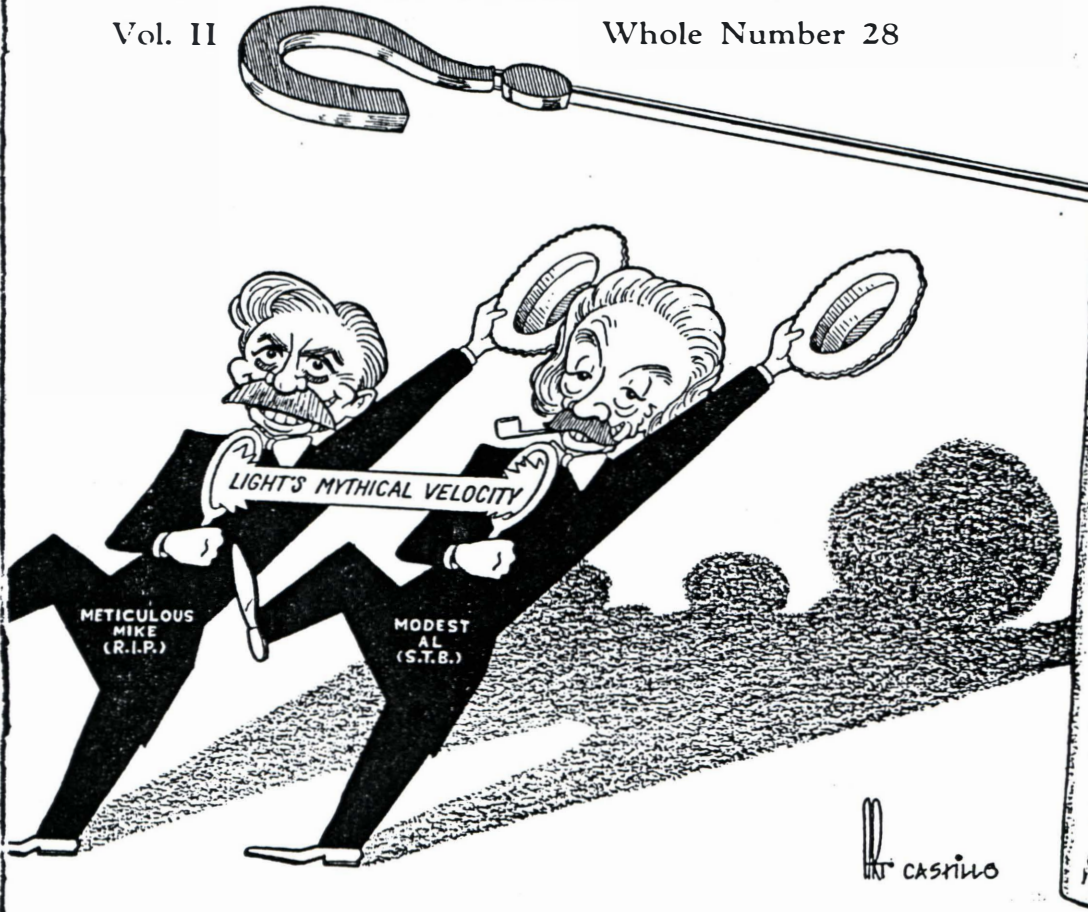


doubt

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Vol. II

Whole Number 28



EDITED BY

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DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER
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of the world at 50c per copy. Ask your
bookseller to get it.

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and many universities have complete files.

Ask us for list of back numbers still
available.

FIRST PRIZE

Three of the steadiest performers ran a dead heat
last session, each with a set of three winners. They are
Elsender and Russell, of England, and Hoernlein, of
Seattle.

Elsender:

1. A buzzard in the sky over Big Ben, London,
was reported in latest publications of the London
Natural History Society. See number 28 of *The
London Naturalist*, and number 13 of *The London
Bird Report*. The big W C is not mentioned, but
everybody knows what draws buzzards.

2. One of the worst blizzards on record in Canada,
with the lowest temperature in 50 years, was
reported from Ottawa to the *Newcastle North Mail*,
1-16-20 FS, by Patrick Nicholson. "A Canadian scien-
tist predicted four months ago that wild weather
would follow the Russian atomic explosion of last
September."

3. A fire in a uranium mine at Johannsgeorgen-
stadt, near Aue, in Saxony, was reported to the same
paper, 11-29-49 old style by Reuter. A local British
paper stated that 2500 died. The mayor's office stated
officially that 4 had died . . . The mine is in the
so-called "Soviet Zone".

Russell:

1. A Reuter despatch to the *Daily Herald*, 11-28-
49 old style, stated that a plane carrying "Our Lady
of Fatima"—that holy doll—crashed near Bogota,
Colombia. "Nine passengers and the crew are all
believed killed."

No report of this event has reached us from
correspondents in the Western Hemisphere.

2. The *Manchester Guardian* of 11-2-49 old style,
quoted the *Berliner Zeitung am Abend* as suggesting
that Edward R. Stertinius "may have been killed be-
cause he knew too much . . . Other well-known
friends of Roosevelt, including John Winant and
Laurance Duggan, have also died mysteriously."

No report of this suspicion has reached us from
correspondents in the U.S.

3. The good old Liverpool *Echo*, bless her, re-
ported 11-17-49 old style, that a Finnish ornitholo-
gist, Dr. Pontus Palmgren, "has spent several years
studying the problem of how a nightingale sleeps
. . . To carry out his experiments he placed a
nightingale into a cage with an iron bar for a perch.
Every time it went to sleep it was given a series of
slight electric shocks."



We propose to add this practice, with modifications,
as a plank in the Fortean Society Perpetual Peace
Plan. The modification will be putting the ornitholo-
gists into the cages and letting the nightingales
electrocute them.

Hoernlein:

1. Science Service (that great gas factory) re-
ported to the *Seattle Times* 12-26-49 old style, that
U of Calif. astronomers "are pondering the signifi-
cance of a violent explosion which they observed by
pure chance on a cosmic neighbor of the sun."

Science Service has not been in business as long
as we have or it would know that astronomers never
observe anything worth seeing except by pure chance,
or by direction of an amateur who saw it first from
his back-yard, looking through a 200-cent lens which
he rigged up himself.

The explosion occurred upon star "Cin — 20 —
1224" accto Dr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Kron. Although
it "mystified" them, "calculations indicate that only
a small spot on the star was involved . . . that the
light emanating from the affected spot must have
increased 2,000 times, its temperature rising from
5,000 degrees to 20,000 degrees Centigrade . . . A
similar flare-up was observed recently by Dr. W. J.
Luyten," (U of Min.) who found such a phenom-
enon on a photographic plate, and this the fourth
of the sun's neighbors known to flare up.

2. The same paper had "C D N" intelligence
from Sydney, Australia, 1-17-20 FS, of a fish caught
and now in an aquarium, alive, with a five-inch head,
two fins and no body. "Experts baffled . . . scientific
bewilderment . . . The experts, who just can't ex-
plain it, are investigating the possibilities of a species
of bodiless fish."

3. All good Forteans will remember how we used
to catch larks by sprinkling salt on their tails. Now
A. S. Perry, U of Calif., has taken the pepper shaker
to catch flies.

Perry found that some house-flies survived doses of
DDT, transforming it, within their bodies, into DDA,
which is called "harmless"—B U T, "Perry also dis-
covered that an extract of black pepper blocks the
working of the life-saving mechanism." So—catch
your fly, sprinkle him with extract of pepper, THEN

dose him with DDT and he's a goner. *Seattle Times* 1-12-20 FS.

Runners up were—Oltcher, with a U P story of a Charleston, S.C., Magistrate, Gene Herron, who decides cases by "the Bible test". A Bible is tied shut with string, with a key inserted between the pages, broad end out. "Two persons—one of them the defendant (accused of stealing \$20)—held the book, while the accused recited:

"By St. Peter, by St. Paul,
"By the grace of God who
made us all,
"If I did not steal the
twenty dollars
"Let the Bible spin and fall

"If the Bible falls then, Mr. Herron said, he decided it was an acquittal by God and ruled accordingly."

MFS Herbert smells something worse than smog in the death of a woman in the San Bernardino County Hospital 1-17-20 FS.

Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriffs "surprised" a man and a woman in a Crestline cabin which did not belong to them. The woman wore only the pants of a ski suit, no shoes. The officers allege that "a theft had been reported" (sic), at this cabin.

Snow was falling, the temperature was below freezing, the woman ran barefoot for seven hours before she was caught. Her feet were frozen. In the hospital she denied stealing anything, said she and her companion had been hiking and entered the cabin to get warm. The man with her has not been caught or identified.

County Hospital surgeons amputated the woman's toes "in an effort to halt a threat of gangrene". She died.

Reagan's best is about A. H. Mallery, a Washington engineer, who "says he has discovered near Clarksville, Va., an ancient iron-smelting furnace which he estimates was constructed sometime before the year 1 A.D."

A P—on 11-7-49 old style—reported that Raymond S. Baby, curator of the Ohio State Archeological & Historical Museum in Columbus said: "I don't think Mr. Mallery has anything. He has a preconceived idea not supported by scientific research. He uses undocumented material and has been too impatient to confer with recognized authorities."

Haliburton offered this daisy:

Dr. Marie Farnsworth reported to the American Chemical Society. 12-3-49 old style, that analysis of clay "ballots" unearthed in the Agora, Athens, showed that as many as 50 were written in identical handwriting. Whether Scientist Farnsworth or the UP is responsible doth not appear, but the published inference is that this datum discloses "that stuffing the ballot box was old stuff even for the ancient Greeks."

Anonymous found this violet, from the Lake City, Iowa, *Graphic*:

If you're a taxpayer, you might be interested to know that altho you may have been thinking that horse cavalry is obsolete, the army still has several million acres of grazing land, the navy has a hundred thousand acres.

PERTINENT TO ABOVE

An "explosion" reported on Mars by a Dirty Yellow Belly, and the Huns of Western Germany have been "ordered" to watch for more.

No fooling. That's the way AP starts its story: "Scientists have ordered a world-wide watch of the planet Mars . . . concentrated in Western Germany." . . . We might as well get used to being "ordered" around by the physicists and mathematicians. They are the air-raid-wardens of the future. Cr Bennet, Kunz, Creviston.

In the California State Mental Hospital, Stockton, an inmate died while undergoing an electric shock treatment. The shock was a "normal dosage" accto AP, but UP states that the woman was "accidentally electrocuted", 1-18-20 FS. Cr Herbert and others.

A race of "super flies" immune to insecticides has developed in Australia, saith a despatch from Canberra, 12-9-49 old style. Quick, Perry: the pepper! Cr. Russell.

BLACK SNOW

Reported in Oil City, Penna, 11-17-49 old style. Police assumed soot "but could not locate source of nuisance". Cr. Grant.

PYROTIC

In Manchester, N. H., 12-14-49 old style, Mrs. Ellen King Coutres, 53, found by police, dead, in part of her clothing which still smouldered. "There was no other sign of fire, and although . . . the woman must have been a human torch, flames had not ignited the wooden structure." No fire even in stove.

LONG ONE

Algiers shook for three hours, night of 12-23-49 old style.

TO OBTAIN CREDIT

If your name is not on every piece of data submitted, you cannot be properly credited with the contribution.

If the name of the publication is not on each clipping or page of the data—we cannot salute the editor with the appropriate sounds.

If the date of publication is not on every datum, we cannot publish it save as a curiosity, rumor or legend.

If you fold newspaper clippings with headlines inside the folds, much valuable time is wasted in sorting.

SO — PLEASE — write (or rubber-stamp) your name on *each piece* you send, write the name of the publication and the date of issue *on the datum itself*, and fold all contributions so that some part of the main headline or title is in sight when the folding is finished.

Please do not use scotch tape . . . Thank you.

OUR LITTLE BROTHER

Attention is called to the coincidence that the Republic of India, with 330 million inhabitants, 160 million voters (the largest group of voters in the world), celebrates its birthday on January 26. That is the anniversary of the founding of the Fortean Society, nineteen years previously.

"DAMNED" CHEAP

A popular priced edition of the *Book of the Damned* is in preparation. It will probably sell for \$1.49. YS is writing a new, special preface for this volume, and the book will thus serve as an introduction to Forteanism, intended to reach a new generation of readers at a price that even undergrads can squeeze out of their allowances.



IN GILES' CRYSTAL

M F S Giles took a gander at the future and decided to share the following with us:

I am aware that in making the following predictions of trends and events for 1950, I am acting contrary to the advice of a certain New York psychiatrist, who bids us live in the present, and (in surprising consonance with the 6th Chapt. St. Matthew) take no heed for the future. See a recent issue of *TIME*, wherefrom my intrepidity will appear all the more remarkable, inasmuch as the said psychiatrist is credited with several remarkable cures, (at \$1,000. each); among them the curing of a fellow physician of the drug habit and an ex-cabin boy of homosexuality. Of course, it is easy to understand how a practicing physician could afford such expensive treatment, but certainly it isn't every cabin boy (or ex-cabin boy either) who has a thousand dollars . . .

But a fig for psychiatry! What have I to lose?

I predict that during 1950:

The stock-market will fluctuate, as the elder Morgan once predicted on another occasion.

Prosperity will be general, but domestic finances are likely to be subject to a certain stringency, the more especially among those in the lower income brackets.

The international situation is likely to become tense; but a marked tendency to the contrary is to be looked for if a sufficiently plausible publicity can be given to a threatened invasion of the earth by beings from another planet.

The rich, (with few exceptions) will become wealthier; and, in consequence, the poor (with even fewer exceptions) will become poorer.

The budget will, with a high degree of probability, remain thruout the calendar year, unbalanced.

Science will make vast strides during 1950. And the people looking for adequate housing will cover a vast amount of territory, too.

The number of people who will, in unpremeditated frenzy, commit suicide during the year is not expected to vary at all from the number giving the percentage of the population who made away with themselves in previous years.

The condition of the arts will remain deplorable, since most of the artists (nowadays) appear to be as oblivious of direction as a whirling dervish.

As for women's styles, I venture to say that they will be becoming to some; and to others, only moderately so; or not at all.

The Church will make gains in membership during the year, the more especially in the larger cities, where numbers tend to beget numbers; in the rural

districts, a larger percentage will be likely to remain pagan.

The State, in concert with its other self, The Church, will continue to foster the fiction that they are twain, essentially distinct, entities.

Life Insurance Companies will enjoy a year of mixed blessings, Mortality will be low, (unless, of course, the war flares up with unexpected fury). Income from investments will be stable; but due to the general prosperity, fewer policy-holders will borrow from the companies at the customary high rates of interest; and hence, revenues may be low. However, more insurance will be written; and more capital come under the control of the companies, who will, in consequence, become more influential than ever.

The world population, despite war, disease, and a mounting toll of traffic accidents, will continue to increase; but not to any embarrassing extent as yet. No more than the usual number will starve; and flight to other planets will not become exigent; indeed, there is not a little doubt that it may not even become feasible.

Advertising will become more widespread and blatant than ever. And more money will be appropriated for education, to the end that a larger percentage of the population will be able to read advertisements for themselves, as issued. What with radio, moving-pictures, and television, I cannot say that this trend will continue much beyond the present year. But for the immediate future it seems assured.

On the other hand, that which is occult will, in all likelihood, remain hidden, unless perchance it should be revealed.

As for the weather, the chances are that it will prove disappointing—all prognostications (except, of course, this one) notwithstanding.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

H. W. Giles

LOS HUMANISTAS

At the time of writing, likelihood is that a piece entitled *Charles Fort and the Religion of Self-Respect* will appear in the quarterly, *THE HUMANIST*, Number Two, 1950. It is a first essay toward the realizing of Forteanism as a way of life, and it is the best YS could do in the space afforded. It was written to tell the Humanists why we Forteans are the way we are. Whether it accomplishes that or not, it has told this writer that a book is wanted to even begin to indicate the ramifications of the subject. Until that happy day, here is this essay. Send 35 cents to "The Humanist" 137 South Walnut Street, Yellow Springs, Ohio. If the paper is not in their Number Two, you will still get your money's worth. Editor Wilson is an MFS.

GOVERNMENT IS COUNTERFEITER

Among the "rights" usurped by government, probably none is more important to humans than the minting monopoly. Attention has already been called to several critics of the present monetary systems of the world. Now comes a new one—worth looking into. It is the Valun Institute, 226 East 26th Street, New York 10, N. Y. They publish *The New Approach to Freedom*, by E. C. Riegel. Send 60 cents to them for a copy. The proposal is to restore the minting power to those who bestow its real value upon any medium of exchange. The means to work

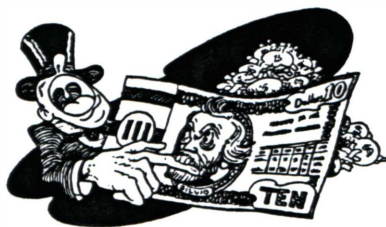
this restoration by easy stages is the burthen of the book. *Cr Rogers*.

In almost the same mail, MFS Alan Wilson suggests a means of spreading any good word that comes your way, and if the Valun proposals seem good to you, try out the system with Riegel's book, or with this issue of DOUBT.

Wilson's scheme is an adaptation of the old chain-letter game, which sold a raft of silk stockings in the previous generation, set the country on its ear in the year 6 FS, and more recently started the craze for "Pyramid Clubs". As everybody probably realizes now, the system does not pay off very long when money is involved, but as a means of spreading ideas, without charge, the practice can be very successful. It was employed by the colonists to crystalize opinion and help start the American revolution.

It is simply this:

Whenever a new idea that you think is good swims into your ken, WRITE it to three other people, and ask each of them to WRITE it to three more, if they agree that it is good. It beats writing to your Congressman all hollow. If the idea you wish to propagate is in DOUBT, we will mark the issue and mail it—with an explanatory slip—to names and addresses furnished by you, at the rate of FOUR for a dollar. We'll pay the postage.



MORE RESPECTABILITY

If we are not careful, Forteanism is going to lose its esoteric distinction through the very natural process of growth of the Philistines as a whole: not through the increase of their numbers, you understand, but by Philistine development or evolution into an order of beings higher than they have been before. Which is another way of saying that, not only does the SATEVEPOST admit MFS Carr's fictions, with their Fortean connotations, but *HARPER'S* (which has already printed an article in praise of Gesell) now, in the January issue, features an article by Eric Larrabee—*THE DAY THE SUN STOOD STILL*, and our only humorous weekly, the *NEW YORKER*, prints this:

LET 'EM EAT CAKE DEPARTMENT (MAGGOT DIVISION)

(Federal Security Agency Notices of Judgment, Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, November, 1949)

14514. Adulteration of pretzels. U. S. v. 248 Cans, etc. (F.D.C. No. 24899. Sample Nos 12707-K to 12709-K, incl.)

LIBEL FILED: On or about June 25, 1948, District of New Jersey.

ALLEGED SHIPMENT: On or about May 27, 1948, by the Pennsylvania Butter Pretzel Co., from Easton, Pa.

PRODUCT: 243 cans, each containing 5 pounds, of pretzels, and 73 cans, each containing 200 pretzels, at Camden, N. J.

LABEL, IN PART: "Cadet Butter Pretzels."

NATURE OF CHARGE: Adulteration, Section 402 (a) (3), the product consisted in whole or in part of a filthy substance by reason of the presence of insect fragments and rodent hair fragments.

DISPOSITION: July 23, 1948. Default decree of condemnation. It was ordered that the product be delivered to a charitable institution and that the containers be returned to the owner.

The world appears to be looking up!

NEW SIZE DOUBT

We held off increasing the price of DOUBT as long as we could, then the increase defeated its purpose by reducing the newsstand sale. This issue attempts a compromise. The smaller page size cuts the cost of production, and the price per copy is reduced to 35 cents.

The first 27 numbers of DOUBT are now being indexed, and the index will be printed in the old page size for binding. When the index is ready, we shall have a few complete files of the first volume to sell, BOUND. The price will be high. That is unavoidable, because each volume must be bound by hand. The object will be to put as many of these bound volumes as possible into public libraries.

If you are going to want an index to bind with DOUBTs already in your possession, please tell us now so that an adequate supply can be printed. The index alone will probably be priced at 50 cents. It will follow the style of the index in *THE BOOKS*.

NOMINATIONS

The first nominee for Named Fellow, 20 FS, is Donald E. Keyhoe, mentioned specifically for an article in *TRUE* magazine. Let us hope that the year will give us a bigger man for a better reason.



The last nominee for 19 FS was Col. James P. Cooney, a physician on the medical advisory staff of the atomic energy commission. In an article in a technical journal, *Radiology*, Cooney called radiation

from atomic bombs "perhaps the most overvalued" hazard of war.

Please comment promptly so that the new Fellow may be informed. Previous issues of DOUBT have contained names of the other nominees.

LET'S DO SOMETHING

Will every member who has been close to a case of so-called "polio" please learn —

1. Were the patient's tonsils in place or had they been yanked?

2. How long before the "polio" struck had the tonsilectomy been performed?

Please report to YS on every case you can learn about—and if our suspicion is vindicated with an impressive figure perhaps we can do something about it.



Russell sends one datum of a 3-year old in Sunbury, Middlesex, who died within an hour of being stricken. At the inquest, she was described as a "victim of an extremely swift and deadly form of infantile paralysis". Will some Briton living near Sunbury ask the child's parents if her tonsils had been removed just before—or if she was vaccinated—or given some other shots to protect her health? She was Karina Florence Manston, lived on Manor Drive, and died just before 11-15-49 old style.

The first polio epidemic ever to hit Santiago, Chile, produced 120 cases between October and December 29. Had there been an epidemic of tonsilectomies just before?

LOVE AND DEATH

The above caption is the title of a book by G. Legman, who calls murder (in fiction) more obscene than the bumping of living bodies by the opposing sexes. He makes the point—and others too—in 95 pages, red wrapps. From the Society \$1.00.

ANTONY BORROW WRITES

From the "Compendium Maleficarum" of Francesco Maria Guazzo, of the Order of St. Ambrose ad nemus; (1608) quoting from "Jardin de las Flores curiosas" of Antonio de Turretemata, (1570):

"At Salamanca there was a matron whose house was popularly said to be haunted by stone throwing. The Mayor of the city was incited by this rumor to test for himself whether the persistent report concerning that house was true, or whether it was not rather invented by the servants in order to cover some naughty pranks of theirs; for there were among them two young girls of no mean beauty, and it was suspected that the whole of this story had been

fabricated in order to facilitate their meetings with their lovers. So the Mayor went to the house at the time when the stoning was said to be most frequent; and there went with him no less than twenty of the townsmen, some of whom he sent with a light to search the upper part of the house to see who it was who threw stones at the servants. They searched diligently everywhere, and came back and said they had found nothing at all alarming. He then decided to examine the cellars, to which some steps led down from the dining room, and to spend some time in a further search in that direction. And lo! hardly had they reached the place before there was a great noise and stones began to be hurled at them and swept them off their legs, but without harming them. So they were sent again to see where this shower of stones came from; and although they found no one in the place, the shower of stones kept falling. This went far to confirm the opinion which many had formed, that the phenomena were all due the devil's work and magic; and this belief they more stoutly maintained as the stones kept falling about their heads. Some of them there rushed from the house in terror; but one of them, feeling bolder at a safe distance, took up and carefully noted the appearance of one particular stone and threw it into the house, saying: "If this came from you, O demon, throw the same stone back at me." And when this was at once done, there was no more room for doubt that the house was haunted by demons as the Matron had said."

Above taken from the 1929 translation by E. A. Ashwin, published by John Rodker. It seems to have everything; the falling stones; the two young girls associated; the orthodox "and Lo!" together with the assumption by the prevailing orthodoxy that there was "no more room for Doubt."

FORTEAN LOSS

With deep regret we report the death of MFS Thomas H. Graydon, author of *New Laws for Natural Phenomena*. No details beyond the bare announcement had reached us at press time.

The quality of Graydon's Forteanism, as evinced in his books and pamphlets, has been the subject of some discussion. Our hope, now lost, had been that in revised editions, the influence of Charles Fort would be felt in Graydon's expression of his theories. His challenge to Newton and Einstein still stands, however, a memorial to an independent thinker.



HINDU WONET

A ten-year old girl usually finds the flames in the latest case of inexplicable fires in series. Clothing and other fabrics reportedly "burst into flame spontaneously" in a residence of New Delhi, India. *Washington Post*, 10-24-49 old style.

NO MORE PINCO

Italian Forteans who have come to look upon Pinco Pollini as spokesman for the Fortean Society in Italy are cautioned that Signore Pollini has no official standing with the Fortean Society. His messianic pretensions are his own. The Society does not sponsor them, nor does it sponsor his BIMANTIC Universe or any other of his theories.

OUR NANDOR

MFS Fodor, sometime associate of Hereward Carrington and of the late Harry Price, both celebrated investigators of psychic phenomena, sometime lecturer on the Talking Mongoose of Gashen's Gap, Isle of Mann, (now thought to have been shot by a non-Fortean) has been on the air applying psychoanalysis to "popular songs". We have not heard the show, but it afforded radio-columnist John Crosby a chance to wheeze, "Psyche me, Daddy, eight to the bar." And it brought out the social consciousness of radio columnist Harriet van Horne, thusly: "To my mind it does far more harm than good. Harm because it alienates reasonable but ill-informed people from the highly respectable branch of medicine that deals with the human mind and emotions. A bona fide psychiatrist, one feels certain, would not lend his name to this pedantic parlor game."

Just how, and to whom, a "psychiatrist" displays his bona fides is no part of radio reviewing, so La van Horne leaves that out, but goes on to weep—stiffly—for the national I. Q. We hesitate to enter debate with a lady on such a topic, but cannot refrain from advancing the counter opinion that every man, woman or child whom Nandor Fodor's program keeps away from this "highly respectable branch of medicine" will be better off than if they followed the current crazy rage to lie on a couch and tell all.

Fodor's *The Poltergeist Psychoanalyzed*, from the Society, 50 cents.

MFS HALL WRITES

In regards to your epistle of 12/29/19 FS, in which you and somebody else (just who, it is not made clear) were observing the June 4 (old style) SATURDAY EVENING POST (God save the Queen), I must answer in the affirmative.

This Chas. L. (Landes) Hall is a distant brother of mine, on my great grandmother's side, by way of Omaha, Nebr., and Portland, Ore. Is this perfectly clear? Then please explain it to me, because I'm all confused.

When C. L. sent his indignant letter into the SEP (GstQ), he did not expect the editors of that staid, conservative pulp to print it.

After seeing what they printed, he wished they hadn't.

Which all counts up to the *PROVABLE FACT* that the said editors cut out practically 100% of the real meaning of the letter, and about 90% of the contents. (This last statement is open to controversy.)

I myself did not see the epistle in complete form, as it was written while C. L. was up in Los Angeles or Hollywood, or some such other dismal outpost of society, and did not make a carbon copy. The letter,

I am much afraid, was scathing indeed to the orthodox editors of the Post. Anyway they sure mangled it.

Charley is a bit rabid on the subject of Forteans. I myself prefer the middle road, enjoying the mad scramble and doubting considerably, but with no foaming at the mouth.

We two are a bit outcast in the family, as the Pater is a civil engineer of long standing, and the oldest brother is a Ph.D. in Metallurgy (Caps are his) now breaking iron wires at several hundred degrees below zero Farengade or Centerheit or something, just for the merry hell of it, as far as yours truly can observe. They both seem to take any aspersions on Newton's Laws (Caps Newton's) as personal affronts on themselves, although lately the Pater has become interested in maybe having a look into the Books, so perhaps another convert in the future. Who knows?

About a year and a half ago I was ready to cut myself off from the society, as I thought there were too many fanatics connected with it. It seems to me that an acute swing away from orthodoxy, to the point where all orthodoxy is impartially sneered at, is just as bad as being an orthodoxy worshipper. Did not Fort himself laugh at life?????

And another thing . . . the fanatics seem to regard Fort as a God, in a sense . . . which is liable, in time, to drag the society down to the level of an organized religion . . . too many converts take it too seriously. Not that I don't think it's great and all that, but I don't think anybody is going to save humanity with it . . . just building up another set of symbols or idols or something, to what effect? The original aim should be fulfilled . . . Doubt everything, possibly, give a new set of working hypotheses for awhile. But the human mind will inevitably bog down, and you will never have a large percentage of the population WANTING to THINK, so let's just get the convivial minds. The right people are in the wrong places and all that.

However, I'll keep paying my dues and sending in available data, when available, or when I get around to reading the D.A. yellow dog sheets, as the mag Doubt is still the best reading of anything I see, from a purely disinterested standpoint.

We are having the usual unusual weather out here. It's raining, but not frogs or fishes, damn it.

MAN vs NATURE

The human determination to turn Earth into a laboratory-controlled desert adds two data . . . That Dr. H. A. Albert Hochbaum, director of the Waterfowl Research station, Delta, Manitoba, has observed radar beams to influence the flight of flocks of wild ducks. "The birds flared and broke, much as if they had been shot, when they hit the radar beam. The birds appeared to become momentarily confused in their flight, then they would regroup and continue on their way." *Cr. Bonavia.*

That Capt. H. E. Raabe wrote to the editor of the N. Y. *Daily News*, 1-13-20 FS, stating that the New York "water shortage" was caused by radio broadcasting. "Years ago I wrote an article explaining this law of nature, but no publisher dared put it in print, fearing to antagonize the powerful factions behind the broadcasting industry." The Raabe theory appears to be that broadcasting uses up the static electricity in the atmosphere, and that "static is needed to precipitate rainfall from high clouds".

DIRTY YELLOW-BELLY

Dr. Minoru Inuzka, Tokio physician, attends only those who cannot afford fees, and makes no charge at all. Now, 11-10-49 old style, he has been served with an income tax demand for 200,000 yen. "The Income Tax Department says this is the tax on the medical fees he has earned but not collected, and that it's his own look-out if he isn't business-like." Cr. Russell, from the *Echo*.

A penicillin manufacturer is one of the 23 business men millionaires in Japan, according to the latest tax returns. *Ibid*, do.

To this Russel affixes the headline: "Hon. Biz".

DAMNED REDS

Last Sept. 15, hailstones the size of grapefruit fell in Rome. Some weighed between one and two pounds. Cr Pollard.

Last Oct. 20, the Vatican was invaded by white ants which ate through walls, ceilings, oak beams, books and a cardinal's cape. Cr Elsender.

PROTESTANTS FLOP

Some time back we quoted an official Catholic pronouncement to the effect that Protestant preachers did not have what it takes to drive out evil spirits. Well, the Rev. F. J. Maddock, Church of England, with the permission of Bishop Ivor Watkins of Malesmerbury, tried to show them that he had the knack, 1-24-20 FS, in Bristol, England.

The Rev. walked through the rooms of the Baber household, "behind locked doors", praying, and defied anybody to find a ghost anywhere on the premises. Cr Reagan, Oltscher, Bennett and others. Now the Babers have moved. The ghost came back.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

Russell culled three airplane collisions between 11-10-49 and 11-17-49 . . . Two U. S. Marine fighters "east of Hawaii" 11-9-49 . . . Two Royal Indian Air Force "Tempest" fighters, which fell into the city of Calcutta, 11-15-49 . . . Two B29 "Superfortresses" over Stockton, Calif. 11-17-49.

MORE THREES

From the British liner *Orcades*, three persons have disappeared in 8 months.

In March, 19 FS, Bernard Rose, a steward, shared quarters with five other men, "vanished early in the morning".

Nearly 5 months later, John W. Bond, assistant butcher, "was called for duty at 5:30 a.m. and then vanished.

"A beautiful Australian girl", Gwenda McCallum, a "stowaway"—that is, she was seeing friends off at Sydney, and in the course of a champagne party was not aware that the ship had sailed. She was last seen about 2:30 a.m. Cr. Elsender.

OUR GOOD FELLOW

Accepted Fellow the Duke of Bedford is reported renting rooms (American plan) for \$35.28 per week, in one of his three family mansions. High taxes are said to have caused the move, but the Duke continues to work with anarchist Guy Aldred toward a perfect lawless community and monetary reform on a planet-wide scale.



IT HAS BEEN H
"THAT WHICH P
SCHOLARLY SOL
UPON MASS.
NOW HARK YE
BEFORE THAT
HAS NOW SOL
EQUATION: 61
GRAVITATION
IN TWENT
SCIENCE!

BEST MOON BOOK

For years we have been recommending *Moons, Myths and Man*, by H. S. Bellamy, to all students of the subject who inquired. It was published in England in the year 8 FS, went out of print promptly, and has been harder to obtain than Gould's *Oddities*. Now—at last—it is being reissued in England, "augmented" and illustrated. From the Society, \$3.00.

NYLON IN FLORIDA

For a while we were receiving notices of Nylon evaporation right off the gals' persons from several points of the compass (see back DOUBTs), but the only area from which these yarns continue is Jacksonville, Florida. Funny, too, the only papers we see printing the stories are in California! The latest despatch was UP of Jan. 24.



MORE GREEN HAIR

Cincinnati investigators of "chemical mist" (see p. 12) may get a tip from London (Ontario) parents on what turns children's hair green. In London, it happened to kids who swam in the East Side Silverwood Park swimming pool, Aug. 12.

NOW IS THE TIME

A law exists prohibiting one man from advising another man to refuse military service, from counseling one to become a Conscientious Objector, from urging young fellows to refuse to be drafted.

Accordingly, YS does none of these things, but only states categorically that it is a braver thing to go to jail for a principle than to go to war because authority says so.

Through World Fraud II the COs in England did not suffer so greatly as those in the U.S., but they had no easy time of it neither. Their story has now

been told in an eminently readable book, with splendid documentation and a wealth of suggestion for the future—CHALLENGE OF CONSCIENCE, by Denis Hayes: 406 pp., illustrated, cloth bound, \$2.50 from the Society.

Read this book now, before the drum-beating and saucer-sirens start.

It is a sad commentary upon the state of the American mind that whereas this volume is published in England by an old, respectable publishing house, turned out in a workmanlike manner, the only comparable document which has been even so much as projected in the U.S., is being set in type by hand, and printed on a hand press in a country barn by zealots who have barely enough to eat, who do all the work themselves, and must beg the money for paper and binding from the few solvent who sympathize.

YS has in hand the first 128 pages of the American history of COs in World Fraud II. They are

proof sheets, containing sections by men who went to jail rather than wear the monkey suits of the U. S. Army . . . Clif Bennett, Howard Schoenfeld, Lowell Naeve, James Peck, Curtis Zahn, Don Devault, Bernard Phillips, Roy Franklyn. The book is being made by Holley Cantine, Bearsville, N. Y. Break out your check books and give him all you can.

Meanwhile, get your copy of the Hayes book so you can compare the two when Cantine's is finally ready.



MFS NOBLE WRITES (17FS)

I can throw a little light on Elsender's problem (reported under the title "The Mulberry Bush" in DOUBT No. 18) regarding the ghost ship. I do not think, in spite of the British Admiralty, that the ship referred to was the OLDHAM. The "British Port" to which she was towed was not Halifax, but St. John's. Her name was the STRATHELLA, a trawler type ship. She was picked up crewless in mid Atlantic, undamaged except for weathering (the paint was washed off) and taken to this port for minor repairs. There was no lend-lease material aboard, so far as I know. From St. John's she was taken to Scotland under her own power in charge of Captain Turner of this city. There was never any theory advanced as to what happened to the crew, if there ever was one.

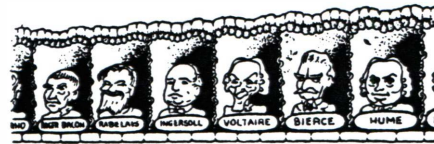
The Toronto Globe and Mail, quoted in the St. John's Daily News of August 16th, prints a letter by Dr. James G. Endicott, a missionary who has recently returned from China. Endicott "blasted the Chiang Kai-shek regime as corrupt and dictatorial". The Chinese Consul-general replied by called Endicott a "mouthpiece for the Chinese Communists". Endicott's blast in part read as follows:

"American blood-plasma, donated for the wounded, was put on sale on the black market at U.S. \$25 a bottle . . . the work of the personal appointees of the generalissimo."

However, plasma may shortly be cheaper and better, for according to the Newsletter of the September issue of READER'S SCOPE, the A.M.A. is now studying a "synthetic blood plasma" which "saved thousands of German lives during the war." According to READER'S SCOPE this plasma is made from "a mineral with the properties of limestone and coke"(1) The Newsletter goes on to refer to the plasma as a "drug" which "apparently acts like plasma, although having no chemical similarity to human blood." I'll bet.

The second clipping describes the British Army's method of arousing blood lust in young soldiers: stimulating excitement through savage, bloodthirsty cries, display of atrocity photographs, visits to slaughter houses, and by throwing blood around the training area during exercises—a type of training one would think more suitable for Huns or Dirty Yellowbellies than for the young gentlemen who win battles on the cricket fields of Eton.

The St. John's Sunday Herald of August 3rd reports a "fiery cross" seen in the sky by seven witnesses. It remained stationary for nearly half an hour. The witnesses were all on Blackmarsh Road looking west over a site that was used by the Canadian Army during the war. They were so thunderstruck by the sight that one of the witnesses who was smoking a cigarette at the time allowed it to fall from his hand. So far the Canadian Army has not revealed whether the cross had any military significance, and the Sunday Herald failed to say whether the cross was Gothic, Celtic, Maltese, the double cross of the Tuberculosis Association, or merely an "X marks the spot". The paper goes on to speculate, however, that it may be an omen of some impending disaster—perhaps Newfoundland's admission into the Canadian Federal Union.




NO JESUS CARDS

To a good many Fortean, Jesus Christ is a great deal more than a myth, if something less than a God. Their attitude toward this personality out of ancient literature is epitomized by Art Young's cartoon on the opposite page. They accept the historicity of this figure as proved, and his name has been more than once presented as that of a posthumous Fortean. As one MFS writes: "You say Forteanism is the perpetuation of dissent. Man alive, Christ was not only a great dissenter, his followers have dissented among themselves ever since he died dissenting."

In recognition of the possible validity of these attitudes, and to free YS from any charge of attempting to force his personal atheism upon the membership, the projected Jesus cards, drawn by Castillo for the James Joyce poem, will not be published.

YS is an atheist, and of his own certain knowledge attests that so, too, was Charles Fort. YS cannot comprehend how an individual can reconcile Fort's "eternally suspended judgment" with the Christian necessity for *absolute faith*, but if some are able to work the mental adjustments to accommodate the

REWARD
FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION OF —



JESUS CHRIST

WANTED — FOR SEDITION, CRIMINAL ANARCHY-
VAGRANCY, AND CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE
ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT

DRESSES POORLY, SAID TO BE A CARPENTER BY TRADE, ILL-
NOURISHED, HAS VISIONARY IDEAS, ASSOCIATES WITH COMMON
WORKING PEOPLE THE UNEMPLOYED AND BUMS. ALIEN —
BELEIVED TO BE A JEW ALIAS: 'PRINCE OF PEACE, SON OF
MAN' — 'LIGHT OF THE WORLD' &c &c PROFESSIONAL AGITATOR
RED BEARD, MARKS ON HANDS AND FEET THE RESULT OF
INJURIES INFLICTED BY AN ANGRY MOB LED BY RESPECTABLE
CITIZENS AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

for Young

apparently incompatible, that is their business. Never while YS lives shall atheism or any other article of faith or unfaith become a tenet of Forteanism to be embraced of necessity. Hence—no Jesus cards.

IS IT THERE?

The Liverpool Echo (one of our favorite papers) printed a story Oct. 27, 49 old style, asserting that U. S. Congressman Carroll D. Kearns does not believe that the alleged \$25,000,000,000 worth of gold is buried at Fort Knox. He "keeps asking why the Federal Reserve authorities will not grant him just one little peek at all that gold they say they have." Cr Russell.

REPLIES . . .

MFS Grant asks: "May I suggest that the Fortean University Chair of Drayson get together with the flat-earth boys—ditto Cahill supporters? It seems that there is a fundamental contradiction somewhere. Also Graydon and Crehore."

Ans. Indeed there would be "fundamental" contradictions galore in teaching these subjects as most subjects are taught in more orthodox universities. F U does not teach, it studies. Each Chair stands on its own four (or more or less) figurative legs, merely as a field for investigation and further development. No subject is taught as true by F U. Each is advanced as a question profitable to explore. Thus no contradiction exists.

PRAY WHAT WAS THAT?

Power failed in SW Ohio from 9:17 a.m., until about 10:35 a.m., in 24 counties, an area of 6,000 square miles, 11-1-49 old style. Dayton, Troy, Xenia—all hit. No explanation. No repairs found needed. The generators failed, and then the generators worked all right. That's all anybody knows or will tell. *Cr. Taylor.*

In Los Cruces, N. M., 12-21-49 old style, power failed for 35 minutes because a cat "crawled on the wires atop an electric company sub-station and short-circuited 24,000 volts". Repairmen said they saw the cat lying on the ground, but "it jumped up and ran away—minus all its hair." *Cr. Hoernlein.*

SCIENCE "STUMPED"

The Ada, Okla. *Evening News*, has the effrontery to state that Science has yet to answer this one . . . In the Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, are tiny blind spiders which seem to live on nothing. "Other insect life is very rare amidst the stalactites and stalagmites of these mile-long and 200-foot caves. The spiders build tiny webs, perfectly formed. What for?" *Cr. Haliburton.*

NO FINGERPRINTS

A man taken in by Springfield, Mass., cops on a charge reported by the *Hartford Times*—as "worthless check passing", 10-27-49 old style, had no fingerprints, accto the cops.

By 11-13-49 the story had been changed. The charge reported in the *Bridgeport Herald* was "vagrancy", and the Chief said the prisoner had fingerprints but that they were temporarily obscured by "eczema". The jail doctor was going to cure him right up with a little ointment. *Cr. Martin.*



We await further developments with more than ordinary curiosity, not only on the fingerprint side but on the medical as well. Eczema affecting the skin of the hands is a toughie which has had the specialists stumped for years. If ye jail doc in Springfield whips up an "ointment" that cures it, Johns-Hopkins is looking for him.



DOC COOK RIDES AGAIN

Most of you are too young to remember the Cook-Peary "race for the Pole" 1908-1909, but through the intervening years you have read of Doc Cook as a "confidence man", "convict", "nature faker" and bunco artist in general. His claim to have reached the North Pole before Admiral Peary was hooted down two or three decades ago.

Now, Hubbard, "the Glacier Priest", ups and says—at Monticello, Ill., 10-21-49 old style—that 300 trips over the pole in recent years confirm Cook's description of the area "but show nothing to bear out Peary's description". *Cr. Oltcher.*



STENCHES

Cincinnati, Oct. 12. One week after smog in Reading, Pa., a "chemical mist" in the suburbs—Roselawn, Bonhill—damaged paint on houses, turned children's hair greenish yellow.

Long Beach, Oct. 19. Wave of "garlic gas", acrid, hung in pockets over business district, from 8 a.m., got worse all morning, came from the West.

Monroe, Mich., Nov. 11. "Mysterious fumes" crept into rural school near town of Grape, overcoming five pupils, making twenty ill. Firemen and doctors could give no hint of cause or source.

Webster, Pa., across the river from Donora (where 22 died of smog). "A record number of complaints received—Dec. 14 . . . conditions actually equal pre-disaster levels."

Richmond, Calif., about 7:45 p.m. Dec. 21. "Thick fog, smarting fumes, seared lungs, eyes, mouths . . . Police efforts to locate a source of the baffling mist failed." Blew away in two hours.

Edmonton, Alberta, Dec. 31, early morning, smell of "natural gas" panicked 300. No gas leaking. Oil Company at nearby Redwater denied it came from there.

Los Angeles, Jan. 13, 20 FS. Five people overcome by "almondlike fumes"—"mysterious, noxious odors." *Cr. Reagan, Hehr and many more.*

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

The material on this page and those following comes from the MSS notes of Charles Fort. The notes begin with the year 1800 AD, and we are printing them chronologically, transcribed to the best of our ability. As you have observed from the several we have produced in facsimile—life size—the handwriting is difficult, to say the least; many are written in symbols and code, a personal shorthand. Each date is on a separate scrap of paper. They fill 32 boxes. The boxes are in two series, one numbered, one identified by letters of the alphabet. The numbered boxes contain records of non-human phenomena, the others, records of persons. It is our device to alternate the two series so that the printed record is chronologically consecutive.

The letters BA refer to Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which many US libraries have. The numerals, such as '11 or '64 etc., in connection with BA sometimes refer to volume number, sometimes to year. In applying for this material at your public library, mention that to the attendant and you should have no difficulty.

Back numbers of DOUBT contain all the notes to the point where we begin below. Subsequent issues will continue them until the 32 boxes are printed.

1856

Box A (Resumed)

- Aug 9 Bedford Times Aug 16 Fire Owner of a vacant house in Glasgow visited it at noon and found the roof of the butler's pantry on fire. "Will it be believed that there had not been a light in the house in six weeks?" Said that only thing could be thought of was that mice had nibbled matches.
- Aug 9 Bedford Mercury of. In the Glensco Mountains—a large number of sheep — at least 100 — had been killed by foxes in a few nights.
- 1856 Crocodile / Field, Aug 9, 1862 / writes or he had examined the preserved specimen 57 — a young crocodile ab. 14 inches long. The Nationalist F. T. Buskland writes. / Aug 23, 1861 — a cor writes that in the woods near where croc killed another was still seen occasionally acto credible persons (p.2) In the Gentlemen's Magazine Aug, 1866 / George R. Wright, F.E.A. tells of a young cocodile which had been killed by some laborers, who had seen it run from a stack of wood 1856 or 1857, at Over-Norton, Oxfordshire, on a farm / also see Field 1861 or 1862 (reverse) It was preserved by a naturalist and pronounced undoubtedly a crocodile / November issue, C. Parr writes that 30 years before a person near Over-Norton had been pursued by a young crocodile, about a foot long, and had then killed it. Said that several years later another had been seen there / Aug 67., cor sends account of one 3 feet long killed in Staffordshire ab. 40 years before
- Aug 10 LT p.7, News of the World / Explosion at Dorking, origin unknown but thought be from escape of gas
Box 2 (Resumed)
- 11 Mauna Loa An. Reg. '56-16
Box A (Resumed)
- Aug Bedford fires / Period fires See Sept Oct 1880 Canada.
- Aug 6 Acto the Bucks Adventurer of the 9th & 15 there was at Wendover on Aug 2 a myst fire in the farm house occupied by Edward Collins. (reverse) ab 11 PM. There was no known cause for the fire and it was thought was incendiary / — of the 23rd told that Elizabeth Chapman was charged with setting fire to (note #2) the property of Mr. Juson, ab 6 AM upon the 6th & 15th. There was no evidence against her. Said that she was suspected because there had been such fires where she had lived before — no details. (note #3) As to the fire near the oven Mr. Jason told that the fire began in the roof over (reverse) the oven but that there had been no oven-fire for 30 hours.
- Aug Have D. News for Aug
- Aug 12 Series See Aug 18 — Sept 11, 1907
- 12 Probably not Moulton and Morton too. Mistake in a newspaper (reverse) McCann / God or Gorilla
- 12 Some one in Bedford, opened the door of an upper room in home of Mrs. Moulton, of Bedford (reverse) "volumes of smoke issued therefrom and directly after the bed furniture was in flames". This in the morning. Night before some one with a candle had been in the room and it was thought a spark from it had smouldered all night. Bedford Times Aug 16.
- 12 At the inquest somebody inquired as to electrical conditions at the time (reverse) called an "inquest" because the coroner investigated. Seems that there had been considerable rain but nothing remarkable had been noted.
- 12 Mortons house adjoining stone yard of Howards foundry News of the World, Aug 24

Moulton (see other notes) it is said was a forman in Messrs Howard's Iron Foundry and lived in Home-lane. Morton was a traveller for same firm and lived in Home-lane — Said he was in Ireland at the time / Said that the Moulton fire was on morning of 13th / At Mortons the sulphur fire — a phenom of 12th / the first bed fire 1½ hours later — also contents of a chest.

(P.2) On morning of 13th eight o'clock some "dirty linen" in a closet upstairs. Meantime Mr. Howard had communicated with Mr. Morton who returned on 16th / had been no further fires. Mr. M. night of 16th, took off stockings and other clothes, which were damp, and threw them on the floor. On the morning of 17th they were found burning. Then a succession of ab. 40 fires.

(P.3) In rooms, in closets, in drawers of bureaus. Neighbors and police came in — began to fear for their own safety. Not only objects all around but their own handkerchiefs flamed / As to the fire in cellar of James Howard in High Street — George Garrett testified that the fire occurred ab. time Mr. M. returned from Ireland —

(P.4) He said that the candle stick which he was carrying (fell) into some turpentine which he had not seen on the floor. The flame ran along this, but it (reverse) toward the cask of turpentine from which he supposed it had leaked, the cask itself did not burn though the fire in the cellar was serious. When earlier in the day he had been to the cellar he had

(P.5) seen no turpentine on the floor / The brimstone was in a small earthenware jar placed in a bassinette of wickerwork / Said that the burning brimstone had flowed over to bas. and the floor — burning bas. and floor. Things in the yard that took fire there and not in the house were placed next to things that had burned in the house

(P.6) Property of the Mortons was not insured. The house was insured (ver) / Ann Fennimore as to matches testified had ignited the brimstone with the third match having failed with two / ab 1½ ounces of brimstone seen used / Had been used in no other room of the house

(P.7) At this inquiry Mr. Howard protested against the fire in his cellar being investigated, saying that it had been an ordinary fire with nothing of the mysterious to it, and not relating in any way to the fires in Morton's house. However, according to the coroner, a relation existed at least in the rumors that it was the purpose of the inquiry to quiet / Considering this attitude of Howard's, it may be that Garrett told details accordingly. The one mysterious circ that I think of is a leak in a cask of turpentine — fire running about — no fire in the cask. It was a good sized fire.

Aug 12 Other data in Bedford Mercury Aug 23 /

3 children in the house. There was a peculiar odor by which could know there was a fire — but described by another as only "the smell of fire" (reverse) The Moulton fire not mentioned in Bedford Mercury

Aug 12 No Bedford Directory in B.XX. / for Moulton

12 Called "inquest" / The Coroner only one who investigated

Aug 12 Bedford Times of 23rd — The first Myst fire (see Sept 29) was in a straw mattress soon after the sulphur fire put out. After that a new fire every 5 minutes act testimony before the coroner at Bedford / one fire on 13th / then three days and no fire / mostly in closets and chests, but on 17th carpet afire / brimstone burnt on 12th / Testimony of

(P.2) Mrs. Morton and Ann Fennimore, servant / Neither house nor furniture insured / First fire on 17th like the other (also 12th) Bedford case / upon entering a room finding bed on fire / Morton was away from home till 16th Mrs. Morton was home / The verdict of the jury was that the first fire was accidental, but that as to cause of other fires not enough evidence to show. It is said that in the cellar of

(P.3) the house of Morton's employer, James Howard, on another street, there had been a fire night of the 16th and this outbreak as well as public curiosity and gossip, had brought on the inquiry, but seems clear this fire was accidental. George Garrett, a servant, had gone with a candle to a cellar, and the candle had fallen into turpentine spilled on the floor.

12 A witness testified that in investigating generally he had picked up a pillow and had examined it. Then he was called upstairs to another fire. He says that it was extraordinary but while he was upon this upper floor, the pillow that he had picked up burst into flames. / Point against brimstone permeation in the house — Things that had been burned and other things put in the yard — here some of the other things burst into flames.

(P.2) Seem to have to accept that the first fire so soon followed by the beginning of the series did have relation — That something that wanted fires saw an opportunity to have a series associated with the accidental / But seems that a spirit-pryomaniac had first tipped over the brimstone.

(P.3) Like a spirit thing vengeful against both Morton and his employer / as if in first case confounding Morton and Moulton. Here enters suggestion of a thing that could put bits of candle about like Hampstead, 1921 or San Fran 1892 — Also Leamington, July, 1921

17 Suffolk Chronicle 23rd. Early morn at Ramsey, Essex. Stroke of lightning and (reverse) (undecipherable) of wheat sheaves in a field burn. Not said if rain — but said fire not easily put out because water not available.

(Fort used the above material in *Wild Talents*, and the Bedford story is now on p.909 ff. in THE BOOKS, but he had started to work it up for one of his earlier books, and two half-pages of typescript are among the NOTES at this point, as if deleted before the MSS went to the printer. T.T.)

- Aug 21 In the Lond Times, August 21, 1856, there is an account of a series of occurrences that, the writer thinks, would not be out of place in one of Mrs. Radcliffe's novels, but seeming strange in the matter-of-fact columns of the Times, because it was as if old theories of spontaneous combustion and demoniac possession would come back. A house in Bedford — owner away — servant in charge — and, upon August 12th, to get rid of vermin, she had fumigated the house with sulphur. The sulphur had set a floor afire. It is said that this fire was soon put out. Five days later, the occupant of the house, named Howard, returned. In his room, he took off his stockings, which were damp, and threw them on the floor. They burst into flames. The next day, in the presence of different witnesses, in different parts of the house, no less than thirty fires broke out. The matter was taken to the Magistrate's Court. Here, one witness testified that he had found damp towels, in his bedroom, on fire, and a woman testified that she had opened a box of clothing, finding them burning. By the morning of the 18th, "the greater part of the property in the house had been charred or burnt to a tinder." It is said that there had been hope of connecting the burning of sulphur, of five days before, with these combustions, but that this idea had to be abandoned, though two physicians had given their opinion that inflammable sulphurous fumes had permeated all things in the house. A discussion of this possibility by one of the physicians, and by disagreeing chemists appears in later issues of the Times. Usually, as to human reasoning, my own and that of everybody else, I take a view that may be a little gloomy, but I outline this discussion in the Times, with the idea of giving a more joyous sidelight upon logical processes, as they are, always correlating to something taken for a dominant, and not as they are ideally supposed to be:

That oxides of sulphur are not inflammable, but that a combination of sulphur and phosphorous is — the phosphorous might have been derived from the matches used to set the sulphur afire — but that would have been an oxide of phosphorus — nevertheless the aforesaid combination is inflammable — but to permeate a whole house, many matches must have been used — but the testimony in court was that only a few had been used — but many matches must have been used — but combination of sulphur and phosphorous is of a very disagreeable odor — but no odor

had been noticed in this house — but that the sulphur did it anyway — but, for fumigating purposes, sulphur has been burned in millions of homes, never followed by such phenomena — but the sulphur did it.

Box 2 (Resumed)

- Aug 16 Night Rouen immense cloud of small white moths (reverse) burst over the town. In morning covered the ground, almost all dead. Inverness Courier 21st.
- 16 At Rouen / "An immense cloud of small white moths burst over the town and completely covered everything in a few seconds." Bedford Mercury, Aug 23. This at night — in morning found on the ground almost all dead. Almost all fell only upon one side of the river. Suffolk Chronicle Aug 16.
- 17 Messina Terrific hailstorm from the N W. Some of them weighed 20 stoli each — (reverse) or size of oranges. Times, Aug 25 I get from Trans Bombay Geog Soc 13/15.
- 17 China Great quake, had been minor quakes several days before. Timbs '57-266.
- 17 China. Great quake. Details La Sci Pour Tous 2-7.
- 21 Letter dated Aug 21 from Arequipa, Peru — for several hours each night for several weeks a comet. Bicester Advertiser Nov 1 1856
- 21 Algeria Violent shocks. Inverness Courier Sept 4 (reverse) several villages destroyed.
- 22 Quake destroyed town of Dridrelly, Algeria Cosmos 20-1
- 22 & Oct 2 / Philippine & Algeria C R 43/589 264,5 44/586 (reverse) 46/589 46/515-589

Box A (Resumed)

- 24 4-6 News of the World of Incendiarism in Spain described as "insane mischief". In Andalusia — at Buendia, Andujar, Cordova, Lucena, Seville, and Jaen.
- 24 2-3 Lloyds Weekly Newspaper of much excitement at Wendover, Bucks. 3 fires of unknown origin. Two of them upon premises of a Mr. Juson. A woman named Chapman, who lived next door, who had given the alarm in both cases, saying she had seen a strange man leave was arrested upon suspicion.
- 25 St. Ives / Met listed by Lowe as "curious". Re. Sci 1/137.
- 31 Met listed by Lowe as "curious". Rec. Sci. 1/138 Highfield House by Lowe.
- Sept 1 Ormesby St Margaret. In thu. storm, a fall of a column of water. N. Q. 2-2-328

Box A (Resumed)

- Sept 6 All day and night fires in London.
- 7 Essex Herald Sept 16 account of a fire at Castle Hedingham — reminds us of explanation of the Moulton fire — of unknown origin, but thought that all night a smoldering from a spark from a candle — or if not that spon comb. of a box of matches.

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