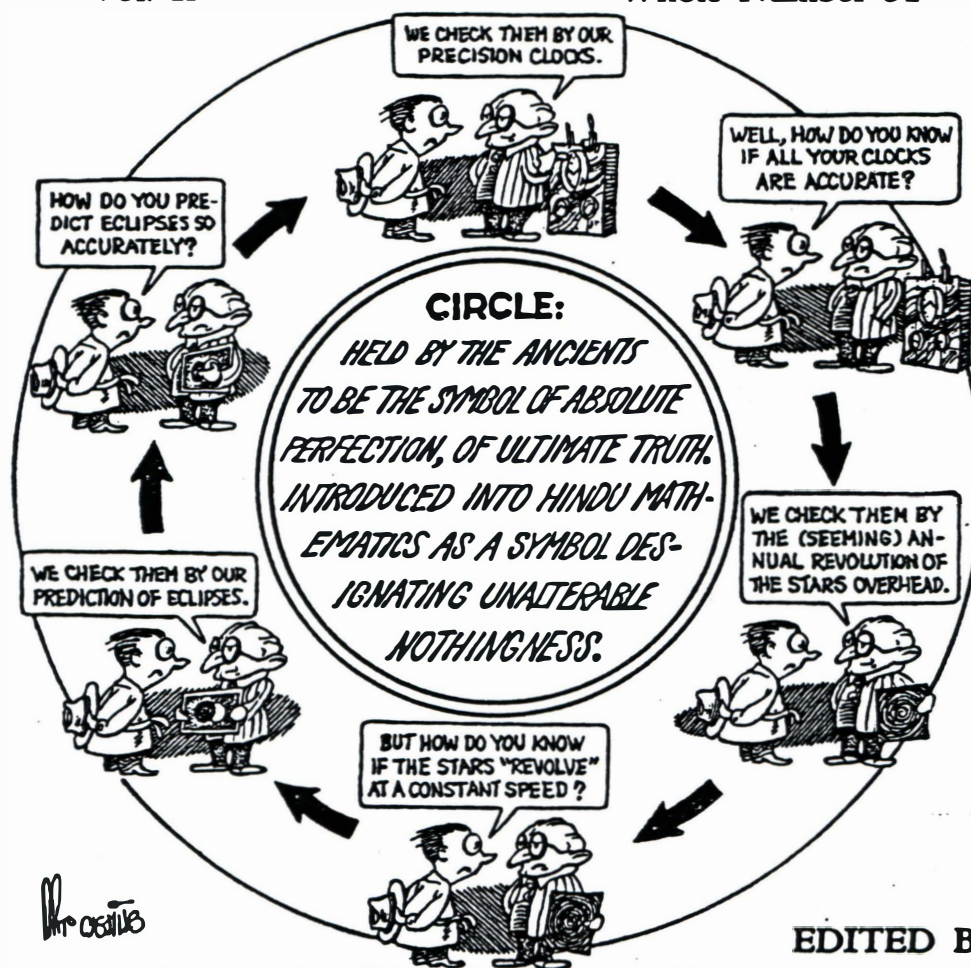


# doubt

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Vol. II

Whole Number 31



Mr. Osbourne

TIFFANY THAYER

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## DOUBT

### The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER  
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### BERLINER BALLADE

Remember the prize-winning German movie which nobody in the USA will import and show to us? It was mentioned in DOUBT No. 25, p. 378, called *Berliner Ballade*. . . It has now been exhibited in Russell's home town, and here is his review of it.

It shows what happens when the military and political bums of two hemispheres are given a city to play with for their very own. Keynote, which I suspect is disliked by your authorities, is that there's nothing to choose between Eastern and Western sectors, each of which promises the same kind of heaven but provides the same kind of hell.

There's a nice scene of an Eastern sector political meeting at which a vituperative spokesman says all sorts of nasty things about the Western sector while the audience obediently claps its applause at word of command. This is immediately followed by a similar meeting in the Western sector, where an equally violent speaker says exactly the same things about the Eastern sector and a startlingly similar audience applauds in exactly the same way.

Lovers amid the ruins, promising each other all sorts including black market sausages—while an American G. I. assures a blonde he is clutching that when he gets to Chicago she'll find his old man has the biggest meat-packing plant in the state. G.I.'s in a night club, not knowing one drink from another, ordering Martini's "and make them plenty dry!"

There's a nice satire on these eternal political conferences that achieve nothing. Speaker after speaker gets up, makes mouth motions and gestures in time to suitable selections of music. One old bore eventually keeps the same record going until a guy at the end of the table falls asleep, lets droop his hand holding a lit cigarette which gradually touches a nearby globe of the world. They go on yawning and listening to the record while the globe smolders and eventually bursts into flame.

The movie is a sort of clear comedy, genuine satire, a plea for the century of the common man, a ridic-

uling of militarists and politicians, a piece of pacifist propaganda, also a piece of anarchist propaganda. I'd say it's Fortean because it pricks fat bellies and is designed to make people think. I'd say it's been banned on your side because it is Fortean and pricks fat bellies and is designed to make people think.

Distribution this side is by London Films, Ltd. I don't see what's to stop anyone importing it your way, if determined to do so.

### REPLIES

MFS Eliz. Wilson writes:

*How do you stand on Flying Saucers? A hoax? Hallucination? Planetary visitors?*

*Why do you feel so strongly against a lie detector machine?*

*Fortunately my own perfect health makes the third question purely academic, but is the medical profession an unadulterated menace? Is everything they do or recommend wrong and dangerous? Sometimes I get that impression from your items.*

REPLY:

(1) The Fortean Society has no official "Stand" upon, or explanation of, any body of data, whether it be Flying Saucers, Floating Stenches, Falling Fishes, or anything else. Fort never explained anything, but only hazarded theories in ridicule of the "official" ones advanced by Authority. Hence, the only stand the Society could take on Flying Saucers would be to find the holes in the Authoritative Scientific explanation of the phenomena if such an explanation had been advanced. None has been. The people most likely to profit by the publicity on this subject have been at pains from the beginning to contradict each other and to deny on Tuesday everything they said on Monday. This practice has been "Fortean" in its results, inasmuch as the "question" is thus kept in suspense, and no final judgment handed down, but one doubts that the object or purpose of Authority has been philosophical or even scientific. One suspects that the purpose is to keep the public in a state of confusion, but always looking up—high up into the sky where "Peace on Earth" is no longer to be seen because PEACE IS A RED PLOT.

Fort's method in assailing preposterous explanations was to advance acceptances equally fantastic, and then to "prove" them as conclusively as his adversaries ever "proved" anything. In the case of the so-called Flying Saucers, the Society's work on those lines is being done for it by the opposition. We should be quintessential idiots to enter the nutty-notion-fest which has been flourishing since July 3, 1947 old style. We could not be nuttier than they. Not even Fort himself could match the follies we have accumulated from even the most staid and respectable sections of the press through this campaign. We have no choice but to let them rave, only calling attention—as we have done in DOUBT—to the enormous amount of free space and time being donated to a subject which could not get two inches in the press if the release came from the Fortean Society: and calling attention to the quality of the witnesses—newspaper publishers, holders of public office, law enforcement officials, military commanders, insurance executives, air-line operators, etc., etc., etc.

The only agency known which could command the space and time, the brains, paper and ink, devoted to this topic since it began is the Office of Strategic Services in Washington, D. C. This is the bureau which the public has heard the least about in the past



twenty years. It is what the Brain Trust used to be—with differences. It is the place where is determined what is good for people to think, and where the means of making them think it is implemented and set in motion. It is staffed on the one hand by Dollar A Year Men, who have everything to gain by manipulating the public mind, and on the other hand by the best-paid expert semanticists, wordslingers, and public relations counselors in the world.

There the world's future is planned for at least three generations to come. There is decided what the newspapers are to print when. There is decided every question of peace or war or life or death for millions of people—strategically.

If the OSS invents an atom-bomb, and later a hydrogen-bomb—the laboratories hasten to make something that will pass as such.

If the OSS decides that Hitler shall commit suicide and Mussolini be hacked to death beyond recognition—bodies are found—and the press services announces that these things have occurred.

If the OSS wishes to justify the waste of billions of dollars in the armed services for bouncing beams off the moon, for a radar network over the continent to protect it from sea-gulls and "angels", for guided missiles that can't hit a barn door, for rockets that go up but never (?) come down, and decides that the way to do it is by making the tax-payers think either that the Reds have better guided missiles or that Mars is about to invade Earth, then masses of newspaper publishers, holders of public office, law enforcement officials, military commanders, insurance executives, air-line operators, etc., etc., etc., are glad to oblige by seeing Flying Saucers.

The vast body of data grouped under this head by the press is so various that it defies intelligent study. Anything and everything seen in the sky is now a "saucer", so that attempting to classify the material would be like trying to separate grains of sand from the Sahara, the Mojave, the Atlantic and the River Jordan after they had been whirled together an hour or two in a cyclotron.

For these reasons, every Fortean is at liberty to take his own "stand" on Flying Saucers. Your Secretary has no opinion to advance.

(2) The reasons for opposing the so-called "lie-detector" have been stated in DOUBT, but will bear repeating.

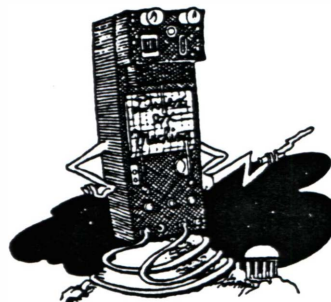
- A. There is no way of checking the accuracy of its findings.
- B. The marks it makes have to be interpreted by an "expert", as humanly fallible and bribable as the next man.
- C. It makes the same marks for alarm in the witness (innocent or guilty) as it makes for "guilt".
- D. It entrusts to a mechanical device the finding of "truth", which is a figment of human invention and has never yet been defined.
- E. It tends to increase public awe for Science, which is a nefarious thing to do because Science has already taken too great ascendancy over human reason and human life, and because the emotion of awe is slavish, debilitating and disgraceful to human dignity and self-respect.

One might go on indefinitely. No judge will admit the findings as evidence. No police officer has any confidence in the machine. The police say, cynically: "It beats a rubber hose."

If you are a sheltered lady who does not understand that last remark, it means that police generally beat

confessions out of tough guys with a length of rubber hose which hurts dreadfully but breaks no bones. The type of man who has to be beaten has also the type of mentality which is quickest to succumb to the emotion of awe for a Scientific machine. *Ergo*—the lie-detector beats a rubber hose.

In this connection a cutting from the Manchester *Guardian* of July 20 is pertinent.



### OPPOSITION TO USE OF "TRUTH SERUM" "DEGRADING PROCEDURE"

Delegates to the third conference of the International Bar Association in London were asked in a resolution yesterday to support the rejection of the use of narco-analysis as a means of eliciting confessions, and the use of the lie detector.

This followed a paper on narco-analysis read by Mr. Edward V. Saher (United States) in which he said that its present importance had generally been over-estimated by the public, which spoke of "truth serum" as if it were sufficient to inject a person with certain drugs to make him confess. This was not the case. The drug which had such an effect had not yet been found.

Mr. G. V. Rogers, for the Bar Council, proposed the resolution which declared that "this house will under no circumstances contemplate the use of narco-analysis in judicial proceedings." He said that he would also oppose the use of lie detectors. He described narco-analysis as a "degrading procedure" and any evidence obtained by it as "completely valueless." It was for the prosecution to prove that any confession was a voluntary confession of the accused person.

Lieutenant Colonel D. McClure (staff judge advocate) Third Air Division, United States Air Force, moved the following addition to the motion by Mr. Rogers: "Any information obtained by narco-analysis shall be inadmissible as evidence in any court of law, and we urge all nations to respect this rule."

The section of the conference considering narco-analysis carried the motion and the addition, and it was agreed that the resolution was applicable to the lie detector. *Cr Russell*

(3) No Fortean expression should ever convey the impression that any "menace" is "unadulterated". Whether for weal or woe, each extreme is tintured with its opposite. Fort makes this abundantly clear. Accordingly, the sniping we do at medical men is intended to loosen the grip they have upon every phase of modern life. The power they have surpasses that of every other group, even that of the politicians and the military. They are beyond the law, above it,

and cannot be brought to book by any means whatsoever. The art they profess is not that good (infallible or efficient), and the practitioners of it are not that good (as men, morally and ethically).

There are any number of healing arts capable of development comparable to the touted achievements of medical doctoring, but in most States they are forbidden by law. The topic is much too vast to be dealt with in this space. The anti-medical literature is vast. Read some of it.

You are to be congratulated upon your "perfect health". It should enable you to seek, at your leisure, a medical man who has the Fortean attitude toward his science. One who is not stampeded into blind enthusiasm for miracle drugs by the literature of the manufacturers dumped on his desk daily: one who admits that the modern water-closet, plumbing, and not anti-toxin stopped small-pox: one who admits that the American Medical Association is a political organization and that he is a member only because he has to be, by law, in order to practice. Find such a doctor, and then if you ever are ill, listen to his advice. After you have heard it, you can use your own Fortean judgment about following it or not.

Incidentally, the rank and file of Those Damned Reds are in the same boat with the rest of us. One "J.D.P." wrote to the question box of *Soviet Russia Today*, conducted by Theodore Bayer, and asked—"What is the attitude of the Soviet Government toward those who for reasons of religion or health are opposed to the practice of vaccination and inoculation as prophylactic measures in the control of certain diseases?"

"ANSWER: The Soviet Union uses vaccination and prophylactic immunization on a very broad scale. In 1919 immunization against smallpox was made compulsory, and in 1939, by which time the disease had been completely overcome in the Soviet Union, a law was passed, holding parents responsible for having their children vaccinated during the first year of their life and for re-vaccination at stated intervals thereafter."

### PERTINENT TO ABOVE

We have 73 pieces of data on the saucers since last issue. *Cr* Layne, Bristol, Goeller, Creviston, Gee, Russell, Wakefield, Elsander, Laclede, Hoernlein, McMahon, Martin, and anonymous.

We also have a copy of Frank Scully's book, *Behind the Flying Saucers*. Perhaps the kindest way would be to ignore this little item. Brother Scully has taken pains to handle Charles Fort and the Fortean Society with a respect which your Secretary deems seemly, meet, and essential. In return courtesy, we do not let go with both barrels. We confine ourselves simply to the statement that if the Office of Strategic Services had wished to get a book like this on the market before Liebling of "the Wayward Pressman", or some similarly trenchant observer, wrote it right, then Scully was as good a choice as any to hack it out for them. He makes considerable bluster to establish his position as an independent journalistic critic of bureaucracy, of the military, of the Department of Defense, of the Pentagonians—but he doesn't criticize them or pull off a single wig or set of false whiskers. He whirls around on one toe, screaming like a dervish, but his screams all come out double-talk, and he finishes exactly where he started.

If he had finished anywhere else they would have hired a different boy.

We are heartily ashamed of Henry Holt for dignifying such a piece of propaganda with their imprint, but can charitably assume that the MSS came to them without the OSS stigma upon it. The publisher was honest enough to put the object of the operation in so many words on the jacket:

*Perhaps the provocative and bewildering answer can be found in this book. Read it for yourself and make up your own mind. Whichever way you feel, you'll be talking about flying saucers for many months to come.*

They hope.

Frankly, the book is a waste of your time, but we practice no exclusionism here. If you want to read it, we'll supply you. \$2.75 from the Society.

### AMERICAN PIN-HEADS

A favorite device of those who make wars is to elevate persons of the least possible significance to positions of petty power, to give the slugs and mental misfits a bit of authority over their fellows. In uniform, these are the corporals. In civilian life they are the air-raid wardens.

By making these appointments the purposes of regimentation are served on the broadest possible base. The apathy and general disinterest of the public—or of the infantry, which is the public in uniform—would be too great to manage without the glorification of this genus, informer or stool-pigeon. If that class of nincompoop newspaper-believers was not such a large one, war would be impossible.

This note is simply to warn Forteans that the piss-mires in white helmets, wearing armbands, are being assembled again and "plane-spotters" are out, not because the United States is threatened with attack but because this rattling of the pin-heads is so helpful in maintaining the present balloon-juice inflated economy. Your Secretary hopes that no Fortean ever will obey an "order" or bow to a request of an air-raid-warden, nor put out his lights and muffle his windows for a "blackout". It is a great nuisance to fight their vicious nonsense, but so are bedbugs a great nuisance too, yet we do what we can to prevent them from spoiling our lives.

The Law, as such, which gives these extra-curricular police its superficial support, cannot withstand civilian attack if resistance is made to it, and even the cops hold the tin-hat brigades in contempt. So, when your air-raid-warden whistles, tell him to fly a kite. A ride in the wagon won't hurt you. You'll like yourself better for taking it.

### BRITISH HUM

Here is a two-year grist on the "high-pitched humming" heard in all parts of Britain. If you can bridge any gaps or add anything, please do.

*Empire News*, Nov. 14, 1948. (First complaints came in 1942.) "Scientists"—"trained observers"—unnamed had this date given up a six-month inquiry but would not say whether they had discovered the source or not. *Cr* Elsander

Buffalo *Courier-Express*, Dec. 24, a month and ten days later, printed a brief version of the same story, under a "secret weapon" lead. *Cr* Goldstein

Hero of above: Sir Christopher Lynch Robinson, hon-sec, Noise Abatement Society.

*Daily Express*, Jan. 1, 1950, quotes an RAF official report on "sound waves beyond hearing", which by their direct effect on internal organs may cause a

"supersonic sickness". The RAF doc named is S. C. Ghose. "A special siren to generate waves beyond human hearing has been developed. Its effects on animals are being tested." *Cr Russell*

On April 8, 1950, the following appeared in the (London) *Daily Mail*, Roanoke (Va.) *World News*, Phila. *Bulletin*: same story April 9, in *L.A. Times*, Buffalo *Courier-Express*: on April 10, in the Oakland (Cal) *Tribune*, all A. P. A London barrister, Mr. Ralph B. Cox, described as "elderly", is after the British Government to solve the mystery. As appears, Mr. Cox is the man who first reported the sounds in 1942, sound getting louder in the past two months, especially loud at 3 to 4 A.M. Heard by hundreds. Mr. Cox asks those who hear it to address him. Letters poured in. Sound—"howls, moans, whispers." The AP story mentions "flying saucers". *Cr Elsander*, Goeller, Oltscher, Pollard, Berest, Giles, Wakefield.

*Daily Oklahoman*, April 18, AP, Moscow (Russ): That *Izvestia* and *Trud*, Soviet papers, "declared the (British) noises were the wailings of warmongers." *Cr Halliburton*

*Daily Mail*, April 18, same sound reported heard in Copenhagen, Denmark. *Cr Elsander*

Phila *Bulletin*, July 19. That Dr. Hubert W. Frings and his wife, Mabel, have been studying effects of sound intensity upon mice at Penn State U, under sponsorship (sic) of the U. S. Air Force. A whining noise of 10,000 cycles per second gives mice fits "similar to that of an epileptic", also, the mice try to escape. (Maybe that's a tip for elderly barristers!) *Cr Oltscher*

of M-G-M's Metro Theatre in Santiago, Chile. "A nurse in the lobby administered this extra added attraction." Sallie Belle Cox, in *Woman's Day*, Sept, 1950.

Nor were these far behind . . . F. McMahon: That a native woman giving evidence in a Port Elizabeth (South Africa) court, was asked by the prosecutor if she believed in witchcraft. "I am a witch," she replied.

MFS Bristol: That M. A. Baker and his wife, in Seattle, sat on the porch watching the stars come out, Aug 20, "when they noticed a particularly bright one almost directly overhead. At least, they think it was a star because it didn't move enough to be an airplane, they said. Anyway, the star moved perceptibly in a small circle, was stationary, then circled again, they said."

MFS Lasko: Morenito, the bullfighter, pride of Venezuela, was performing in Valencia, Spain. He killed his bull so dextrously that the crowd carried him on its shoulders. As the mules dragged the dead bull out of the arena, the toreador lost his balance and fell on the horns of the bull, receiving a "serious" wound. He was taken to Madrid by ambulance. Phila *Inquirer* 9-25-50

MFS Elsander: 8-3-50, The fire brigade of Middleburg, Walcheren, was called to a new building. They climbed its tower "to discover that moonbeams reflected on polished steelwork had led to the alarm . . . The people of Middleburg are popularly known as *Moon-quenchers* because of an earlier incident in

## GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Died October 26, 20 FS

### FIRST PRIZE

It is MFS Mealy's headline for his entry that tickles us . . . The story is that a London baby was born with a tail, which was three inches long by the time the child was eleven months old. Further, the tail could be twitched by its owner "like that of an angry cat", accto P. J. Blaxland, registrar in surgery at the hospital. *British Medical Journal*, Oct. 13 1950, old style. Mealy slugs it—LEST WE FORGET.

Second place—to Milton Smith: That Johns Hopkins Scientists are going to use lady crickets "to find out if warm beer tastes as good as cold beer". This is typical of vivisectionist thinking. The human palate, for which one might suppose the beer was made, is not accurate or not reliable in such a delicate matter . . . "female crickets have a long egg-laying tube with an acute sense of taste. The scientists want to find out if temperature affects taste—in beer and other things." *INS* Oct 2, 1950.

Third spot—Jean Forker, for this: That free vaccinations against small-pox were given to the patrons

which the fire brigade actually turned hoses on a large building reflecting moonlight." *Reuter*

MFS Oltscher: In Phila, 7-28-50, John Cavanna, 72, had a fortune-telling parrot. Mrs. Hines stroked it, and, accto her, the bird's tail feathers "came out somehow". Accto her husband, Cavanna began hitting Mrs. Hines with the parrot's perch, whereupon he "went to her assistance". The judge fined Mrs. Hines \$20, and held her husband in \$400 bail on an assault charge.

Bristol, again: That 100,000 school children in the San Francisco area will be issued military-type dog tags "as a civil-defense measure". Observe that use of words. The dog tags are not being issued for identification purposes. No nation is threatening to bomb San Francisco. At Lake Success millions of dollars are being spent to assure little children everywhere they never will be bombed again. No nation could bomb San Francisco without the connivance of the U. S. military establishment. YET, the babies are being dog-tagged "as a civil-defense measure". Well, so they are. This "civil-defense measure", like all



other "civil-defense measures" has no other purpose or utility than intimidation, regimentation, the training of our own young to fear bogey men, to keep dread uppermost in the parental mind so the tax kettle can be kept boiling.

DOUBT has pointed out, step by step, from time of the first big A-bomb in the wipers, how the public mind has been bludgeoned to its knees. The big A-secret was stolen in a brief-case outside a telephone booth. Canadian office clerks sold it to the Russ. It was found under a cabbage stump—where they used to tell us the babies came from! Until, now, at last, you would think the dirty Reds had invented the thing. American parents have to dog-tag their children as a "civil-defense measure" against our own native nightmare.

"Herbert Clish, San Francisco school superintendent, said the children will pay 6 cents each for the tags because they'll take better care of them if they pay for them." *Seattle Times*, 9-12-50.

One trusts that no San Francisco Fortean will pony up the 6 cents or permit his child to wear one of their badges of mental degradation.

We have no notice of this grizzly racket being promoted anywhere else, so the assumption is that the San Francisco dog tags are a trial balloon to see how much the public will stand for. If the parents rar back and say, "No! You don't hang a scapular to the Great God Science around the necks of our babies!"—the project will collapse. If San Francisco lets them get away with it, it will become standard practice everywhere.

Bristol also found in the *Seattle Times*, 9-5-50, a NANA story under a New York dateline, stating that the Svenska Dagbladet of Stockholm reported the return to Sweden from the U S of Prof Erik Ask-Upmark of Lund University. The Prof told a Congress of Swedish Physicians and Pharmacists at Malmo that the U S has developed a vaccination that will give immunity against the radiation caused by atomic explosions. He "said he was under oath not to make public the name or the nature of the new medicine, and could only say that it must be injected into the human body previous to the expected (sic) atomic explosion."

On the other hand, anonymous found the following in the *Milwaukee Journal*, 19 days later, 9-24-50, AP: "Discovery of a drug injection which may provide an internal shield against atomic rays was reported Saturday by three British government research men. The drug is thiourea, a substance commonly obtained by heating urea, one of the main constituents of animal urine."

Either way, here is a new serum to be squirted into us as a "civil defense measure"—IF we stand for it. We don't have to take it, you know.

Another long sermon might be written upon a nasty little squib sent in from the (British) *Daily Herald*, and the Rome (Italy) *Daily American*, by Elsander and A. Wilson, respectively. It is a nasty piece because it aids the three assumptions the press has tried so hard to establish as foregone conclusions, (1) that war with Russia is inevitable and (2) that the Russ has the A-bomb, and (3) that the A-bomb is all that its publicity agents have claimed for it. Neither of the first two assumptions is necessarily true, and the third is almost entirely false, but it has been decided by Our Betters that we should be made to believe all three. The part of wisdom would

be to ignore these vicious little column-fillers rather than spread those three dogmas, but this squib introduces a moral note which is a great novelty in these times, almost unheard of on the upper level of today's Scientific economy.

The story is that Prof. L. M. E. Oliphant, "one of Britain's top atomic scientists" landed in Adelaide, Australia, and in a press interview stated that "the atomic-bomb could only be used to terrorize civilians, and it was dirty, rotten way to kill people. Even if the Russians used it, and he did not believe they would, we should not."

YS hereby nominates Prof. L. M. E. Oliphant for Named Fellow, 20 F S. What do you say?

## IN THE KEY OF BLUE

June 15 and 16, a thick haze was blanketing an estimated one million or two million square miles of Pacific, including Hawaii. Volcanos were blamed, also the California desert. NE winds blew it away. No color mentioned.

June 16, Dr. A. Fletcher Hall, U of Southern Cal, said in Chicago that blue-eyed persons of blue-eyed parents are more likely to get skin cancer from sunlight than are brown-eyed persons. *Cr Hoernlein*

A Canadian forest fire was blamed for blotting out the sun over Pittsburgh from 2:00 p.m. 9-24-50 old style. This was some thirty-one hours before a scheduled eclipse of the moon. The weird darkness was "trimmed with purple, copper and green sunshine". The wind was from the SE, but the fires to the N were blamed anyway. "The darkness extended as far east as the Atlantic seaboard and as far west as St. Louis. Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan were hit the hardest." Phenom was lifting in Pittsburgh by 7:00 p.m. accto Fortean eye-witness.

From Phila, MFS Grant writes, 9-25-50:

"Yesterday, Sept. 24, 1950, I went out for a walk about 5 P.M. and observed that sky was a greenish hue. Later an inky, extremely dark-blue heavy cloud worked down from the north and covered the whole sky. This afternoon, as I left the house at 3 PM, the sun was PURPLE and extremely small. Well, perhaps pale lavender would be more fitting than purple. Some people, according to tonight's Philadelphia Bulletin, saw a purple sun yesterday, too. One explanation is that gases from a factory are the cause; another account blames Canadian forest-fires, and there seems to be some support to this. Dr. C. P. Olivier, director of the Flower Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foundation at the Franklin Institute, and Dr. I. M. Levitt, director of the Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute, all admitted they had never seen a purple sun. Levitt attributed the phenomenon to either smoke or ice crystals; Olivier did not accept the smoke theory, declaring that smoke produces a red light; Swann favored ice crystals.

"Yesterday and today were both unseasonably cold—almost record chill for these dates. An eclipse of the moon is due tonight."

From Cleveland, A. Wilson writes:

"At 2:00 p.m., luminous yellow-green sky, many cumulus clouds swimming in this haze: so dark I thought it must be about 9 o'clock in the evening . . . A friend who owns an airplane hopped up to 8 thousand feet and found himself between two layers of this incredible smog. Throughout the trip there was not the slightest odor of smoke. A friend driving

near Medina, Ohio, smelled no smoke. Friends in other parts of the city smelled no smoke. I smelled no smoke. Yet, R--- S--- reports that during World War II when he was on duty in the Pacific, the smoke of North American forest fires could be smelled at a distance of over 1000 miles from land." The *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, 9-25, states, "The weak-end sun turned blue . . . J. L. Janssen, chief timber inspector of Alberta Province, said . . . All that smoke can't be from Alberta. We haven't that many fires."

When, later, it was discovered that the Alberta fires had gone out, others were found in other provinces.

Philip Shed in the *News Chronicle* (London) has "just after 4 p.m." and "our own Reporter" in the *Manchester Guardian* has 5:15, but they agree that the sun turned blue, as observed all over Scotland, in the North Sea area, and as far South as Manchester. No cloud blanket or smog or haze is mentioned. The sun turned blue, and set, the full moon rose, it was blue, some twenty-seven or twenty-eight hours after the eclipse was over. No mention of the eclipse in overseas papers.

Philip Shed writes: "Astronomers at the Royal Observatory on Blackford Hill, Edinburgh, spent an exciting 90 minutes making notes . . . Dr. E. A. Baker, principal scientific officer said: 'It is outside living memory for the sun to appear blue.' . . . But records tell of abnormal solar colorings when comets came relatively close to the earth he added . . . It happened with Halle's Comet in 1908 and 1910." Whether the appearance of Halle's Comet in 1908 is by Mr. Shed or Dr. Baker is not clear.

MFS John Atkins writes: "Went into seance and immediately contacted Charles Fort—who said, 'Impressive thing here is that the astronomers saw it . . . Expect an enormous volcanic eruption in six months to explain this phenomenon'."

On the other hand, Russell sends the story from the *Liverpool Daily Post*, which states: "People in the Isle of Man had a good view, but it was not seen at Sionhurst College Observatory."

The *Manchester Guardian* goes on: "After a report to the Astronomer Royal, a jet aircraft took off . . . from Fife to look for any abnormalities in the atmosphere . . . at 43,000 ft. he told astonished ground observers that he had encountered a layer of fine dust . . . Meteorological authorities have no precedent for the finding of dust at such a height . . . A blue sun has been observed before in dust storms in Egypt and in haze conditions in North America." Besides those already mentioned, *Cr Gee*, *Creviston*, *Elsender*, *Bristol* and others.

By Sept 28, the European authorities were of many different opinions, but the smoke theory had lost much ground. On Sept 27, Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland and Gibraltar all saw the sun as blue. The *Daily Express* makes it the first blue sun over Denmark in 67 years, and quotes one *Chapman Pincher*: "Coarse clouds such as London fog behave differently from these forest fire particles. They filter off all the light except the red rays, giving rise to scarlet suns and moons . . . Dust from the volcanic eruption on Krakatoa, New Java, in 1883 drifted round the world several times before it settled. So did the radio-active dust from the Bikini atom bomb burst."

The *Empire News* and the *Sunday Dispatch* of Oct 1, both quoted the Swiss Central Institute for

Meteorology, Zurich, to the effect that the blue sun and moon could have been caused by "rocket experiments in New Mexico."

And along comes Leonard Lerner with a resume in the *Boston Globe*, Oct 8 . . . He has the Black Friday in New England May 19, 1780, and the Smog of Donora, Oct. 1948, twenty killed, six thousand sickened. "Investigators were never able to say specifically why the six-day fog caused death by suffocation . . . Today modern weather observations and scientific explanations prevent any recurrence of Black Friday." We suggest that the *Boston Globe* send Leonard back to school.

Oct 9, from a clear blue sky, blue rain fell at Gracedien, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, near Coalville, Leicestershire, England. "It left navy blue blobs the size of a penny all over the place." The track of the shower was an estimated 100 feet wide. Lasted 15 minutes. Some suggested that ripe elderberries had been swooped up, to fall here, but nobody knew of any, considerable elderberry patch which could have been swooped. The *Newcastle North Mail* mentions, "A seed in one of the blotches." *Cr* besides the others, D. Carlson, E. S. Anderson, McMahon.

Oct 9, the *Phila News* reported that 36 deaths from "heart-attacks" had occurred in the Philadelphia area in the previous 48 hours. "Humidity" was blamed. *Cr Lasko*.

I. O. Evans points out that on the same day a quay complete with cranes disappeared into the sea at Isvik near Trondheim, "during a sudden earth subsidence".

He and Russell both sent "the second blue rain in four days"—this one in Dorset, on a lorry and another car, lasted only a fraction of a minute. The Leicestershire spots washed away easily. The Dorset spots were compared to indelible ink.

On Oct 12, the *Rushville (Indiana) Republican*, stated that in nearby Patriot and Rising Sun, high school students, teachers and telephone operators reported the sun to be "swirling" and changing colors, from shortly after noon until 2:30 p.m. *Cr Kemp*

Oct 13, the *Liverpool Echo* printed the story that sheep in flood areas of New South Wales, Australia, were growing red, green, brown and yellow wool . . . "Caused by a by-product of bacteria," acceto authority.

## RUSSELL'S BEST

At a meeting of the South London Entomological Society, "the other night" (before Oct 3), Mr. H. S. Robinson told the top-ranking entomologists of England that moths and other insects are not attracted by light, but seek to avoid it. *Manchester Guardian*.

That "Australia may buy khaki drill for Service uniforms from Japan. *Liverpool Echo*.

That Adolf Liederman, 54, had been a deaf mute "since childhood". He worked in a basket factory at Burlington, Idaho. A spark set fire to paint fumes. Adolf cried out, "Fire!" . . . After it was over, his voice and speech did not remain. He is mute again. *Liverpool Echo* 9-30-50.

The antennae at the "Voice of America" broadcasting studio, Bethany, Ohio, were wrecked by an explosion 9-13. FBI is investigating possible sabotage. *Manch. Guardian*. Did anybody see that in a USA paper?

Sweden's Minister of the Interior has introduced (9-28) a new wrinkle in State departments. Sweden is to have a special department to protect her against



psychological warfare . . . You follow that, of course. To function as a propaganda destroying unit the department will have to establish invariable criteria, which is to say, State dogmas which are proper for the Swedes to believe.

The population of Fair Isle, between Shetland and Orkney is 70 humans. No female child has been born there in 20 years accto the *Daily Express* 9-28. That week-end two more boys were born.

In Biggleswade, Beds., minute red worms have turned up in the city water, lively and wriggling—come right out of the taps into drinking glass or tub. "The Council are flushing out the water mains, and hope this will cure the trouble." *Liverp. Echo* 8-24-50.

### VACCINATION—FOR HENS

Following the death of thousands of chickens from a mysterious disease which poultry farmers call the "bird plague," large numbers of surviving birds in various areas in the Dutch province of Gelderland are being vaccinated.

About a hundred laboratory workers have been chosen to carry out the tricky business of vaccination under the direction of the Minister of Agriculture.

In a single month many chicken farmers have lost all their livestock—just because one or two had fallen victims of the plague. Fortunately the disease, it is reported, has no effect upon the quality of the birdmeat and the eggs remain uninfected. Most of the killed chickens are therefore being canned, so Dutch people during the coming winter are likely to eat a lot more chicken than they normally do. *Tit-Bits*, July 29, '50. Russell's caption is, "Godelpeem!"

### NEGRESS AS U. S. DELEGATE

WASHINGTON, Saturday.

President Truman is reported to have chosen Mrs. Edith Sampson, Chicago negress lawyer, as a member of the American delegation to next month's meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The State Department proposed her appointment as a counterblast to the Russian claim that American negroes are an oppressed people.—*Reuter*. Russell's caption — AND NO OTHER REASON. L. E. Aug. 19, '50.

### FORT INFLUENCE

This is add No. 1 to the list of bound books mentioning Charles Fort, begun p. 20, this volume, DOUBT No. 29.

Gorer, Geoffrey: *Africa Dances*, Lehman, London, 1949

Brean, Herbert: *Wilders Walk Away, Morrow*, N. Y. 1948

Beaumont, Comyns: *Mysterious Comet*, Rider, London, 1932

Smith, H. Allen: *Low Man on a Totem Pole*, Doubleday, New York, 1941

Evans, Bergen: *Natural History of Nonsense*, Joseph, London, 1947

Scully, Frank: *Behind the Flying Saucers*, Holt, N.Y., 1950

Russell, Eric Frank: *Sinister Barrier, Fantasy*, Reading, 1948

### ADD FORTEAN CLOUD

Last issue we gave you a cloud over SF, Aug 2, 50 old style, rainbow-colored and moving "against" the wind. The color was explained by the Weather Bureau in the usual way. Now comes the other half.

The cloud was up 15,000 feet, and at that altitude the wind was blowing counter to its direction at ground level, sez the big W B.

Now altogether, children, answer in unison: how did the W B know which way the wind was blowing at the height of 15,000 feet?

### THE WAY TO PEACE

This world will be at peace when men refuse to fight and not before. It is heartening to read the admission in the *N. Y. Times*. Sept 17, 1950 old style, that in New York 22% of the draftees called are failing to show up.

### ANTS

Flying ants invaded Bournemouth (England) beach in clouds, Aug 7. Humans were about to give ground when gulls came and wiped out the invaders in 15 minutes. *Daily Herald* . . . On Aug 22, thousands of red flying ants drove six steeplejacks off the spire of Salisbury, Wiltshire, Cathedral . . . Oct 1, millions of small flying ants invaded Bologna (Italy). "dimming the daylight for several hours." *Reynolds News*. Cr Elsender, Russell

### LIGHTNING

Away back in May the *American Weekly* ran a story listing several fatal lightning strokes "in the same place". Then June 22, Charles Sappal was struck fatally near Riverview, Fla., at a spot where lightning had knocked a bottle out of his hand one year before.

No more baseball players were struck, in our collection, but a girl of 15 in a beach tent at Bridlington was killed and six others in the tent with her were hospitalized, Aug 2. The tent was uninjured. As appears, "ball lightning" or a "thunderbolt" bounced off the sea wall into the tent.

Aug 19, another "thunderbolt" exploded over a farm in Sussex.

In DOUBT No. 27, p.410, we mentioned a lightning stroke that set off a dynamite charge in a mine, at Pitlochry, Perthshire. The same thing happened Aug 30, Pottsville, Penna, killing two men 430 feet underground.

In Leeds, England, 50 buildings were struck in one day.

A Welsh farmer, his dog and his pony, Aug 8, on a mountain near Pen-y-Cae, Brecon.

Seven persons in Catanzaro, Italy, Aug 14, when a fireworks factory was struck. The next day was Ferragosto.

In the course of the next day, 15 more were killed by lightning, most of them in Southern Italy.

Aug 16, in Tunis, five shepherds in a hay stack where they went for shelter.

Sept 21—the Rome—Sicily express, one of their crack trains, was struck just North of Naples. A new engine was substituted for disabled one. An hour later, that engine was struck.

Oct 3, three hundred miles up the River Magdalena, in Colombia, a petrol-carrying tug boat was struck and set afire. Twenty-eight people lost.

A fire in the Theatre Royal, Hebburn-on-Tyne, Oct 7, caused damage of about \$175,000. The film attraction was *Chain Lightning*. Cr. Elsender, Russell, Barneson, A. Wilson, Hoernlein.

### REDS IN 1921 A D

MFS Ellman calls our attention to this, in THE BOOKS, p.637. Remember, it was written by Fort in 1931:

"In the year 1921 it was customary to accuse the



Russians. I think that the climax was reached in the year 1927 when unruliness of natives in the jungles of Peru was attributed to Russian agents. Still I suppose that, for years, whenever there is revolt against misrule and oppression, propagandists will tell us the same old yarn of otherwise contented natives, misled by those Russians."

### FORT-LESSING CIRCLE

In Pittsburgh, Mr. George Seibel, of the Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny, has formed a book discussion group, called The Lessing Circle. MFS Olcher is its Secretary, and she asks if other Pittsburgh Fortceans would be interested. They discuss much more than Lessing. Matthew Arnold and H. G. Wells have been spoken of . . . Look into it.

### WHO CAN HELP BRISTOL?

MFS Bristol asks:

"Has anyone checked to see whether blind and/or mute people have—as a group—over ordinary mortals—any extra dimensional perceptions that follow a basic pattern?"

### WHO CAN HELP LASKO?

MFS Lasko asks for more information about two incidents:

"The first incident I heard about on *Lowell Thomas news program*—it was sometime about 1937, 1938, 1939, I am not quite sure which. The incident as I remember it was as follows:

A French bicyclist in France was seen during a race to turn around a corner of a road which ran along the top of a cliff overlooking a beach. After that he was not seen again. No trace was found anywhere along the road or at the bottom of the cliff. He just vanished.

I would like to find out when this happened and which American papers carried an account of that occurrence.

The second incident I read in an old Reader's Digest between 1936-1940:

It told about an ordinary dentist (from an American city) who had strange dreams. He dreamed of a race of people scientifically far in advance of the technology of today. He dreamed that they talked to him in a language similar to Greek. As a result he took up the study of Greek so as to understand them. They came night after night.

That's all I can remember about it. I would like to find out when and in what issue the article appeared. The magazine may have been *Coronet* for it had a similar shape to the Reader's Digest back before 1940."

### READING MATTER

See what you make of the pamphlets issued by George Rolfs, P. O. Box 7013, Capitol Hill Station, Denver, Colo. Send him some 2 cent stamps. As nearly as YS can get the drift, it's some fraction, up to half, great stuff, the rest nonsense.

A new publication, *The Open Eye*, is more understandable. It appears to be hot and heavy for self-respect. Ten cents a copy. Send to Edward Kuper-Johnson, 43 Box Canyon Road, Canoga Park, Calif.

The former MFS—Albert Cushing Crebore, Ph.D.—has written a new book—A NEW ELECTRODYNAMICS. Unless you know and admire Crebore's atom, we hesitate to recommend the present extension of his work. He asks \$5.00 for it. Address your orders to the author, care of V. E. Hermer, 1199 Lader Road, Cleveland 24, Ohio.

## ATLANTIS RESEARCH

For those of you who have the Atlantis bug, here is a whole blooming organization, a going concern, the Atlantis Research Center, Egerton Sykes, Founder and Chairman, 9 Markham Square, S. W. 3, London, England. Annual subscription is \$3.00.

The organization was founded in the year 15 FS, and some British Fortceans who are also members of the Center called it to our attention. They publish a periodical and pamphlets, through which runs a heavy strain of mysticism and over which broods the pseudo-scientific dignity which characterizes most efforts of this kind as carried on in England.

If you have lots of leisure, you may like to spend some of it among these speculations. As YS wrote to the Honorable Secretary Mr. Sykes: "Fortceans generally are cordial to all your specializations, with fingers crossed, alert on the one hand not to embrace the Faith, and on the other, not to be beguiled by the authoritative, scientific approach of some of your authors."

Incidentally, a party of ten Germans, including three women, led by Juergen Spanuth, sailed from Husum, Germany, July 28, to look for Atlantis under the North Sea. Cr Elsander, Gee

PLUTO is back in the news! Regale yourselves with Fort's treatment of "Lowell's planet", THE HOOKS, p. 606 and 728, and add the new use discovered for the White Elephant of Palomar. Dr. Kuiper of Chicago measured Pluto—and confirmed our laughter.

## POLIO MONKEYS

In Stockholm 400 monkeys are being used by "specialists" for polio research. Not a word about taking out their tonsils. Do monkeys *have tonsils*?

In the August issue of *Consumers' Union* is an article, *Polio Precaution*. The Australian and British data given in the last issue of DOUBT is used as the basis for these remarks:

"Paralytic polio most often affects the legs of younger children; here, if an arm was the site of the last shot, that arm was most severely paralyzed limb."

And: "Most likely the traumatic shock of an injection during the polio incubation period, which may be as long as 30 days, was responsible. Traumatic shocks of other kinds, such as tonsillectomy, are known to localize the paralytic effects of polio in a similar way."

You observe that even here the semantic effort is to link traumatic shock to a side effect or to a single symptom of an *a priori* infection. Not even Consumers' Union has guts enough to suggest that traumatic shock is the principle CAUSE of the disease. Cr Russell, Forker

## SELF-FILLING BARREL

In August the wipers broke a story that "goes back several months": that a barrel on a farm in the Ozarks stayed full of water without being replenished by any human or known agency. YS regrets that the laboratory conditions under which investigation was conducted were so far from adequate that the data are worthless. Fort's test of a wild talent was to require of the subject the ability to "do it again". The barrel couldn't. Cr Bath, Mealy, Bristol, Crevisson, Novak

## REPEATS

The streets of Aberdeen, Wash., were littered with hundreds of dead birds, mostly sparrows and wild canaries, Oct 13. Lee Armstrong, high school biology instructor said bad food and water—covered with weed-killing chemicals was a possible explanation.

"Red tide" off Galveston was killing fish again, Oct 14.

Fish dying in South Rhodesia rivers, Oct 5. "Some believe the fish have been poisoned by the spraying of streams with copper sulphate." *Cr Bristol*



## RUN OF THE MILL

A pillar of flame observed for five minutes off Minivak Island, Alaska, Sept 6. No planes or boats missing. *Cr Wakefield, Bristol*

A green painted motor schooner drifted crewless ashore at Oiso, Japan, Sept 13. *Cr Barneson*

The Hayden Planetarium, N. Y. C. announced that it had 18,000 reservations, as of Oct 6, for space on the first interplanetary rocket to try to leave Earth. *Cr Laclede*

An animal was shot twice and then clubbed to death in Olive Branch, Ill., after it had attacked a 3-year-old child. Identified as a "wild baboon" by the local school principal. Nobody seems to have asked how a baboon came to be on a porch in Olive Branch. *Cr Bristol*

A chimney in the home of Pap Caldwell, Morgantown (N.C.) Negro, picks up voices and music almost like a radio receiver. Jim Griffith by-line in the *Greensboro Daily News*, Aug 18.

As of Sept 24, the highest score in intelligence tests given to draftees in Atlanta, Ga., had been made by a Negro with a third-grade education: the lowest by a college junior "with a three-year football record". AP

## SCIENCE FOLLIES

In the same year that Dr. Benioff said we should have only about one quake a year from now on, we have had hundreds, including the fifth most severe on record. Called the Assam Quake, it levelled mountains and created havoc generally in all the surrounding country, "destroyed the homes of half a million people."

No Fortean were reported. A red glow in the sky Aug 21, a week after the event, was attributed to volcanoes.

One John M. Cage, of Upper Montclair, N. J. (not otherwise identified in the AP story we have), "says that quakes do not come from slips of the earth, as seismologists say, but that the slips are caused by the quakes." He calls his "the tuning fork" theory, and says the impulses which set off quakes come from the tremulous ether. *Cr Whitacre*

The good old "speed of light" racket is still being worked by the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington (Eng.) Dr. Louis Essen announces that the correct figure is 11 miles per second faster than hitherto accepted. Should be 186,282 instead of 186,271. The crux of the matter is in the *Manch. Guardian* story: "Much time and money has been

At Manchester U, Cambridge U, Cornell U, and U S Bureau of Standards, Washington, staffs are listening to sounds received on radio apparatus "from outer space". The wipers consistently refer to the sounds as "signals" and then go on to say that they are unintelligible and apparently meaningless. Perhaps YS does not know what the word "signal" means. No matter. The boys are going to find out what makes them. *Cr Elsander, Creviston, Koff*

## HAVELOCK ELLIS' LADY

MFS Delisle, long-time associate of Havelock Ellis, will soon publish a book about him in the U S. We shall announce it as soon as possible. Here is a letter of MFS Delisle, reprinted from *Peace News*, Aug 18:

One reason for backing Dr. Soper's view that he would rather we be overrun by Communist forces than have another war is, surely, that it is better even to die at the hands of terrorists than become one. And is not war terrorism in excelsis? With due apology to Shelley, it is as if terrorism creates "from its own wreck the thing it contemplates."

Some people feel certain that their country only declares war to suppress terrorism in another. Yet how, in effect does this work? This way of quenching terrorism does not always even remove the people responsible for it. At most it disposes of a few, but only after years of devastation and slaughter, and invariably by means far more hellish than any thought of before. The last word in terrorism, so far, is the atom bomb. But unless we renounce violence, a resurgence of terror threatens us with weapons even more diabolical. And it is sheer cant to pretend that our side will not use them.

Two wrongs never make a right, yet, under pretense of self-defence, many people still believe in this impossible task. So the defence they seek can but prove illusory, and one war can but bring another. However, while terrorism is used against inhabitants of other lands, few people admit it as terrorism. They call it a sad necessity, and behave as if out of sight out of mind.

Such blindness is amazing enough, but it is accompanied by another altogether gruesome—that is to terrorism in our own midst and against young people.

Just as concentration camps have for long been the bane of most lands, conscription is now the bane of practically all countries.

This most heinous form of terrorism is the premeditated, foul murder of vast numbers of young men, after such refinement of degradation as training them first to become murderers. I hear well-inten-



tioned people protest that they can refuse; that in some countries there is conscientious objection.

Oh, this gauging of young men's consciences by judges intent on murder! Can anyone take it seriously? It provides escape for a few—precious few and not always the best. It is but the warmonger's compromise to lull the public and bring them to accept this martyrdom of their young men.

Why so blind to this, even in countries boasting of freedom? Rulers proclaim a man's freedom of choice sacred when he votes, and anyone who bribed him or gauged his conscience in time of voting would incur more than public disapproval. But when he is required to become a killer (even before he is a voter), it is a different story. Rulers and public then set out to weigh the most imponderable thing on earth—a human conscience. But if most people remain unaware of the real significance of this preposterous weighting, not so are the rulers. Should sincere objection procure exemption, so few would be soldiers or navy men or air men as to make militarism as voluntary an occupation as any other profession, but in this case not one sufficiently sought after to provide adequate forces for modern wars. So the fact that, even after the stir of conscientious objection conscription is more than ever in operation, provides the best evidence that this display of tolerance is but sham. Is, indeed, glaring proof that, out of men sent to war, a vast number are unwilling and just bullied into it.

I would like to add that having lived under German occupation in War I, and seen my relatives in France do likewise in War II, I am convinced that invasion, even in such a case when the nation invaded was a belligerent, is not the worse evil of war, nor the most degrading, nor the most deadly.

Obviously, the invasion of a non-belligerent nation would prove entirely different. If such a country would rather face it than declare war and intensify terrorism, then already is the mettle of the majority of its people spiritually undefeatable. And much would follow from this, eventually to the advantage of this land.

FRANCOISE DELISLE



*An Open Letter to the Honorable Harry S. Truman,  
President of the USA*

I am writing to you because there is no apparent evidence, judging by the headlines, that anybody else has anything to do with the decisions taken in regard to the national or international affairs of our country. It seems that our Congress or the people must take it for granted that—*Only Truman knows what is good*. That may be so but it is not good for the people of the USA or for humanity at large. The

truth is, I think, that you have very little to do with the official acts of our government, which is made to work by big private interests, firstly and mostly, for *their own good*.

What revolts me is the fact that we in this country have gushed rivers of words describing how hundreds of millions of people in Europe and Asia were reduced to a robot-like state by totalitarian regimes, words boasting about our wonderful individualism and liberties still intact under our democratic system, etc., while there never existed a more robot-like people than we have today in our country, and getting more so every day.

Only five years after the end of the second World War, while the stench of death is still felt, while many millions of people are still degenerating body and soul in misery and squalor as a result of our liberating mania—we, or rather you, Mr. President, and your close advisers have the courage to engage in another war.

Little squeaks are barely audible from people wishing to protest—that great individualistic, free American people—timid squeaks that die on their lips as soon as they pick up the daily paper or listen to the radios (the movies are not fully on the job yet) and read or hear of “the President’s calls for another billion dollars for atomic expansion and armaments” or “Stalin peace offer a lie, a deceit” or just some stale atrocity stories with pictures a la Hollywood. Yet our people are dismayed at the thought of war again. But “What can we do about it?”

I ask you, is this the way for free, intelligent Americans to talk? And how is this way of talking different from that of the enslaved Russian people? I know this letter will not accomplish much if any good, but if a few more million letters were written by all those who say “What can we do about it?” I guarantee, you, Mr. President, and your advisors would use much more caution in dealing with the delicate problems of the world—which are strictly economic and which will *never* be solved with bombs of any variety, except one that would crumble the entire world.

The plain fact, Mr. President, is that we definitely can do without war now and at any time in the future, as we definitely could have done without the last war and one before last, for the reason that all wars are promoted by and fought for the benefit of the same persons: the International Money Lenders who control every form of human life in all its aspects in the entire world. The exploitation of human weaknesses and emotions and ignorance by this small powerful group through the medium of weak, fearful, cowardly hypnotized leaders in education, religion, business, commerce and politics is the lowest of all crimes.

Should Stalin today or had Hitler yesterday meant to and actually succeeded in conquering the world and had our only opposition been limited to trying to convince them that it would not be right or sensible to do so, humanity would be one hundred times better off than we are today or will be tomorrow after trying to stop them by force and total destruction. The only difference would be—had we adopted a passive resistance attitude—that there would be no markets for the international financiers, no busted-up countries, no need for loans, no generations of mortgaged lives!

Yours very respectfully,

ALFREDO STUDER

# 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.

1859

## Box 2 (Continued)

- Feb end of Unusual number of meteors Melbourne BA 68-407
- Mar 12 Castillon-sur-Dordogne (Gironde) / white, pliable substance / La Sci Pour Tous 4/144 / CR 48-597 in small grains / in space of less than 8 kilometers.
- 18 Mottlesley Observatory / 1:23½ AM / "From S to N a few degrees below the moon B Ass 1859/84
- 22 Quito — at 8:30 AM. After a slight atmospheric detonation a great quake. Y B 60-268 / BA '11
- 26 Spot Sun Lercarbunt / 104
- 28 (F) Meteorite of Harrison Co., Indiana. 4 PM. Dug up immediately "no warmth". Another was warm with a black vitrified surface. A J Sci / 2/28/409
- 28 Aerolite also 1860 E Mec 79/383

## Box A (Resumed)

- Apr Disap or ghost / Cow of Isle of Wight / Real Short Stories p. 90

## Box 2 (Resumed)

- Apr 1 Ext. cold at Rennes Cosmos 14-515
- 4 Pampanga (Mexico) Philippines (F)

- 6 Vosges—quake—sound like thunder See Oct 16 '58 C R 48/752
- 12-21 9 shocks Siena LT Apr 15 p 10
- 13 9 AM Explosion powder mill at Hastings LT Apr 15 p 10
- 22 1:14 AM Meteor Beeston Observatory fine aurora at the time BA '59
- 29 A / A J Sci 2/28/154-408
- May Beuste / Bases-Pyrenees France CR 76-314
- 4 Chambon / Milky substance in hail — said been sulphuric acid. Cosmos 14-675
- 8-17 Period of unusual number of shooting stars Melbourne BA 68-407
- 27-June 10 Dry fog verified Cosmos 15/37, 88
- 27 And other days / France / Dry fog or thick smoke / At Paris strong odor of sulphur or creosote See June 2-7
- 27 Paris / Dry fog, strong nauseating odor Cosmos 15/37
- May 28 Ext. hail Brussels Bullac Sci Brux 7-352
- 28 Brussels hail Jassey 2/343
- 29 Large hailstones falling gently near Nottingham some more than an inch in diameter ac to E J Lowe An Reg. 1859/70
- June 20 Ottawa Co., Kansas / Tornado / Finley's Report
- Summer Swarms of (indecipherable) insects "Thrips" / Scarborough See Aug 25 1869 Sci Op 2-292
- Summer Swarms of insects like in 1869 Aug 25 / Sci Op. 2/292
- June 2 L T p 7 The smoke or fog very thick at Munster Cosmos 14-677 See May 27
- July 4 Fall of meteors found later Taney Co., Mo. Sci. News 7-148 N.S.
- 13 New York City / Tornado / Finley's Report

## Box A (Resumed)

- July 13 LT p 5 Singular fatality to a family.

## Box 2 (Resumed)

- 18 Enfield / a little fly "Chlorops lineata" in a hailstone Ent. Weekly Intelligencer vol 7 p. 76
- 21 Conj Jupiter & Venus / Observatory 24/156
- 24 Elmira, N.Y. Tornado / Finley's Rept Vesuvius active and devastating / Y.B. '60-276
- July & Aug 25 Milan / hail / Fassig / 2/343
- 29 Celebes Sea Wave / BA '11
- 30 Fish / Nusseerabad, Rajpootna, India — acto cor to the Field, Oct, 1859 / After long absences of rain, a sudden heavy fall beginning 3 a.m. near his bungalow / close to where he stood cor saw a small fish wriggling on the gravel. Ab 2 inches long, and resembled a young dace. Then other living fishes found. No stream near. No pond nearer than a mile.
- 31 Montpreis (Styria) Cosmos 19-567 Metites of stone



- 31 Metites 9:30 p.m. Montpreis, Styria / 3 small hot stones / BA 67-418
- Aug 1 Beeston Observatory / many meteors / BA 59
- ab 1 Metite near Albany, N.Y. London Times Sept 30 p. 10
- 3 Destructive gale at Bahia / N.Y. Ev Post 16th
- 7 8:30 p.m. Germany / det met BA 60-94
- 9 Date of the moths / D News 15th
- 10 Met—at Beeston—by E. Lowe—listed by him as "curious" / Rec Sci 1/138
- 10 Mets at Wolverhampton "very grand" BA 59-95
- 10 At Beeston Observatory ab 70 per hour in  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of the heavens BA 59
- 11 Midnight / Siberia / in the S. great detonating meteor BA 61
- 11 Metite / ab 7:20 a.m. Northern N.Y., Vt., Mass. Violent det meteor / A. J. Sci. 2/28/300 (reverse) Stone said fallen near Albany—near Bethlehem.
- 11 (F) ab 7:20 a.m. Blandford, Mass., Troy, N.Y., Bennington, Vt., Albany / 2 explosions ac to one, in others 3. Meteor was seen by many. A. J. Sci. 3/28/300
- 11 Meteor of / Stone said to have fallen on a farm in the village of Jericho, ab 4 miles from Bethlehem Centre, N.Y. about size pigeon egg / NY Ev Post Sept 12
- 13 Sound / 10:15 a.m. Hopton—near E. Hasting (or East Horling) Norfolk / cloudless sky / rumbling like distant cannonading / LT Aug 20 p.7 / noticed at Brighton / sky "perfectly cloudless" / Said was supposed to be from cannonade at Portsmouth, where the Duke Constantine had recently arrived, but it was learned that no salutes there until late in the evening. Ac to another cor at Wallisfield, Suffolk "a sudden loud rumbling noise over head" bet 9 & 10 a.m. Another cor notes that at sea near (Note 2) Brighton he had heard a succession of heavy rumbling sounds lasting from 10:15 to 10:35 a.m. (This LT Aug 27 p.5) He had questioned boatmen who said that cannonading at Spithead, from which, though 50 miles away, cannonading had been heard when wind favorable. However, this morning the wind had not been from direction of Spithead, only showing a tendency so to veer.
- 15 Spot appeared on edge of sun but the great spot appeared 25th / D News 31 p.3
- 18 Flashes from Mt Hood, Oregon, 19th and 20 clouds of vapor from the crater and at night shafts of flame A. J. Sci 2/28/448
- 21 From 6 to 7 p.m. large sun spot visible to naked eye, reported by E. J. Lowe LT Aug 24 p.12 (reverse) Another cor notes been visible since the 15th / others—but all small compared with a new one that began to appear morn of 24th ab 4 times the size of Lowe's LT Aug 27 p.5
- 22 Noscia, Italy, quake / 25th-Sept 3, sea waves at Salvador / Aug 31 quake Turkey / BA '11
- 22 Quake versus sky / At Noscia, Italy, ac to Sicchi the stories of column of fire and of other flames were absurd. Cosmos / N.S. 69/422
- 23 Letter dated: Naples, (in) LT Aug 29 p.8 / Vesuvius "busted out into patches of fire in all directions"
- 22 (It) Noscia? (Fort's question. TT) Quake and column of fire and smoke / See 1805
- 28-29 Cupola of the Aurora at 12:45 open space surrounded by circle of light exactly on Alpha Andromedae (reverse) Lowe Sept 1, p.10 LT / at 2:30 cupola close to Gamma Trianguli
- 28 At Beeston—the Aurora cupola 12:45 a.m. on A. Andromedae, 1:15—2° E of Alpha, 2:30—close to Gamma Trianguli / E. J. Lowe LT Sept 1
- 28 8:40—9 p.m. Aurora and position of rays given by Lowe (reverse) exactly on Alpha Andromeda / An Reg 1859—129
- 28-29 Paris / Aurora / C. R. 49/3 38 Rome p. 346 (see also pp. 367, 397, 424)
- Aug 25 Quakes and sea waves at Salvador / to Sept 3 BA '11
- 27 Unprecedented drought in Maine / brooks dry that were never known to be dry before / p.3 NY Ev Post
- 28 Aurora seen in Jamaica probably first time on record NY Ev Post Sept 29 p.1
- 28 Aurora brilliant in Northern sky at Savannah, Georgia. NY Ev Post Sept 2 p.1
- 28 Auroral effect / the horizon a ring of light / between Portland and Boston telegraph operators sent messages without their batteries / An Sci D 1860/414
- 28 Sept 4 long article on the Auroras A. J. Sci 2/32/7
- 28 The Auroras as seen in Nova Scotia LT Oct 4 p.10
- 29 LT p.8 Outbreak of Vesuvius
- 30 Despatching date / quake Noscia, Italy, 200 killed LT Aug 31 p.6
- 30 D. News of, Vesuvius bursting out into patches of fire all directions
- 28-29 Night / great storm England, France / C.R. 49-399
- 28 The Aurora N Y Ev Post 29th / Aug 28 unusually cold (reverse—see Sept 20)
- 29 Aurora / great deal in C.R. vol 49
- Aug-Sept It sounds / Noscia / same as Jan. at Trevig.
- 28 In Times Oct 5 (Probably London Times is meant. TT) Robert Randinson publishes his meteorological observations in Lapland from Aug 25 to Sept 7/ Aurora noticed Aug 25 only
- Aug 28 Ext Aurora / Am.J.Sci. 2/38/407: 29/92
- Sept 4 (reverse) M.W.Rev. 32/322
- 29 Adelaide, S. Australia / 7 p.m. Very brilliant meteor almost immediately followed by Aurora / Newmayer "Meteorological Observations" p.241
- Aug 29- "The week was extremely remarkable in consequence of an almost constant display of the Aurora Australia." The Age (Melbourne) Sept 8 p.6 / Evening of 28 magnetic disturbance increased morning 29th
- 31 Near Milan, Italy, a deluge, called a water-spout / D News Sept 12 p.7
- Sept 1 See 1891, June 17
- 1 (Ch) (I don't know what that means, unless it is a note to himself to "check",

- that is, verify. TT) 2 times bodies near sun / M Notices 20 / 13 / 15 / 88
- 1 Great magnetic storm / E Mech 111/124
  - 1 Det met Tenn. Am.J.Sci 2/29/138 (also) BA 60-94 (10 a.m.)
  - 2 The Aurora in Chile / C.R. 49-1009 toward S. horizon moving E to W.
  - 2 The Age (Melbourne) Sept 3 p.5 The Aurora Australis was again very beautiful and very conspicuous last night—in the southern sky soon after sunset shooting rays toward zenith
  - 2 Evening / Florida / brilliant Aurora / M W R '07-571
  - 2 From midnight to 2 a.m. in Chile / Aurora in South moved from East to West / C.R. 49-109
  - 2 France / 7 a.m. telegraph instruments charged with electricity / LT Sept 6 p.5
  - 2 Throughout France in the morning telegraph instruments charged as if with a constant current of electricity D News Sept 7 p.2
  - 2 Extraordinary electric current in telegraph wires in Italy from 5 a.m. decreasing until 3 p.m. D News 12th
  - 3 Aurora again brilliant Southampton / D News Sept 7 p.3
  - 4 (from Aug 28) (G.) Aurora / A.J.Sci 2-28 index
  - 4 Waterspout seen at Southampton ab. one o'clock D. News of 7th p.3 (reverse) That is, a downward projection from a distant cloud
  - 5 2 p.m. (unidentified symbol TT) 14 / halo around the sun seen at Warwick / D News Sept 8 p.2
  - 12 Saint-Ame (Vosges) Aurora / C.R. 49/584 (also) 805, 603, 943
  - 15 Sc.Am. 35/389 John H. Tice, St. Louis, Mo. known as an alarmist weather proph.
  - 15 Tice obj. Tice was Supt of Public Schools in St. Louis up to 1857 and then Principal of the Laclede School / Dec 1-14 World 1882
  - 18 Quake in Cornwall / great gale S. England and Channel / Timbs 60-264
  - 20 (N.B. This is the note referred to above under Aug 28. It is on the reverse side of the cross-reference. It would seem to be more properly placed in box A, but here it is. TT) N.Y.Ev Post of, Hysterical Revival in North of Ireland
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 20 N.Y.Ev Post / Revival in North of Ireland (Obviously Fort discovered his mistake and copied this from that just above, but he dropped the word "hysterical". Why doesn't some loyal son go to the source and copy the piece for us, or have a photostat made? TT)
- Box 2 (Resumed)**
- 24 Vienna 11 a.m. det met / BA 60-94
  - 24 LT Sept 27 p.10 Aurora 9:30 to 11 p.m.
  - 28 In the Dragon and spreading from / met train / at Anvers / Cosmos 15/421
- Sept ab. Last / Very great Aurora in Australia / Nature 81/524
- Oct 1 Midnight Lymington, Hants. bright light near Southern horizon—the Great Bear and sky around tinged a deep rose color—a similar ap. not so bright to the Westward LT Oct 4 p.10
- 1 Aurora C.R. 49/481 and 548
  - 7 Waterspout burst near Calcutta / Jour Asiatic Soc Bengal 29/368
  - 12 Amiens / Aurora CR 49/549
  - 12 Aurora Nantes ab 7 p.m. and at Montins / In Vosges at 8 p.m. like vast conflagration from S W to N E / 6 or seven white stripes radiating from a point below the horizon (reverse) Ab 8:15 luminous masses / one bet tail of Ursa Major and head of Dragon—other around Corona Borealis and at times as far as Lyra. Moon had a strong halo. Other dets LT Nov. 4 p.4
  - 12 In B.D. / 7:20 to 8:15 Solva, Pembroke-shire / brilliant red light with oblong nucleus rising in sky South by East toward zenith / but stars shone through it / rays from it. LT Oct 15 p.11 (reverse) Oct 19 / Someone from Hastindon saw it—notes absent of lighting North, so thought not Aurora / thought glow from a foundry—but visited the foundry and found it closed
  - 19 Violent shock San Francisco 6:20 p.m. / 1:20 a.m. 20th another violent shock / S.F.Ev Bulletin 20th
  - 19-23 Magnetic perturbation Namur, Belgium / Bull de l'Acad de Belgique 2/8/157
  - 21 Lightning and met / 5:45 p.m. Diss. Norfolk / large meteor / between 9 and 10 much lightning / LT Oct 25 p.12
  - 21 Shock / Cornwall / see Jan 13, 1860 Times Nov 11 p.10
  - 22 Diss Norfolk / vivid lightning in the East and many mets / same cor as Oct 21 / If many mets. (indecipherable) not falling
  - 21 LT Oct 25 p.12 Lightning 7 p.m. Mottingham / E. J. Lowe
  - 22 LT Oct 25 p.12 flash of lightning and thunder in a snow storm / Macclesfield / 3 p.m.
  - 21 LT Oct 25 p.12 Lightning 7 p.m. Not clear and with occasional flashes of lightning / 7:45 p.m. This the year of Oct 23-24? (Fort's question TT)
  - 25 At Holyhead 7:15 p.m. and ab. 7:30 p.m. (Irish time?) (Fort's question. TT) at Ballinaman, 13 miles West of Athlone in Ireland. At Holyhead, it was immediately followed by rain in a deluge / BA 61
- Nov. 1 LT p.7 Sun spots
- 12 LT p.10 Areolites
  - 15 Meteor 9:30 a.m. N.J., N.Y. / A.J.Sci 2/30/186
  - 15 Mass. to Virginia / great meteor / At one place, Denisville, left behind a column of smoke estimated 1000 feet in diameter / BA 60-12
  - 15 Det met New England to Va. not seen in the region where report was loudest (good) / J.F.Inst 69/205 and 253 (reverse) A.J. Sci 2/29/137 and 298
  - 18-26 Geneva Luminous fog / C.R. 49/1011
  - 28 Bohemia / met det / BA 60
- Dec 15 bet 2 and 3 a.m. Yorkshire / quake and rattling sound LT Dec 27 p.10



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