitives.

Windigo psychoses were common among the Indians; the individual at such time imagined himself to be a supernatural being with cannabalistic tastes, a Windigo, and thereupon developed a pronounced taste for human flesh that enabled him to release a great many inhibitions but proved a strain on tribal decorum.

* * *

Du Bois, writing on *obesity,* asks why don't we all get fat? A man aged forty and weighing 165 who has consumed food at an average rate of 2,500 calories daily, has consumed 18,250,000 calories since he attained the end of his growth period. What did he do with it? The amount of excess fat stored in or lost from the body in a person whose weight remains approximately stable is extremely little, say a kilogram, representing 9,300 calories. Here is efficiency to within a half of 1 percent, equalled by few if any mechanical devices or biological systems. Yet 1 pat of butter daily weighing 11 grams could add 8.9 grams of fat to the body weight in a day and jump the weight of this man to over 300 pounds in no time, while it would take a walk of 1 1/3 miles, brisk at that, to rid him of this excess. Why don't we all get fat?

* * *

McGovern once went to a *native South American witch doctor* afflicted with a violent toothache and neuralgia. The doctor passed his hands lightly over McGovern's face, neck, chest, and back and thus drew out the poison which he then blew or wiped from his contaminated finger tips. He then sucked various regions in this part of the body and spat out the poison. Next he "extracted" three long black thorns from the back of McGovern's neck, doing this by very clever sleight of hand. These he said caused the pains. McGovern laughed superciliously. However, his toothache and neuralgia immediately disappeared and he felt them no more for many weeks.

Science for March 9, 1928, noted the request of the English Bishop of Ripon for a *ten-year cessation from scientific research* on the basis that mass production had already outdistanced thought in this sector. Sir Ernest Rutherford, president of the Royal Society (since deceased), remarked at the opening of the new physics laboratory of the University of Bristol: "When I look back over the 30 years or more of my connection with research I am conscious that I have always been looking for a breathing space when, for a few years, no advance of consequence would be made: when I should gain an opportunity for studying in more detail, at my leisure, the ground already won. Alas, that breathing space has never come, and I am sure will never come in my time."

* * *

Research papers are produced by mass production, like automobiles. They are good enough to hold together for a time but most of them soon fall to pieces. There is enormous duplication. Electrical patents are still granted on devices clearly described twenty to thirty years ago. Theses are intricate and complex but proofs are dubious. If an item appears new it is rushed to print yet Darwin held his manuscript 20 years before publishing it. There is room for much more philosophical contemplation in this field. Libraries bulge and workers are appalled with the extent of the literature.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

SHOWER OF PEBBLES

Typical poltergeist phenomenon is reported (6-25-39) from Port of Spain, Trinidad. Monica Huggins, 17, appears to be the agent. Stones fell inside the lobby of her father's hotel. She moved. Stones fell at the new address. She moved again. The pebbles followed. In a state of hysteria and collapse, the girl was taken in by Benedictine monks. No further stonings have been reported.

Miss Lillie Sloate, 67, claimed she could make rain by sitting near a body of water —and demonstrated (3-27-39) in Frostproof, Fla.

CANCER RACKET NOVELTY

The latest dodge in the Cancer Industry is a "freezing process". With showmanship that Barnum could be proud of, it is being touted everywhere. Drives for charity funds, government grants and—of course—legislation are next in order.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

SAVANT GOES SANE!

Hartvig Fritsch, Danish delegate to the League of Nation's "political commission" suggested (9-16-37) that an impartial and unbiased history of the world be written for universal use. The poor madman was put in a straight-jacket immediately and the other delegates tried very hard to ignore the unseemly interruption.

10TH MOON AGAIN

The tenth moon of Jupiter which revolves "backwards" has been discovered again. This time it is Seth Nicholson of Mt. Wilson who announces (9-16-38) it—with an eleventh thrown in. No. 11 revolves the "right" way.

MIRACLE

WBZ, a radio station, Boston, announces (9-3-38) that it has a microphone which broadcasts when "dead"—*i. e.,* when it is *not* connected with an electric circuit. U. P.

Not to be outdone, RCA engineers on Long Island report receiving telecasts—albeit distorted—from London. This is contrary to all theory, according to the N. Y. *Times,* which adds that London telecasts have been seen as far west as Arizona.

Here we have an interesting anomaly. It is the spectacle of the Holy Freeprez actually touting an exploded scientific theory. Such a reversal of practice is no accident and a little application to the matter will disclose that in the "technical problems" of television we have an almost unique set of obstacles, nine parts politics and one part printer's ink. So that before the battle for control of the air is over we are going to be privileged observers of a spectacle for the ages, the spectacle of a great newspaper eating its own words a few at a time—like a dog returning to its vomit—slowly.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

PROFESSORS HOW COULD YOU?

Jan Schilt, Astronomy, Columbia, says (10-9-39) a lot of the "stars" are right close . . . that the boys behind the telescopes have been making a big mistake in their measurements. *Herald Tribune*: "For many years, Professor Schilt explained, astronomers had found that trigonometric lines aimed from the earth to a star had often shot off into space." Why! Doctor! What will Shapley say to that kind of talk? You'll have to do severe penance!

But Dr. Schilt is not alone. Dr. J. S. Plaskett of the Canadian Dominion Observatory cut some measurements in half a few years ago. The difference has hardly been noticeable to students of astronomy, but we'll bet it played hell with Plaskett's plenary indulgence!

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

THE SCIENCE FOLLIES
Glorifying the Ph. D. (and up)

Dr. Charles G. Abbott, secretary of Smithsonian and W. H. Hoover, of his staff, announce an "electric galvanometer which can detect such tiny changes as one ten-trillionth of an ampere of current". This little monkey-doodle is to be used to "measure the heat of stars billions of miles away"! But someone at Smithsonian has a sense of humor. Note the verbatim quote: "The sensitiveness and steadiness of apparatus required in order that data of this kind will be of value to astronomers, is well-nigh fantastic." Although your Secretary tosses off a phrase or two himself, now and again, he can't improve on that. Yes, sir, the whole thing is "well-nigh fantastic".

Dr. Cecilia Payne Gaposchkin and Dr. Fred Whipple, both Harvard, told (7-18-39) the Singer-Polignac Congress of Astrophysics in Paris, how they had lowered the temperature of a super-nova from 1,000,000 degrees Centigrade to 15,000 degrees. It's a wonder Abbott and Shapley don't merge their flocks so the faithful of both churches will appear slightly less assinine in print.

One outfit can measure to within *one ten-trillionth* of an ampere and the rest can't hit within 985.000 degrees Centigrade! How do you like that!

London Times 10-9-38: An official of the Australian Meteorological Bureau has been deputed to travel to and fro across the Tasman Sea releasing balloons and ascertaining at what speed they move at varying levels. That's nice work if you can get it.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

RABID HOT DOGS

The chances are Dr. Thurlow C. Nelson, Rutgers, did not think it up all by himself, but he's the outspoken fellow who says 17,000,000 Americans have it. It's "trichinosis"—a new Scientific bugaboo to scare people into contributing to a "war chest" and so on. First blast of the publicity campaign came in January and, of course, legislation will be demanded. It seems we get it from pork, so, we'll soon have a law against feeding swill to hogs and another one intended to mulct the makers of frankfurters. Aren't there a lot of different ways to make a living?

HOW TO PREVENT PANIC

Strange critters will appear, so steps are taken.

"Something about the size of a Great Dane" killed (1-29-37) eighteen sheep by breaking their necks. For details write Clarence Noon, Philadelphia, New York.

"Animal" accused of killing poultry around Verona, Calif., was shot (2-13-36). "Of a flame-red color, 5 feet long, shaped roughly like a pig, with forefeet like a bear and hind feet like a duck. Its incisor teeth were over 2 inches long." L. A. *Her-Ex.*

"Vigilantes" searched (11-1-37) around Morrison Ill., for a "huge wild animal" which eluded them but left large tracks.

"Terror spread" in Mobile, Alabama, when "ordinarily reputable" negroes (the Alabama equivalent of "usually well-informed sources") reported (1-29-38) that a "thing"—dubbed the "Frankenstein of of Fisher's Alley"—had been appearing and disappearing for 48 hours. No desription is given but it frightened negro ladies leaving church. It was said that "bullets bounced off the monster's shell-like exterior".

The police "clung" to "their original theory" that it might be a swamp bear, a wild dog or wildcat.

In Columbus, Ohio, a "thing" gnawed (4-29-38) a bone in a backyard. Described as: "the size of a dozen cats, head and feet large, fur gray with yellow stripes." It left footprints no one there could identify. It "ate" bark from trees.

A "slasher" cut (or did not cut) 13 people in the West Riding area the first week in December, 1938. British police put a stop to that nonsense by prosecuting the people who reported being attacked! —Convicting them, too, what's more. The papers finally decided there never had been a ripper, that *all* the stories were false. *Brit. Corr.* (This is the usual Scientific method. If anything can't be explained it's denied.)

But the American system for dispatching such "things" is to turn them into jokes. . . . "For weeks" something had been "chewing up hound dogs" and making frightful sounds at night in woods near Glastonberry, Conn. A posse was formed which — with the help of the Freeprez — turned the whole thing into a low comedy reminiscent of a Shriners' convention. They were hunting a "Glowakus" — and had so much fun doing it they kept it up nearly two weeks.

By that time the hi-jinks had calmed the country-side and whatever had been making the trouble had fled — probably revolted at the spectacle of his hunters.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

NEW KASPAR HAUSER OLD

The New Orleans police picked him up (10-25-37) and eventually got "his name" down on paper. It is Maillilaigeyaeyaegyaye Edeyueayearayilo Anililiyllayio. He was booked as 63, a beggar. None could understand what he said — like Einstein there! —so his story could not be learned. The police thought he was a Finn. We think he is a scientist casting pearls before swine.

YAWNING CONTINUES

G. W. Pope is yawning in Tampa, Fla. A lady is yawning in Baltimore. Many more. We lost one case. Hiccoughing also continues, but we have a man in S. Hadley Falls, Mass., who can cure that. Limitations of space prevent listing these cases but the Society keeps all reports on file. Members will also please report cases of "sleeping sickness" and cases of death of alleged somnambulists.

EARTH FLAMES

On November 3, 1937, John Heggerson, Eureka, Nevada, reported that 100 square feet of his ranch had been burning, with an oily smell and black smoke for 9 days. He doesn't know how it started. The land is "a shale formation". "There have been no oil deposits uncovered in Nevada." Los Angeles *Times.*

TWO "MAGNETIC" HILLS

For several generations "Croy Brae" in England has been a subject of controversy. There one "appears to travel uphill while one is *in reality* coasting down". In the course of a dozen explanations, the place is variously referred to as "Bewitched Hill" and "Magnetic Hill".

Now (7-13-39) something very similar is happening in Leominster, Mass. An auto parked at the foot of Lowe Street Hill with brakes set, backed up the hill 200 feet. The superintendent of Streets investigated and watched his own car climb up backwards without power. U.P.

Pay Your Dues for 1940 — NOW

SPOOK DOG ETCHING

The people who live in the Brooklyn house and owned the late "Duke" say the two silhouettes of his head "just came" in the window glass where he used to sit. Three chemists from Polytech, Brooklyn, "identified" the work as "etching". The Charles Rauschers are (1-2-39) indignant.

Lightning not only killed (8-9-38) Ben Oliver, 17, Montreal, but it left "perfect imprints of ferns and leaves on his chest, arms and legs". One account adds that such foliage surrounded the scene of the tragedy.

Another "fern" tattooed by lightning was discovered (8-15-38) on the chest of Jasper Freeman, 31, at the inquest, Tugby, Leicestershire. He was struck under an ash tree. *Brit. Corr.*

The San Francisco *Examiner* (7-19-36) recites a tale of a negro porter struck by lightning in South Bend, Oregon, thirty years ago. His hand was on the window pane and his finger prints are still there.

DO-DO ON WAY BACK

The sea otter, considered (1916) virtually extinct was all but plentiful off California, 6-22-38. "Experts" were surprised!

Two students of U. of Miami discovered (7-2-38) two trees believed to have been extinct for 100 years. George and Roy found the *Clusia* and the *Cupania* growing in the Florida keys.

"Tasmanian" marsupial tigers—"living fossils"—thought to have been extinct, reported in Australia near Hobart where a "sanctuary" will protect them.

A fish "declared officially" to have been extinct for 50,000,000 years has been fished up off South Africa. It's a *Coelacauth.* PTO July, 1939. *Brit. Corr.*

George Vanderbilt and his wife reported (8-10-39) seeing a *serinus* in Sumatra. It's a bird and it's been extinct for ever so long—only it isn't.

THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT

Continued from the Fortean, No. 2. These notes are printed here for the first time.

1814

April 3 /Quake fog / Quake at Leghorn and Pisa, 3:45 A. M. "The light of the sun appeared dim during the day. BA 54.
3 Small quakes Leghorn and Pisa, Italy.
19 Fireball Berlin.
28 Small quake Innsbruck, Austria.
May 10 Quakes and a little island appeared in the Sea of Azov. At 2 P. M. a violent submarine eruption on coast of Kamchatka. BA 54.
June to July / Quakes in China—small.
June 4 Hail—13 to 15 inches in diameter in Ohio. Thomson Met.—p. 180.
Early in July / St. Lawrence River / fall of dust etc. Phil. Mag. 44/91.
July 3-4 Night. St. Lawrence River 20 miles from the Bay of Swan Islands—Account of a British officer of engineers of a great fall of ashes toward morning "the whole atmosphere appeared red and fiery to a wonderful degree. Ashes appeared to be wood ashes." Ont a detonating meteor? Phil. Mag. 44/91.
3-4 "Canada / Meteor; detonation dust fall; or 4th of July? BA 60-65.
July / Editor Phil. Mag. 48/73 notes that a military officer had sent him an account of phenomenon in the gulf of St. Lawrence. The sea was as black as ink and ashes falling upon ships and for 2 days sun could scarcely be seen.
29 Geneva fireball. BA 60.
August / B O / At Frimon near Amiens / frogs. L'Institut, 2/354. Correspondent told of (them) falling on his clothes.

(Aside: Fort's "B O" above is repeated in a category we shall not reach for a long time. It is clear from the arrangement of the notes that he was searching his chronological arrangement and plucking out specific notes for a future book in which he would refer to these data as opprobrious to the Scientists for their *odor,* "B O". The one above, for instance. The frogs fell on the man's clothes so the Scientists turned up their noses. T. T.)

Aug. 3 In Jour. F. Inst. 15/408, L. Blesson, Major of Engineers, Berlin says shot off fireworks from summit of a mountain near Minden. "A number of small red flames were observed around us, below the summit which speedily extinguished — to be succeeded however by others on the firing of the next rocket.
3 Frankfort fireball. BA 60.
7 Quakes and rain / Laibach, shocks "heavy rain fell at the moment of the shocks." BA 54.
9-26 Vesuvius active. Oct. 9 / 26-28 terrific noises. Dec. 25. Vesuvius, Phillips, p. 98.
Sept. early / Alais, Sard. France. Loud explosions and a pit formed. BA '54. See Sept. 15 / See March 15, '06.
3 Great quake at Irkutsk. BA '11.
5 Meteorites / In several communes of Lot et Saronne great number of stones. Gent's Mag. 84/2/279.
5 Agen, Lot et Saronne, France (about noon) Meteorites, B.b. Brit. 57/80 (F) See Aug., 1826.
8 Augsburg fireball. BA 60.
11 Fireball toward South, Glasgow. BA 60.
Oct. 27 (It. Pied.) (D-287) Like brick dust / Oneglia, Piedmont. Leisure Hour, 16/6. (Over) N. Q. / 4-9-327 / Ciel et Terre, 5-174 / Eclectic Mag. 68-437 / ( ) Vesuvius active. See Aug. 6.
Nov. 6 Quake at Lyons etc., preceded by loud explosion, much rain fell. BA 54.
5 Chail, Allahabad, N. W. Prov. India. (F) (Reverse) 4:30 P.M. BA 60.

(Aside: Probably a quake, but it does not say so. There is also the possibility that the "C" is separated from "hail" and that the note refers to another fall of ice. T. T.)

6 Medium quake France, Lyons and from Macon to Vienne.
24 Violent quake in China.
Dec. 2 Peckham near London. Annals of Phil. 5/236, writer walking in open part of that village, suddenly saw a great light—nearly equal to day; about 20 to 11 P. M. / Others saw it—no meteor seen, no explosion heard.

1815

1815 Medium quakes China and Japan.
1815 / Academy of Science, St. Petersburg (*sic*) received a case containing specimens of stones that fell during a hail storm at Wilna, of which some hundreds weighed as much as a pound. Sy. Met. 17/151. See 1844.
Jan. 2 Violent quake at Kaga, Japan.
Feb. 18 (F) Meteorite fell at Dooralla India, (several pages) 16 or 18 miles from Umballah, about noon. BA 1850-118.
April 2-7 Volcano, Java. H. M. C. R. 70 878.
3 Meteor trail for a quarter of an hour in the zenith. (L) England / European Mag. 67/300.

(Aside: The "(L)" above leads me to believe that the single letter (F) observed many times designates notes that were employed in *Lo!* Too Scientific for you? Well, "D-278" in the Piedmont, Italy, item, Oct. 27, just above, means that the phenomenon appears on page 287 of the Book of the Damned. That checks, with the added fillip that in the printed book the reference is given as *Electric Magazine.* In 1868! *Eclectic* is the word. . . . Now, I believe you will find the trail of meteors for a full quarter of an hour in New Lands. "D" is for Damned. "L" is for Lands. "F" is for Lo! F is for Lo! because Fort's title for that book until about a week before publication was "God and the Fishmonger". Sussman didn't like that title and the three of us tried for a long time to think of a better. I have a letter from Fort written while that was going on:

"I was thinking that an excitement could start up, almost of itself, if the time has come. So here's another title-suggestion—IF THE TIME HAS COME. THE TIME HAS COME! would be more striking: but it has in it the sureness, or the psuedo-sureness, of the crank and quack.

"Good God—or Godness—or whatever it is—the people downstairs had a baby, and they simply named her Madeline, and there wasn't any argument. Still, I do admit that they're not trying to sell their brat."

Lo! was my suggestion and Fort liked it at once. But, while he was writing the book, "F" stood for Fishmonger, I think. It can be checked against the printed volume. T. T.)

April 5 Sounds like gun fire heard in Java. See Ap. 11.
11 Sounds like gun fire heard in many places in Java. Thought to be cannonading and troops were called out. In one place people thought that a fort was being attacked and marched to its defense. Learned that a volc eruption on island of Sumbawa. Quar. Jour. Roy. Inst. 1-248.
30 Florence fireball BA 60.
May 3 Violent quake in Mexico.
10 Fireball Worcester. BA 1860.
May / Great eruption, island of Sumbawa, about 550 miles from Batavia, Java. Gent's Mag. 1815/2/558. Tidal waves and far at sea pumice and trunks of trees. At places 250 miles away, darkness until noon.
June 21 B / Ex and phe in sun. London Times, p. 3.

(Aside: That doesn't make much sense to me; "phe" is phenomenon, but the rest of it will require checking against the reference. T. T.)

July / Violent quake Formosa.
Summer / Stones, Malpas / near Chester. An. Phil. Nov. 1813. See same year before. Look this up.
Aug. 5-6 Small quake in China.
15 Waterspout near Huddersfield.

Gent's Mag (1815) 85/2/175.
August Perseids. A. J. Sci. 37-335.
15 Volcano, Goentoes, Java / N. M. C. R. 70-878.
September Eruption of salt mud in Japan. An. Reg. '16-585.
Sept. / Hurrican. AM. J. Sci. 42-243.
16 Gottingen fireball. BA 60.
29 London fireball. BA 60.
Sept. later part / Sea south of India covered with dust. Phil. Mag. July, 1816.
Oct. 3 Chassigny, Haute Marne, France /Meteorite. (F)
12 21 h Venus inferior conjunction
14 Medium quake Formosa.
17 Opposition Mars (A1)
21 Violent quake China.

1815 Box A (Resumed)

Nov. 4 B O — Stones rising / Niles Weekly Register, (Ballance of 1815) writes that according to interviews with several persons, stones had been seen to rise in a field near Marbletown, rising 3 or 4 feet and moving horizontally from 30 to 60 feet, a few of them moving higher than tree tops / This according to New York Courier - the phenomenon in Ulster County, New York. Also copies from Albany Argus that facts substantially the same been stated to the Editor of Argus / said that long time before been a similar occurrence at Albany.

1815 Box 1 (Resumed)

Nov. 16 Violent quake China.
15 Transit Mercury / S. Op. 1.

1816

1816 Italian series sounds regular / See March 16, 1888 / Quakes.
1816 Ball Reference See "1888-89" note.
1816 Auroras Great Britain / A. J. Sci. 14/96.
Jan. 8 Pesth, Hungary, fireball. BA 60.

1816 Box A (Resumed)

January The Tower ghost. Notes and Querries 2/10/192.
1816 Look for Tower ghost / Poltergeist and a cylindrical glass object. Dec. 25, 1880.
1816 Tower ghost object like football July 15, 1882.
1816 Tower ghost / A black object / March 13, 1920.

1816 Box 1 (Resumed)

Feb. 1 early in the day / All Saints Day / Lisbon quake. A thick fog covered the city. About 1 a.m. a quake - a little later a meteor. 7 a.m. another but lighter shock. AN Reg 1816.
2 Shocks at Lisbon followed by heavy rain. BA 54.
2 Lisbon / quake lasted one minute - others 6 hours later - a meteor appeared (reverse) things in the air that were uttering cries - said been "flocking birds". Rept 54/106. (Same as BA 54. T.T.) What shams? begins? (The questions are Fort's, but I am not sure of the two words, *shams* and *begins,* myself. T.T.)
16 Highest recorded tide on Tyne. London Times, page 4, Feb. 11, 1868.
March Annals of Philosophy / that recently 9 miles from Lausanne / Singular snow covered with larvae "different from any which are usually observed in this country. They seemed to be dead but revived when placed near a fire."
March 17 Quake Manchester Morning Post, Oct. 9, '63. See 1843
17 1 p.m. Mansfield, Woodhouse, Nottingham, Chester / rumbling sound and sound as if of falling hail. (Quake) London Times p. 3, Mar. 23; p. 3, Mar. 25-26 / This of fall of pieces of stone and mortar from a church steeple / Lincoln, Leicester, Loughborough, Sheffield 12:37 p.m. Derby.
23 Oxford and Surrey / detonating meteor. BA 60.
25 Berkshire and Oxford between 10 and 11 p.m. detonating meteor louder than thunder. Gent's Mag. 1816-1-367.
April 13 London Times, p. 3, great earth fall in Sweden.
15 Red dust different places in Italy. An de Chimie 2/31/268 See March 14, 1813. (See October issue The Fortean. T. T.)
29-30 Sun spots / Niles Register 10/167-168.
May 26 Small quake, Upper Ganges, India. BA '11.
June 10 5 sunspots, June 12 - 6, France. London Times June 26.
1816 / Summer / a naked eye sunspot for 8 or 10 days in succession. Niles Weekly Register, Oct. 1, 1831.
1816 / Summer / B. Eagle / 1901 / Jr. Me. 24-10-1
1816 / Summer / New York Evening Post, Tuesday, June 21, 1927. (A newspaper clipping. T. T.) Is 1927 to be the year without a summer? This is the pleasing prospect held out by Herbert Janvrin Brown in the *Magazine of Wall Street,* who bases his forecasts upon solar observations and the periodicity of lunar-solar and sunspot cycles which are this year coinciding. A similar coincidence occurred in 1816, a year in which there was actually no summer, and, according to Mr. Brown the weather conditions of the past nine months duplicate almost exactly the weather from September 1815 through May, 1816. The records for 1816 give a medium temperature of 57 for May, 64 for June and 68 for July. During June there were severe frosts and even ice; three inches of snow fell in the interior of New York State. On the morning of July 5, according to Pierce's *Weather Records,* "there was ice as thick as window glass in Pennsylvania, New York and through New England. Indian corn was chilled and withered and the grass was so killed by repeated frosts that grazing cattle would scarcely eat it." The year 1816 also saw a fifty-foot flood in Ohio River, which contributed to an overflow in the Mississippi Valley, then inhabited by Indians, and New Orleans suffered unparalleled losses. There is no denying that we are starting off coolly this year. With June days averaging about 60, it is hard to realize that summer should be at hand. If only the weather does not turn too cool for crops, city dwellers at least will have no cause for complaint if 1927 continues to follow the course of 1816.
July 19 Stones — (fell) "during the storms, inundations and hurricanes of that month" Mag Nat Hist 7-303
Aug. 7 Vesuvius. Gent's Mag 1816/2/267
7 Hungary / Detonating meteor. BA 60.
August or July / Glastonbury meteorite. BA '60. See May 17, '16.
Aug. 13 Comrie (Scotland T. T.) / said that at Dunkeld a small meteor seen at time of shock. London Times Aug. 21, 1816. / 10:45 P. M.
13 Small quake Inverness, Scotland. BA '11.
Sept. 20 Volcano Goentoes, Java N. M. Comptes Rendus 70-878
24 Comrie (Scotland T. T.) / Milne's list Edin. Rev 31/110 gives at least back to 1788 / 17 instances in 1795/ This first association with aerial (reverse) quotes a resident of Comrie — that in sky had been "a large luminous body bent like a crescent, which stretched itself over the heavens."
24 Belfast / 8:20 (P. M. is assumed T. T.) Auroral arch east end as if origin in Pleiades passing through Cassiopia. Before 10 the top of the arch had regularly declined from the zenith about 20 degrees toward south. London Times, Oct. 3, '16.
Oct. 11-14 Quakes, Banda, Java, N. M. Comptes Rendus 70-878
19 Dusseldorf fireball. BA 60.
19 (?) At Dusseldorf fell a large mass of friable substance of

sulphurous odor. Niles Weekly Register, Jan. 14, 1817. No. 307.

Nov. 15 Severe shocks in Canada. Niles Weekly Register Nov. 30 / N. M.

Dec. 16-25 / Italy / Rumblings like cannon fire. Boll. Sis. Ital. 7/36

20 Fireball. BA 60.

1817

Jan. 17 Italian sound / Rumblings Sciacca. See '16

19-24 Sciacca / Sulphurous odor / column of fire and smoke or a luminous whirlwind. See 1805.

(I regret that so far I have been unable to discover any notes for the year 1805. There is a possibility that they will appear as the transcription goes forward. T. T.)

23 and to March / great eruptions in Java. London Times, Sept. 20, p. 3.

24 / Feb. 18 / Volcano, Java, N. M. Comptes Rendus 70-878

27 11 P. M. Shock — Mansfield, England. Gent's Mag. 1817/1 /268

Feb. 8 Aurora at Sunderland. Annals of Phil. 9/250

13 Aurora, Derby. London Times, p. 3.

March 2 Gothenburg fireball. BA 60.

11 Quake in Switzerland and lightning in a clear sky over Mt. Blanc (or ?T. T.) a meteor. "a loud detonation." (Potential trying to find its pole.) BA 54.

1817 / March / Fish ("fell" is assumed. T. T.) / Appin, Scotland. J. F. Inst. 4/43

March 18 Spain. Intense darkness, rain and quake. Comptes Rendus 17-619. 10:45 A. M. BA 54.

18 Medium quake N Spain.

18 Lot-et-Sarrone fireball. BA 60

18 Quake in Spain and a volcano reported to be in the Sierra de Causeros. Jrn. des Deb. Apr. 6-1-1.

(Crowded along one edge of this note in characters so small that I cannot give them form with the magnifying glass I must so often apply to his scribbling. Fort has written three words. The first and third are easy: "The . . volcano." With my patience exhausted, I give you "unipumic", a coinage of which he was capable, meaning, of course, the volcano that erupted *once*. T. T.)

18 10:45 A.M. "The sun disappeared and a terrible obscurity began." Quake, Madrid. BA 54.

1817 Box A (Resumed)

April 3 CARIBOO

(Fort's development of the following notes begins on page 187 of *Lo!* It is suggested that the product be read before these notes and original sources. T.T.)

(1) For an astonishing version of a fake princess who arrived gorgeously see Shepard / Fads, Fakes etc., p. 98 " N B Y.

(2) For an instance of way stories get twisted see W. E. Shepard "Fads, Fakes" etc. Here it is that Caraboo, arrived at Bristol, posed as a foreign princess, took most expensive suite in best hotel, and two or three coaches loaded with baggage and servants—given a reception at the Town Hall—ran up bills and victimized tradesmen and disappeared. (3) (A letter on the stationery of) The Western Daily Press, Bristol, Walter Reid and Son, Limited, Proprietors. (Addressed to) Mr. Charles Fort, 39 (A), Marchmont Street, London, W.C. (and dated) 3rd June 1925

Dear Sir,

I asked one of our reporters to look up the story of "princess Caraboo" about which you wrote to me some little time ago, and I also made an inquiry from a very well-informed Bristol man who pays considerblae attention to local history. In neither case was it possible to trace the burial place of this lady.

You are I take it familiar with the statement made in "Notes and Queries" for May 20, 1865, to the effect that in 1849 she was living in Bristol and that she died in December 1864. The statement was she was known at the time of her death as Mary Baker.

The principal cemetery in Bristol in use at that time was Arno's Vale, and a representative of the Company has kindly searched his books for the end of '64 and the beginning of '65. He reports that the only person bearing a name something like the one in question is that of "Mary Ann Baker of 7, Rosemary Street" who was buried on the 31st January 1865. Whether that has anything to do with the case I cannot tell. Rosemary Street is in another part of the town to that which "Mary Baker" is alleged to have been living years before. If she died in December the burial would certainly have occurred before Jan. 31, 1865. I have not the time to investigate the problem and you had better not quote me in any statement you may publish.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)George F. Stone, Editor.

(4) But here part of her confession explains, or would, if she had spoken Javanese that she had picked up with a traveller who had taught her Malay.

(5) Eze, Duce, Trua, Tan, Lennee, Sendee, Tam Nunta, Besteen, Tashman / Fire — Apa / Water — Ana / Rain — Savee. (reverse) "Caraboo" printed by J. M. Culch, Bristol, 1817. Carried a gong on her back and shook it occasionally.

(6) B O / Astonishing thing is that in the accounts (Chambers Journal 66-753) for instance, it is told that her story was according to the interpreter who spoke Malay. Then later it is said that she spoke in a language she had invented, some of which were gypsy words / In this pamphlet said that Eynesso invented the story.

(7) Metter — yes / Beek — good / Dosi — Dinner / Pakey — child / Nee — egg / Archee — potato / Savoo — knife (reverse) Not confronted with Mrs. Neale. Mrs. W's story is that she told Caraboo that Mrs. N. was in the house and had communicated her suspicion: and threatened to confront / whereupon Caraboo confessed.

(8) The two stories — one, said that Caraboo told it to Eynesso — other said that Caraboo told it to Mrs. Worrall. Each plentifully circumstantial. If she did not tell one of these stories to E, may not have told the other to W.

(9) Conventional story in Strand 9/451. If first half cannot be believed because it is all the story told by Eynesso, the second half (reverse) the confession may be doubtful. In this account are reproduced characters and numerals written by Caraboo but not a word as to her story in Javanese and her words in Malayan language.

(10) Samuel Worrall was the magistrate. Manuel Eynesso.

(11) Not said she spoke pure Javanese / Then someone else who had been to the East Indies added the details. Not said he translated from Malay but believing that her signs meant what he told, "in the warmth of his anxiety to discover her history."

(12) Notes and Queries, 3-7-196 / that in Times of Jan. 13, 1865 announced the death of the imposter Caraboo at Bristol.

Next Issue - - - - BURTON RASCOE