

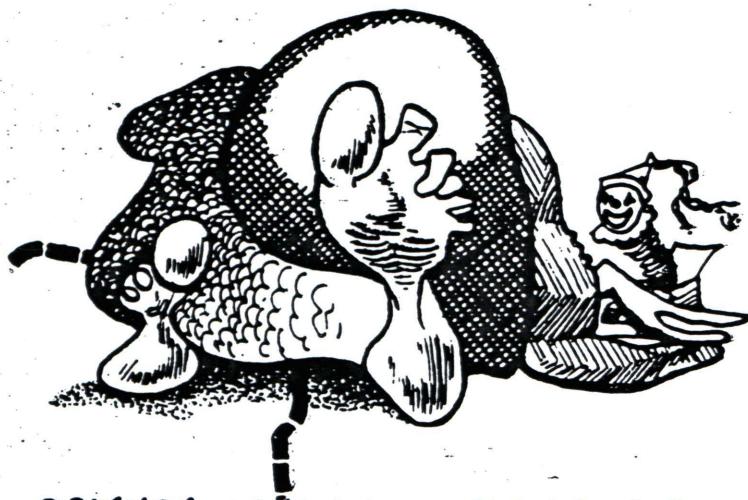
# DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

VOL. II

Whole Number 42

*66. Science does not know  
its debt to imagination<sup>99</sup>*  
+EMERSON+



SCIENCE-CREATING-UTOPIAS-FOR  
WHICH-MAN-IS-NOT-YET-PREPARED

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

35c.

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## DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER  
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## FIRST PRIZE

The biscuit goes to MFS McMahon, for a tale told by the N. Y. *Times* about its own switchboard, 6-20-53. Up to 5 p.m., on Rosenberg Day, the *Times* had received 2,239 calls for information on that subject. "One caller wanted to know if the execution of the death sentence would be televised."

Second place, to Barneson, who has been here before.

Spinach is dangerous to humans, acco Drs. Joan E. Bamji and N. S. Bamji, London, who wrote to the *British Medical Journal*—see issue current 3-21-53: "The intense dislike of spinach shown by most children is nature's way of protecting them from its harmful effects." It may upset the body's absorption of calcium, thus leading to weak bones, and it also tends to deposit oxalic acid salts in the kidneys, damaging those vital organs.

Third spot to MFS Oltcher, another alumnus.

The Ministry of Agriculture is quoted from Beaconsfield, England, by UP, Mar. 3: "Scores" of people could not sleep because of sounds in their attic, like "ghosts—bowling". "The ministry said the ghosts proved to be giant mice playing with apples."

A non-member on the Isle of Man heads the runners-up. He sent this to Russell. "Rumblings have been heard from Mount Etna (July 29-30) . . . thick smoke poured from the crater . . . Experts said, however, that there was no cause for anxiety." Krakatoa, here I come, right back where we started from!

The same man sends a clip on Etna, Dec. 1949, when lava was flowing. "The Prefect of Catania said that the four craters which opened on Friday were made up of ten mouths, but only half of these were emitting lava. It is expected that the lava stream will pass between the two towns without harming them, even if it does continue flowing."

Mitchell's best is about "vandals" who broke into the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 239 Seventh Street, Brooklyn, and "stole several dollars from the poor box and 150 pairs of dice used for a church social game." *Times* 6-15-53 old style.

He also sends one about the First Baptist Church of Laurel, Miss. (No color indicated.) The janitor—acco to the *Times* 7-2-53—had a still hooked up to the furnace.

Old Brother Giles sends this observation upon a schoolteacher's inability to learn. Miss Pauline Lehman, 24, of Mountain Lake, Minn., cancelled her flight passage out of New Delhi, India, on a British Comet jet airliner which crashed killing all aboard. One week later she burned to death in the flaming wreckage of an Indian transport plane. *Buffalo Evening News*, 5-11-53.

Anon sends the Science page from *Newsweek*, 11-3-52. The story begins: "Only an astronomer, nocturnal by habit and abstruse by training, would think of studying the sun at night. But that is just what Henry Lee Gicles has been doing for the last three years at Lowell Observatory near Flagstaff, Ariz."

Since the game of whist went out of style the astronomers haven't known what the hell to DO with their evenings!

The *Times* of 4-25-53 quotes the London *Daily Herald*, about a horse "struggling in a canal at Tinton, England . . . firemen rescued him . . . The ungrateful animal immediately jumped back into the water. Retrieved a second time, it bared its teeth and chased its rescuers around a field." Cr Knothe-Nearing

Apropos: a lady in Cleveland had a watchdog. She surprised a burglar in her house. "He punched her until she gave him 57 dollars, but her dog stood by and made no objection." Her screams brought a neighbor-man with a gun. "The dog snarled and went for him!" UP, 1-9-53

And while we're at it:

"A man escaped from Whetstone, Middlesex, police station . . . and was chased by a policeman. Another officer, in charge of a police dog . . . released the dog . . . The dog, however, went after the pursuing policeman and caught him. The man got away." Manchester *Guardian* 11-20-52. Cr Gee

The Cleveland cops installed a dictograph "in the best professional manner in a cell of the city jail to pick up some valuable information from the inmates . . . Listeners heard nothing. The mechanism in the cell was found to have been ripped out and there was an arrowed sign on the wall which pointed to the installation and warned, *dictograph*. L. A. *Times*, 1-5-53

In a Lisbon, Portugal, jail, a man had served 4 years of an 18-year sentence for an alleged swindle.

The "swindle" was alleged to spring from the prisoner's inability to make "synthetic petrol". He squawked so loudly about his bum rap that the Portuguese Minister of Economics put up roughly \$600 for equipment to test the formula in the prison. It worked. "His process is being kept secret." London *Daily Express* 1-27-53. Cr Hibbert

Lloyd's was screaming in the ides of March because 8 ships had vanished in a single day the previous January, during those North Sea gales. That was a record for this century. *Sunday Express*

On June 19, "an Indian destroyer and planes joined with tugs from Madras, India, in search for 200 fishermen reported missing forty miles off Madras in the Bay of Bengal. N. Y. *Times* 6-20-53 Cr Mitchell

Nobody has accused YS of flag-waving for a good many years, but this next piece brings out the red, white and blue in me because it is so typical of the tortured jests a certain stripe of European loves to invent and repeat at the expense of us vulgarians. I've heard Germans, long before Hitler, rattle off squibs like this, and British, French and Italians, since. This might be called a stock gag, reflecting that mellower syphilization's attitude toward us. I am sorry to say it appeared in the good old Liverpool *Echo*, and appeared as straight news, a Reuter dispatch from The Hague, Wednesday (before Oct. 22, 52).

"The Hague authorities have rejected an American firm's offer to restore the war-damaged 15th century Grote-Kerk ("Big Church") if they were allowed to advertise chewing gum in neon lights on the steeple." Cr Russell

No such offer ever was made, and I don't think it's particularly funny to say that it was. Why, I know at least three Americans who do not even chew gum!

Here's another, from the *Observer* 4-27-52 old style: Mr. Tage Erlander, Swedish Prime Minister, after a visit to America, is quoted, "It was very interesting to see how the average American lives. Their living standard appeared to be as high as ours." Cr Russell

MFS Bristol found this in the Seattle *Times* 2-15-52:

In London everybody was supposed to stand silent and uncovered for two minutes in honor of the dead George VI. In Fleet Street one man walked on in defiance of the convention. Nobody slugged him until the two minutes were up, but then he was followed and surrounded by 100, who manhandled him. He had to be rescued by the police. AP does not say he was an American.

In the same batch of delayed data from Bristol, same paper, 1-10-52:

Twelve farm families living in the "military area" which had been Tule Lake Camp during World Fraud II, were told to move. "The camp, situated in Northern California's Modoc County, was listed last month as under study as a possible detention camp for subversive persons."

A Westinghouse plant in East Pittsburgh staged a rally of its employes to waken them to the "dangers of foreign competition". Westinghouse had just lost out "on a bid to supply \$2,000,000 worth of generators for an Idaho power project. The contract was award(ed) to the U. S. branch of a Swiss firm for \$1,977,822." *Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph* 6-16-53

On 6-30-53 the N. Y. *Times* had a special despatch from Detroit, Mich., telling that the Detroit Public

Lighting Commission had accepted a Westinghouse bid of \$1,946,500 for a generator, although a Swiss firm had offered—through a Detroit affiliate—the same generator for \$1,296,000. "The controversy was embarrassing to the Detroit Board of Commerce, which has been campaigning since last November for free trade, the eventual elimination of tariff barriers and repeal of the 'buy American' act." Cr Mitchell

At Hastings, a fashionable suburb of Calcutta, India, a band of 500 monkeys conducted "organized" raids on kitchens. "The police have just put the finishing touches on a plan to deport the monkeys as 'undesirables' to the United States, where they will be used for medical research." N. Y. *Times* 11-4-52. Cr Mitchell

Speaking of monkeys reminds one, naturally, of the Smithsonian Institution, which administers an island of six square-miles in Gatun Lake, Canal Zone, where 300 "howler" monkeys are resident in six clans. Each clan has "its own closely defined territory". Described as "big, black-bearded, ugly animals". Whenever a plane flies over, the monkeys object "with a harsh chorus of blood-curdling yells"—no doubt taught to them by Red spies. N. Y. *Times* 6-16-53. Cr Mitchell

Another—and more effective—anthropoid protest arose, over Easton, Pa., when a history of Northampton County was published. The local Roman Catholics objected to two pages containing passages which they called "unfair", altho the facts presented could not be denied. The County Commissioners voted to have the pages cut out and substitute pages pasted in before the books were used in the schools. The story appeared on page one of the N. Y. *Times*, July 4th, which used to be called Independence Day! Cr Mitchell

Another squeal that got results was made by the International Association of Police Chiefs. They complained about the name of a TV program, THE COP. They don't like to be called "cops". The show was renamed, "Badge 714". *Daily Express* 8-13-53 Cr Russell

Another minority howl has sounded, in Toronto. It remains to be seen if the North American Indians will get what they want—like priests and police—or get the prop-wash like the monkeys.

Howard Skye, called a "Chief", of the Ohsweken Reserve, had seen a new movie in which—as usual—the Indians got the worst of the battle scenes. Chief Skye handed a petition to the Motion Picture Industrial Council of Canada, which read, in part, "Future generations of North American Indians might have cause to deplore their ancestry as represented by defeats in the past, and we would like assurances that in future a representative number of movies be made in which North American Indians would be seen to win their fair share of battles, as this would be more consistent with the actual historical record." *Daily Express*, 8-6-53 Cr Russell

On April 10, one Albert M. Colegrove, identified as a "Scripps-Howard Staff Writer", had the shameless pusillanimity to boast of the revolting squeeze-play employed by the power-drunk military to force professional men to take "loyalty" oaths. Our story is from the Pittsburgh *Press*, but a column like this is generally syndicated and runs in other papers too.

Mr. Colegrove writes: "Some 40 doctors and dentists who refused to fill out loyalty forms have been drafted into the Armed Forces as privates during the past two years . . . Twenty-six of the 40 relented

after being inducted. They completed their loyalty oaths and were commissioned as lieutenants. Two of the 40 were discharged for physical reasons. The remaining 12 holdouts were kept on duty—as enlisted men, with most of them assigned to doctor's work at private's pay. At least six still are serving out their two-year hitches as enlisted draftees in the Army."

YS can't see much difference between the "Loyalty" oath, and the oath a draftee has to take to get his uniform, but that is a matter for individual conscience to decide, and some of these men did see a difference.

Mr. Colegrove then goes on to say that the drafted docs have a defender in The Chicago Committee for Academic and Professional Freedom—only Mr. Colegrove states it thusly: "A left-wing outfit called 'The Chicago Committee for Academic and Professional Freedom'."

For a paragraph or two one is left wondering what is "left-wing" about this group which is fighting for a fundamental principle of self-respect and intellectual honesty, and then it comes out.

Guess who is Honorary Chairman of the Chicago Committee! Why, none other than our own Honorary Founder "Ajax" Carlson.

Mr. Colegrove carefully avoids accusing Dr. Carlson of carrying a Communist Party card, but he comes as close to it as the laws of libel will allow. He writes: "Dr. Carlson was cited in 1951 by the House Un-American Activities Committee as one of several Americans affiliated with such a significant number of Communist fronts that they may be said to constitute a body of reliable and consistent supporters of Communist organizations."

Well, I don't know how many of the other Founders were aware of that when Dr. Carlson was unanimously accorded the highest honor we could give him, but YS did not know it, and the news comes as the final verification of our good judgment, because any man of Dr. Carlson's stature who had NOT been so smeared by some Congressional Committee would not be worth his salt.

What seems to escape those Congressmen and writers like Mr. Colegrove is that when they smear the Red brush on everything that is fine and worthwhile, they are "comforting the enemy". If everybody with intelligence and guts is to be branded a "Communist-front", it won't be long before even the readers of the Scripps-Howard papers begin to add up the score. If every organization that defends civil rights, civil liberties and the dignity of the individual is a "Communist-front"—the term cannot fail to become synonymous with everything admirable—and a lot of Americans are going to discover that their own blood is as red as that of the Russ. A little short-sighted, that.

On June 29, Julius H. Hlavaty wrote to the *Times*, saying that the ONLY book he ever had written had been purged from the libraries of the United States Information Services. It is—*Review Digest in Solid Geometry*. Cr Mitchell

The *Times* of London printed a piece 11-10-52, from Washington, D. C., revealing the "secret" existence and "details of a new underground headquarters (U. S. Army) which has been built as a protection against atomic attack." It's called the "underground Pentagon"—and it's near Washington.

The Government has described the location in a published book, and the *Washington Post* has quoted

it in print, but DOUBT classifies this information as dangerous to somebody's welfare.

What should be salubrious to all is the cost of the thing. Just cast up the figures in your head as these details smack you: "One-half million cubic yards of the hardest rock on the east coast was blasted out and hauled away in 10 months," says the book. "Special means are provided for ventilation, gas and biological-agent filtering, emergency power and reserve water supply." Inside the mountain is a communications centre designed to resist atomic attack, and there are five micro-wave stations linking the new centre with the existing facilities in the Washington area." Cr Elsener.

Just nine months later, Martha Kearney, INS, writing in the Pittsburgh *Sun Telegraph*, 7-8-53, quotes Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson as telling Congress that "elaborate underground atom bomb shelters are likely to be death traps." He was asking for more dough. He said he believes "it is possible and necessary" to build "a listening screen" from Hawaii across the Arctic in Canada and to Greenland with a backstopping screen from 500 to 600 miles southward.

Martha does not say that any Congressmen laughed at him, so we're probably in for it. Well, that's a better way to keep the economy up than by killing youngsters. You don't want to go back to selling apples on the corner do you?

#### ASSAFOETIDA AWARD

The stink-bomb of the quarter goes to Dr. Zale A. Yanof, Toledo, Ohio, who told the AMA in convention that general practitioners should use more sodium amyta, the so-called "truth serum", because "lots of patients consciously or unconsciously conceal what's really bothering them when they visit a physician." Pittsburgh *Press* 6-1-53 old style.

Four days later a pronouncement came out of Yale, from two psychiatrists and two lawyers on the faculty, warning their colleagues that results obtained from "truth drugs" are often misleading. Cr Mitchell.

#### FOUND ON GROUND

The following matter supplements the summations of (A) newspaper "saucers", (B) meteors, (C) celestial objects not called either "saucers" or meteors, as printed in DOUBT #40 and #41.

In point of time, these notices begin—like the saucerana in DOUBT #40—at the point in DOUBT #27 where the series was broken because confusion had become bedlam.

In DOUBT #19 to #27, inclusive, such matter as this was worked in chronologically with so-called "sightings". Following here, then, are newspaper notices of objects found on the ground in various places from Dec. 4, 1948 to Feb. 14, 1952 old style.

#### 1948

Dec 4 (Friday before) at Bellefontaine, Ohio. A "flaming wheel" seen to fall—remains "disintegrated" in the hands of patrolman. Fragments were sent to Wright-Patterson air base for examination. UP.

#### 1949

Feb 22 Announcement made by "U. S. authorities" that four "mysterious missiles" had landed

- in the same area, East of Schweinfurt, Germany.  
 1—in October, 1946  
 2—in May, 1947  
 3—in July, 1947  
 4—between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. Jan. 31, 1949
- Fragments are definitely mentioned only in connection with the 4th "missile" and so the word "landed" in reference to the other three is dubious. The hand-out does not describe the fragments. U.P. Frankfurt found something which might have been meteorological recording instruments. He turned it over to the Pittsburgh FBI. A French professor thought it might be instruments he had sent up from Paris, June 18. If it was, it had floated across the Atlantic in something less than 6 months. *Manchester Guardian* 11-14-49.
- Nov 3** Near Johnstown, Penna., Albert Tomko found something which might have been meteorological recording instruments. He turned it over to the Pittsburgh FBI. A French professor thought it might be instruments he had sent up from Paris, June 18. If it was, it had floated across the Atlantic in something less than 6 months. *Manchester Guardian* 11-14-49.
- Apr 8** On the beach of Chichagof Island, near Sitka, Alaska. "A floating metal bubble"—first reported by Leo E. Young "who thought it was a mine." A sphere about a foot in diameter. Military men "called for help in identifying" it. That is all.
- 1950
- Apr 8** In a pasture just outside Horseheads, N. Y. "A slim circular object only three feet across at the base and very light in weight." (Why *only*?—one wonders.) "—of a light cardboard substance—covered with luminous paint—constructed with considerable care—no indication that this gadget will fly—I did not open it to see what was inside—" said the Chief of Police. "—some sort of radio tube jutted out of the top structure and was connected to the inside by wire." Object found by Ernest Ferris, a farmer. Near by was found "a molten substance on fire-scorched earth" and what appeared to be a burned out hare on which could be read, "5 mins" and "cau". It was turned over to the FBI agent who took it to Elmira. *Her-Trib* (Paris edn) Cr Gee
- May 27** Five miles N of Niland, Calif. Military police patrolled a 15-foot crater gouged by a mysterious object which fell from a B-50 bomber. "A small section of metal" protruded from the crater. How would you like it to gouge a 15-foot crater in your head? If it did, the "authorities" would say you had flu! Cr Bristol, who neglected to put the year on the clip. The 1950 category is only a best guess.
- For the "Hu" reference, see elsewhere in this issue.
- July 4** Forty-five miles S of Dillon, Mont. Floyd Kennison, rancher found "a large cigar-shaped balloon containing a sickening gas and apparently wired to set something off." 100 feet long, 50 feet in diameter, made of thin, "transparent plastic material". Carried two 24-hour clocks attached to batteries, microswitches and a 15-pound black box. The works weighed 250 pounds. FBI, sheriffs, weather bureau,
- Dec 8 Atomic Energy, Air Force—everybody looked at it. Nobody could guess. Final disposition, unknown. U.P.
- This may be October 12. The datum is from the London *Times* and the date written by an anonymous British MFS, 8/12/50. The common practice in England is to put the day before the month in that usage, but—who knows?
- A cylinder 20 inches long and 2½ inches in diameter, "with three metal tubes attached to it", fell into a garden in Mitcham, Surrey. Could not be identified as anything from a civil aircraft—was referred to an armament expert. That is all. AP sent photos of this one, see any daily of this date. "duraluminum" sphere, plastic flower pot, clock, camera film etc., "found" by deerhunters 130 miles S-E of Albuquerque, N. M. That duraluminum-ball and plastic-flower-pot expert, Dr. Lincoln La Paz is also in the photo. Incidentally, it was he who "revealed" the "find" to AP. Said he had studied it for a month.
- Dec 19** BULLETIN. "La Paz ready to wash his hands!" AP
- Dec 20** BULLETIN. "La Paz sighs with relief!" He mailed it to General Mills in Minneapolis. So that's what makes breakfast food whistle, crack, pop!
- 1951
- Oct 15** Two children in East Bellevue, near Pittsburgh, found a star-shaped kite covered with aluminum foil, supported by a 10-foot balloon. Called a "radar target". *Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph*
- Nov 10** Anadarko, Okla. "A Caddo County farmer brought a bundle of tinfoil-like strips to the sheriff's office—the substance covered part of his farm up to six inches deep." Strips—one to five inches long—covered about a half acre—a smaller pile at another point.
- An aerial explosion attributed to a meteor had occurred in the vicinity the previous Wednesday, but "an expert on meteors" discounted any connection.
- Nov 13** Alvin Poage of Tuttle, Okla., found more of that stuff, on his farm, only his was silver-colored on one side, pink on the other, and "had a burnt smell". The farms are about 30 miles apart acco MFS Nelle, who lives in Bethany, and speculates that the stuff was shot out of a firing device on a space-ship.
- Orthodox identification—"chaff" for to jam the enemy radar—but the farmers in Okla have few radars to jam, and most of them are friendly.
- 1952
- Feb 13** Near Fort Worth, Texas, a dairy farmer complained to Carswell Air Force Base about their metal "chaff" littering his farm.
- That concludes all printed data related to "saucers" up to Feb, 22 FS, but we have a few letters from members who were eye-witnesses to celestial phenomena thru this period. They will be printed as space is available.



## NOMINATION WITH OLIVE BRANCH

Although it looked like a walkaway for Robert Lindner to be Named Fellow for the year 23 FS, for his book *Prescription for Rebellion*, a dark horse has been galloping through our mail at such a rate that we may have a dead heat.

The letters say, in many ways, "Come on, Y.S. That was a fine letter Einstein wrote, and you should be man enough to admit it. I nominate for Fellow —Albert Einstein."

So, who's a mouse?

This may well be the largest sin Sen. Jenner & Co., have to answer for, to posterity, that is, if they deprive the Society of its most colorful windmill, but we still have Shapley and his invisible comets, the Piccards—Tweedle Up and Tweedle Down—and any number of others, so, if you like Einstein I'll try to square it with Fort by Ouija board.

Even before the Professor wrote his famous letter, Lord & Taylor had beaten us to it by awarding him one of its five prizes for nonconformity. Their prize had meat on it too, a thousand dollars, which Einstein handed over to the American Committee for Emigre Scholars.

Incidentally, the picture for housebroken rebels did not look so black in May when a big department store set up a department like this, and the *Times* actually editorialized in favor. To be sure, none of the other four prizes went to Fyke Farmer or anybody like that, but laying out \$5,000 can't be called "lip service", and even if the *Times* did look pretty funny in its new hat, we have to give it credit for trying it on for size.

The *Times* editorialized, 5-6-53 old style:

## ON NONCONFORMITY

In this age of conformity we like the idea of awarding prizes for nonconformity. The men who dared to sail westward on an ocean that was flat were nonconformists, and they discovered a new world. The men who fled their homelands to settle that world were nonconformists, and they founded a new civilization. The men who rebelled against tyranny were nonconformists, and they established a new country. The men who brought unity and strength and wealth to that country were nonconformists, and they are our heroes of yesterday.

Today there are too many among us, with wits dulled by ignorance or by fright, who seek safety and security only in what they think is the narrow pattern of the past. It isn't the pattern at all; if our ancestors taught us anything, they taught us to dare, to experiment, to explore and not to fear. It is contrary to the best of our tradition to equate nonconformity with treason, unorthodoxy with disloyalty. Yet that is the state of mind to which some of our public figures seem to be trying to lead us. Nothing could be more unimaginative or "un-American."

All of this is why we are particularly glad to see someone get a prize for unorthodoxy. True, the Lord & Taylor awards given to five distinguished men Monday for original and nonconformist thinking in their respective fields did not touch on politics, but the principle is the same. Free spirits and unbridled minds are too rare even in a free society. They deserve encouragement. The worship of conformity, of orthodoxy, of authority should be left to the Communists and the other totalitarians of left and right. It is not for us.

From that it would appear that Einstein had Lord & Taylor and the *Times* behind him when he wrote his letter to William Frauenglass on May 11, but in practice that did not work out 100%. When the letter was made public, June 11, the *Times* went back to its old hat, saying the Professor was wrong. We have editorials from other newspapers across the country too, all saying Einstein was wrong.

This is the salient paragraph from the letter, as printed pretty nearly everywhere:

"Every intellectual who is called before one of the committees ought to refuse to testify, i.e., he must be prepared for jail and economic ruin, in short, for the sacrifice of his personal welfare in the interest of the cultural welfare of his country."

There you have it, Forteans, all. If you think that is sufficient to Name Einstein Fortean Fellow for the year 23 FS—say so.

On the negative side we have his "four new equations"—in the *Jabberwocky* of his profession—of which *Life* (4-13-53) says: "The symbols stand for complicated time, space and force relationships, and, though Einstein believes they are logically correct, there is not enough mathematical evidence available for him to prove his own theories."

In other words, it's a nice way to make a soft living if you don't mind being a resident of Princeton, N. J.

Other nominations received:

U. S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (who had been nominated for the year 22 FS, also)

Federal Judge Frank L. Kloeb, Toledo, O. He refused to sentence a former bank cashier who went to work for \$1080 per year, and after 32 years was getting \$1900 per year. Interim, the cashier appears to have embezzled \$7500.

Retired Federal Judge Delbert E. Metzger, ae 78, for a speech to the National Lawyers Guild. Among other things, he said, "a major threat to the constitutional principles of free speech and press has developed in the courts themselves. Particularly in the so-called subversive trials. Many courts have supported the brand new notion of admitting hearsay evidence."

Reuben Klein, publisher of the weekly, *Miami Life*, Dade County, Fla. He went to jail for 30 days for

refusing to tell a court how he obtained certain information published in his paper.

Dr. James B. Conant, former president of Harvard, U. S. High Commissioner in Germany: for his books and for talking back to the Catholic Senator from Wisconsin.

Norman Cousins, Editor of the *Saturday Review*: for his work in the interests of world organization.

Mrs. Mary D. Cain, editor of the Mississippi *Summit Sun*, a weekly newspaper: for sawing a Federal padlock off her office door and getting out her paper.



RUSSELL'S BEST

The filth and contamination in the food continues to be the largest gripe from Eric, and accounts for about half the cuttings he sends. The British papers seldom or never give the names of guilty purveyors, and not many are brought to book for their crimes.

One case of food poisoning which laid low over a thousand persons and killed at least one, was traced to meat pies. Apparently these were made by Mrs. Little Jack Horner, because the director of Manchester Public Health Laboratory told the Royal Sanitary Institute at Wigan that the outbreak "had probably been caused by a confectioner who habitually punctured the tops of meat pies with her thumb before adding gelatine gravy, and large numbers of staphylococcus aureus were grown from a healing blister on the thumb she used." Manchester *Guardian* 6-6-53

No doubt that is also how she burned her thumb.

A Philadelphia lawyer pleaded to set aside the death sentence of his client whose defense had been insanity, on the ground that the psychiatrist who had labeled the murderer sane was himself insane. According to Reuter, Dr. William Drayton had been found "mentally incompetent" in a court action brought by his own wife six weeks after he presented his report that condemned the man. No decision in the *Echo* story, 11-21-52.

A "tame" elephant in a Johannesburg, S. A., park bolted while carrying a party of children. A Witwatersrand University "scientist" has been employed to psycho-analyze her. He said, "Her trouble may be deep-seated, which may take lengthy treatment." Manchester *Guardian* 8-3-53.

On the old Chester-road near Holywell a band of seven cats lies in ambush for and attacks Dai Jones and his 13-year old dog when they walk by. Dai is "wondering what he and Rex did to turn the cats against them. Police have been told." Daily Express 8-22-53 Cr Hibbert

Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, as of June, wanted one million fireflies. Cash was offered to "youngsters" who bring them in alive. "For years university research workers have been trying to learn what makes the glowworm glow and how he turns his light on and off." Echo 6-20-53.

"Modern institutions and the fast pace of modern society" were blamed by a Nairobi business man (presumably white) for driving native Africans back to cannibalism in Africa. Echo 7-16-53.

The Government of Guatemala has forbidden the Salvation Army to use the word "Army" in its name or to refer to its officials by army titles, because these practices "injure the dignity of the Guatemalan Army and lower the prestige of its officers." Dublin *Evening Mail* 7-10-53.

One hundred passengers and members of the crew aboard the Queen Mary, one day out of N Y C going East, were stricken with a stomach complaint, presumably not mal-de-mer. Some cases lasted only a few hours, others throughout the voyage. A Cunard spokesman attributed the sickness to change of atmosphere (humidity) when the liner entered the Gulf Stream. Presumably the Cunard line has avoided crossing the Gulf Stream heretofore.

Rabbits—probably under the delusion that they were lemmings—were committing suicide by drowning in the river near Chartres, 60 miles from Paris. "Thousands" were seen to jump. A disease which develops a tumor on the brain is blamed, and the Pasteur Institute has been asked to provide a vaccine remedy. Oddly, the virus is called similar to one which man spread among the bunnies of Australia to get rid of them there, "but no one knows who brought it into France". Echo 7-8-53.



The lemmings, meanwhile, are still at it, off Point Barrow, Alaska, by "hundreds of thousands", some seen 25 miles from shore, swimming or on the sea ice, headed, roughly, toward the Pole. "They migrate to their death periodically. The last time was in 1949." Newsday 6-17-53 Cr Mitchell

In Brussels a new suit was boiling (1-14-53) over those Van Meegeren or Vermeer paintings. Van Meegeren who claimed he copied them died in 1947. The question of authenticity has always seemed secondary to YS in this famous case, because any painting good enough to raise that question in the mind

of a capable critic is certainly worth any sum of money ever paid for it, no matter who the painter was.

Now, however, one set of experts is out to prove that one of these pictures is a Vermeer, and NOT AN AUTHENTIC FORGERY by Van Meegeren. *Sunday Times*.

"Russian scientists are reported to have invented an 'atom clock' accurate to one-millionth of a second in 24 hours." *Echo*

Slow or fast?

The Atomic Energy Commission admitted that "a mysterious sheep malady" which has turned up in Nevada may "possibly" be due to "radiation burns" from atomic tests. Lambs are born abnormally small and many die soon after birth. *Echo* 6-8-53.

When it comes to humans, however, the claims of seven miners in the district were disallowed. After a hearing at Las Vegas, the Atomic Energy Commission declared that the men were "probably suffering from the flu". *Los Angeles Examiner* 5-22-53. Cr Barneson.

Professor Arthur Compton, Chancellor of Washington U., St. Louis, Mo., spoke to the Federation of University Women in London, and—says the Manchester *Guardian* (8-10-53)—"his emphasis on science as a panacea for nearly all human ills of spirit as well as body is likely to be challenged by those among his audience whose faith (SIC) lies rather in the humanities."



### NATURAL SELECTION

Democritos maintained to talk of Chance  
Was an attempt to hide our ignorance:  
When Darwin called it Natural Selection,  
It still was chance, with the same connexion.

### SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Poor Herbert Spencer did his very best,  
Though lacking humour, to provide a jest;  
Survival of the Fittest is the key  
To all that lives, because it's there to see.

### THE GENE-MUTATIONISTS

For modern thinkers gene-mutations must  
Explain all change of species-simple trust!  
Yet gene-mutations are the work of chance,  
And chance is but a name for ignorance.  
G. W. Harris

### REVOLT!

If you have not yet read *Prescription for Rebellion* by Robert Lindner, order your copy from the Society at once, \$3.50.

If you have read it, order another copy for your psychiatrist or your family doctor or your best friend.

You who have read it now know why Bertrand Russell wrote: "I am to a very large extent in agreement with (Dr. Lindner's) point of view. I have been myself all my life a rebel with just sufficient cunning to escape serious punishment by the herd. I have been struck especially in America, by the very thing (Dr. Lindner) deals with, namely, the passion of psychiatrists and psycho-analysts for making all their patients ordinary. I have had in America arguments with psychiatrists employed at military hospitals in the course of which they explicitly maintained that any person who is in any degree in conflict with the herd is in need of psychological treatment."

The menace of "shock treatments" and pre-frontal lobotomy is growing and must be fought intelligently.

A headline in the Atlanta *Journal* 7-20-52 was: W. VA. LAUNCHES MASS SURGERY ON INSANE. Sixteen "ice-pick" operations were performed in Huntington by Dr. Walter A. Freeman.

Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, a medico whose column is syndicated, describes the technic of Dr. Robert G. Heath at Tulane U. Heath sticks wires into the brain and finds that "some" patients "are greatly improved after receiving an occasional series of slight electric shocks in a certain area." This is one of the methods which, it is hoped, will do all the good that pre-frontal lobotomy can do "without doing the patient much if any harm". *Her-Trib* 4-27-53.

READ *Prescription for Rebellion*, from the Society, \$3.50.

### LAKE TIDE

"On the heels of an electrical storm"—the water of Lake Michigan rose as much as 9 feet at Harbor Springs, Mich., crushing boats and doing much damage. May 30-June 1. Cr Giles.

### OXFORD MOVEMENT

At Oxford U., acco the N. Y. *Times* quoting the Canadian Press, the savants are feeding "grime collected from ventilators of London buildings" to caterpillars, "to determine whether atmospheric pollution is responsible for turning large numbers of white moths black". Cr Mitchell.

We didn't even know that large numbers of white moths had turned black, but, of course, we didn't go to Oxford.

### TWEEDLEDOWN PICCARD

Auguste, the descending Piccard, has a new bathysphere in the water near Naples. A photo showing the contraption and its float being lowered into the water by crane appeared in the Manchester *Guardian* 8-5-53. "The professor hopes to dive to a depth of more than 10,000 feet."

The record depth so far descended appears to be 3,028 feet, done by Beebe off Bermuda in 1934. Cr Russell.

## HELP HOLLAND

Unless the sea has at some time moved into your parlor, you can't imagine what a job it is to clean up after it has been pumped out again. In a great portion of Holland, only man-made walls ever keep the ocean back. Rehabilitating the country after its disaster will take years. A group of Conscientious Objectors and other Pacifists who helped save lives while the flood was on is still donating its services in the clean-up, but they have to eat, and they need shovels and brooms, to say the least. Donations are needed. Send all you can to, Maarten Sangster, Raphaelplein 2 hs, Amsterdam, Netherlands.



## NO PEACE IN GREECE

The expedition of Caresse Crosby to Delphi was interrupted—perhaps stopped—by a double disaster. The military escorted Caresse out of the country—and she came down with pneumonia. She was recuperating in Perugia, at a Gandhi convention when she sent the snaps printed here.

Details are wanting. The names of the people around Caresse on the site of the proposed World Treasury will have to be given later. Apparently the art gallery was opened before the ouster order came, because there is Caresse interpreting modern art to the new generation of Praxiteleses. Military caps, however, are visible.

It's all too bad. Apparently the Greek government reversed itself after encouraging the movement. Caresse says they got scared "when they realized I actually *believed* in peace, and was doing something about it."

A trial of the issues is set for December 3. We'll try to have better information by that time.

We were so crowded for space last issue that we did not give MFS Crosby's autobiography as much praise as it deserves. Besides the interest of the subject matter and the intimate view of the arts of the period, it is a writing feat which professionals will enjoy for technical reasons. The style is unique and engaging. You think you are looking at a nose-gay of rosebuds, surrounded by tulle or rumpled lace panties, only to discover—suddenly—that there's a rapier in the heart of it. Read *The Passionate Years*, by Caresse Crosby, from the Society, \$5.00.



## PROCLAMATION

A group of world citizens met for a three-day session in Colorado Springs, Aug 5-8, and came up with a "Proclamation for a Peoples World Convention" that most Forteans will wish to read and think about—maybe sign.

If you have ever wondered how you could make your opinion carry any weight with Lodge of the United Nations—or ever felt that he wasn't expressing your views at all at all—you will sympathize with the motives of these hard-headed folk who look forward to a time when men and women shall have a voice in their own destiny.

They issue a journal, OUR PLANET, which you should also see. Send a minimum of \$1.00 to Philip Isely, 3809 Manitou Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colo.

## COLONIES

Costa Rica, which has abolished its army, and thus has no draft law, has agreed to welcome there the "Sons of Freedom", also called Doukhobors, who used to get even with the Canadian government by undressing in public. Stefan Sorokin, the sect's present leader, as of 3-20-53, was debating if he should move his people there. *Cr Mealy.*

Another minority group—The Society of Brothers—has set up in Paraguay, and one of them has astonished us by asking for DOUBT for their library down there. We're sending it, although they are professing Christians, and we sometimes wonder what they make of us.

The Brothers claim to be "a new branch of the Hutterian movement" which dates from the Sixteenth Century in Europe. The man who wrote to us says, we "seek to live like the first Christians—in liberty, peace and with all things in common. But we don't want the forest to grow over us."

If you want to know more about them, address—Sociedad Fraternal Hutteriana, Primavera, Alto Paraguay.

## CREDITS

For data not otherwise credited, and for much we could not use, all which are preserved in the archives, credit is due the following members for this quarter: Latta, B. A. Fields, Raven, Gochros, E. A. Martin, Zimmerman, Bennett, Wyckoff, H. W. Giles, Mitchell, Bordon, G. Lee, Knothe, F. McMahon, Barneson, (non-mem) Graham, Wakefield, Sharpless, Millar, Spingola, Gee, Pearson, Hehr, D. G. Brown, Duncan, Steinberg, Olcher, Lacled, M. Wilson, Pollard, E. S. Anderson, Emison, Fraser.

## FOLLOW-UP ISSUE

The plan is to devote one entire issue—perhaps the next one—to a "follow-up" on items, or in categories, previously published in DOUBT. Patience! Patience!

## NEW YORK QUAKES

Connecticut, Westchester and Long Island felt a mild quake, 3:51 a.m. 3-27-53.

Another was felt in New Jersey, the Bronx and Manhattan, 11:22 p.m. 8-16-53. They used to tell us that no ground explosion could affect a seismograph, but Father Lynch said that this record could have been made that way. Then, sure enough, at 11:39—seventeen minutes later—there was an explosion at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Fordham instrument is thus an improvement over older models, not only recording explosions as quakes but predicting them.

## Fortearns!

### Read the LIBERAL

a monthly journal presenting a rationalistic and freethought viewpoint. Send for a sample copy today.

#### FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE

2914 NICHOLAS STREET  
PHILADELPHIA 21, PA.

## LEVITATIONS

A tornado in Hollandale, Minn., May 11, carried a baby of 15 months 75 feet. *Cr Elsener.*

Another, at Sturgis, S. D., Aug 5, picked up an automobile with a little boy in it, and carried it out of sight. The car had not been located at the time of writing.

A whirlwind hit the beach at Westcliff, Essex, Eng., and threw three women into the sea. It had passed in 20 seconds. *Cr Fraser and Evans. 8-11-53.*

## WATERSPOUT IN CALM

Off Bridgeport, Conn., a waterspout was seen, 6-24-53 old style, rising into a clear sky "as far as the eye could see". The wind, as recorded for the vicinity, was only 14 miles an hour. *Cr Gochros.*

## SPONT. COMB.

MFS Pope sends us a datum that would have delighted Fort, coming—as it does—from a technical journal rather than the daily doses of fiction called "news". We need the dailies, to be sure, but won't some of you technically trained members send more data like this?

From the *Transylvania Journal of Medicine and Associate Sciences*, July-Aug.-Sept. 1835:

## ANALECTA

*Case of Spontaneous Combustion.*—From an essay by John Overton, M.D.—Mr. H., Professor of Mathematics in the University of Nashville, was engaged as usual in his recitation room, in attendance upon the morning exercises of his class, till 11 o'clock in the forenoon. He then buttoned his surtout coat close around him, and walked briskly thus clothed to his residence, a distance of about three-fourths of a mile, taking exercise enough to produce a glow of warmth on the surface of the body, without inducing fatigue, but feeling at the same time his usual acidity of the stomach, for which he resolved to take some soda as a remedy within a short time. Having arrived at his lodging, he pulled off his overcoat and kindled a fire, by placing a few pieces of dry wood on three burning coals which he found in the fireplace, of the magnitude of two cubes each; and immediately left the fire, and retired to a remote part of the room and made his observations on the weight and temperature of the atmosphere as indicated by the barometer and thermometer, which were suspended in that situation. He then took the dew-point by the thermometer. These operations, together with the registration of the results, occupied about thirty minutes. This having been accomplished, he went immediately into the open air, made observations on the hygrometer, and was beginning his observations upon the velocity and direction of the winds. He had been engaged in this latter process about ten minutes, his body all the while sheltered from the direct impression of the wind, when he felt a pain as if produced by the pulling of a hair, on the left leg, and which amounted in degree to a strong sensation. Upon applying his hand to the spot pained, the sensation suddenly increased, till it amounted in intensity to a feeling resembling the continued sting of a wasp or hornet. He then began to slap the part by repeated strokes with the open hand, during which time the pain continued to increase in intensity, so that he was forced to cry out from the

severity of his suffering. Directing his eyes at this moment to the suffering part, he distinctly saw a light flame of the extent at its base of a ten cent piece of coin, with a surface approaching to convexity, somewhat flattened at the top, and having a complexion which nearest resembles that of pure quicksilver. Of the accuracy in this latter feature in the appearance of the flame, Mr. H. is very confident, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances amidst which the observation must have been made. As soon as he perceived the flame, he applied over it both his hands open, united at their edges, and closely impacted upon and around the burning surface. These means were employed by Mr. H. for the purpose of extinguishing the flame by the exclusion of the contact of the atmosphere, which he knew was necessary to the continuance of every combustion. The result was in conformity with the design, for the flame immediately went out. As soon as the flame was extinguished, the pain began to abate in intensity, but still continued, and gave the sensation usually the effect of a slight application of heat or fire to the body, which induced him to seize his pantaloons with one of his hands and to pinch them up in a conical form over the injured part of the leg, thereby to remove them from any contact with the skin below. This operation was continued for a minute or two, with a design of extinguishing any combustion which might be present in the substance of his apparel, but which was not visible at the time. At the beginning of the accident, the sensation of injury was confined to a spot of small diameter, and in its progress the pain was still restricted to this spot, increasing in intensity and depth to a considerable extent, but without much if any enlargement of the surface which it occupied at the beginning. A warmth was felt to a considerable distance around the spot primarily affected, but the sensation did not by any means amount in degree to the feeling of pain. This latter sensation was almost, if not entirely, confined to the narrow limits which bounded the seat of the first attack, and this sensation was no otherwise modified during the progress of the accident, than by its increasing intensity and deeper penetration into the muscles of the limb, which at its greatest degree seemed to sink an inch or more into the substance of the leg.

Believing the combustion to have been extinguished by the means just noticed, and the pain having greatly subsided, leaving only the feeling usually the effect of a slight burn, he untied and pulled up his pantaloons and drawers, for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the part which had been the seat of his suffering. He found a surface on the outer and upper part of the left leg, reaching from the femoral end of the fibula, in an oblique direction, towards the upper portion of the gastrocnemii muscles, about three fourths of an inch in width, and three inches in length, denuded of the scarskin, and this membrane gathered into a roll at the lower edge of the abraded surface. The injury resembled very exactly in appearance, an abrasion of the skin of like extent and depth, often the effect of slight mechanical violence, except that the surface of it was extremely dry, and had a complexion more livid than that of wounds of a similar extent produced by the action of mechanical causes.

The condition of the pantaloons and drawers was next carefully inspected. The left leg of the drawers,

at a point exactly corresponding with the part of the leg which had suffered injury, and at a point accurately correspondent to the abraded surface, were burnt entirely through their substance. They were not in the slightest degree scorched beyond this limit, the combustion appearing to have stopped abruptly without the least injury to any portion of the drawers which had not been totally consumed by its action. The pantaloons were not burnt at all. But their inner surface opposite to and in contact with the burnt portion of the drawers, was slightly tinged by a thin frostwork of a dark yellow hue. The material of this color, however, did not penetrate the texture of the pantaloons, which were made of broad-cloth, but seemed to rest exclusively upon the extremities of the fibres of wool which were the materials of its fabric. The coloring matter was entirely scraped off with the edge of a penknife, without cutting the woody fibers, after which there remained upon the garment no perceptible trace of the combustion, with which they had been in contact. The pantaloons may be said, with entire propriety, to have suffered no injury of any kind from the accident. The drawers, which were composed of a mixture of silk and wool, were made tight and close at the ankle, and tied with tape over a pair of thick woollen socks, in such a manner as to prevent even the admission of air to the leg through their inferior opening. Considering the injury not to be of a serious character, Mr. H. bestowed upon its treatment no particular care or attention, but pursued his usual avocations within doors and in the open air, which was very cold, until the evening of the succeeding day. At this time the wound became inflamed and painful, and was dressed with a salve, into the composition of which the rosin of turpentine entered in considerable proportion. This treatment was continued for four or five days, during which time the wound presented the usual aspect of a burn from ordinary causes, except in its greater depth and more tardy progress towards cicatrization, which did not take place till after thirty-two days from the date of the infliction of the injury. The part of the ulcer which healed last, was the point of the inception and intensity of the pain at the time of attack, and which point was evidently the seat of deeper injury than any other portion of the wounded surface. About the fifth day after the accident, a physician was requested to take charge of the treatment, and the remedies employed were such chiefly as are usual in the treatment of burns from other causes, except that twice a week, the surface of the ulcer was sprinkled over with calomel, and a dressing of simple cerate applied above it. In the space between the wound and the groin there was a considerable soreness of the integuments to the touch, which continued during the greatest violence of the effects of the accident and then gradually subsided. The cicatrix is at this time, March 24th, entire; but its surface unusually scabrous and has a much more livid aspect than that of similar scars left after the infliction of burns from common causes. The dermis seems to have been less perfectly regenerated than is usual from burns produced by ordinary means, and the circulation through the part is manifestly impeded, apparently in consequence of atony of its vessels, to an extent far beyond anything of a similar nature to be observed after common burns. Since the wound has healed, the health of the patient has been as perfect as usual, and while the wound continued open, his ordinary

occupations were interrupted by a week's confinement only to his chamber. The accident occurred the fifth of January of the present year, the day intensely cold and the thermometer standing at only eight degrees above zero, sky clear and calm, and the barometrical admeasurement of the atmosphere being 29.248. Such is the history of the case of partial spontaneous combustion, which has recently occurred in this city. The facts have been stated as nearly as practicable in the words of the sufferer himself, and are consequently entitled to all the credit attributable to any statement of a similar character, which is or can be supplied by the annals of the profession. The character of the accident bears a striking similitude to the case of partial spontaneous combustion already noticed, and may hence, to future investigators, contribute not unimportant aid in the discussion of the subject which is the object of this essay.

*Transactions of the Medical Society of Tennessee, for 1835.*

### NEW BOOKS

Continuing our appreciation of MFS Boulton from DOUBT #41 . . .

He has called attention to a number of current books you might never have heard of but for this good office. Members who would like to obtain them—after 6 weeks' wait—may remit to the Society at the rate of \$4.00 each, subject to refund if the book come more cheaply. The descriptions are furnished by Brother Boulton.

**MAN OR MATTER**, by Ernest Lehrs, attempts an understanding of Nature on the basis of Goethe's Method of training observation and thought. Contains the conception of *levity*—a force polar to gravity. Vigorous attack on Newtonian optics in particular. Unorthodox interpretations of light, plant growth, etc. etc. Discussion of "speed" of light, or colours, of rainbow, of volcanic action (involving *levity*), etc. No hint that author knows anything of Fort, but some excitingly close parallels.

Incidentally, our own color man—Faber Birren—is very cordial to Goethe's optics, and I see a pamphlet here by the late MFS Barthel, *Goethe's Relativitätstheorie der Farbe / Nebst einer musikästhetischen Parallelie*.

**DARWIN IS NOT FOR CHILDREN**, by Vera Barclay. (I fear this attack is from the angle of Received Religion, but Boulton says it is readable all the same.)

**WISDOM, MADNESS AND FOLLY**, the Philosophy of a Lunatic, by John Custance.

**BIRDS AS INDIVIDUALS**, by Len Howard.

**KING SOLOMON'S RING—New Light on Animal Ways**, by Konrad Z. Lorenz.

**MENTAL PRODIGIES**, by Fred Barlow, an enquiry into the faculties of arithmetical, chess and musical prodigies, famous memorizers, precocious children and the like, with numerous examples of "lightning" calculations and mental magic.

One quotation (concerning Jacques Inaudi, 1867-1950, an Italian): "His most sensational performance was a match with three calculating machines set to work out three different arithmetical problems simul-

taneously. M. Inaudi always gave the answers before any of the three machines stopped ticking."

**DEAD CITIES AND FORGOTTEN TRIBES**, by Gordon Cooper, contains a chapter on the Nahanni Valley.

**MY OCCULT DIARY**, by Cornelius Tabori.

**IN MY MIND'S EYE**, by Frederick Marion.

**YARNS OF THE SEVEN SEAS**, by Commander A. B. Campbell, contains material on the Marie Celeste, etc.

**PROJECTION OF THE ASTRAL BODY**, by Sylvan J. Muldoon and Hereward Carrington, reprint.

**IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE**, by Martin Gardner, contains a lively, long chapter on Fort and Forteanism. The author got a little sore at YS, and took a few snipes at him, but we don't hold that against him. The book is full of meat, and the observations on Fort are in general very fair-minded and admiring. By all means, read it. *In the Name of Science*, from the Society, \$4.00.

For sturdy stomachs only, we recommend **THE GREAT BEAST** — a biography of Aleister Crowley — by John Symonds. Young people will not have heard of old 666, the foremost Satanist and black magician of the twentieth century, but older bucks will recall the days when his doings were detailed in the *American Weekly* every Sunday. Both ages will enjoy this chronicle. From the Society, \$4.50.

The first to write in for second-hand copies of *Nostradamus* (\$1.50) and *Ouspensky, New Model of the Universe* (\$3.50) may have them.

### BLACK MILK

A columnist in the *Daily Mirror* (?London?) 1-15-52, cites an instance of a cow giving black milk, "quite palatable, and so was the butter made from the cream, which looked like coaltar." Said to have occurred in Chillicothe, Ohio, 1891. Will local members see what they can find on it, please?



In a NANA despatch from London, March 22, the case of a "Dutch house painter named Hurkos" is noticed. He fell off a ladder on to his head and discovered that he had the gift of divination. ". . . after a long cerebral commotion . . . he noticed . . . that he knew in detail the intimate life of his doctors, could translate a Chinese text, and was able to drive at full speed a car through the thickest fog . . . answered questions that were about to be asked, and read a sealed letter after touching the pen which was used to write it. He is today one of the most valued consultants of Scotland Yard."

# 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 reproduced 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.

## 1866 Box 3 (Continued)

- May 12 Have LT May 1-26 nothing of new star / Have not looked into index.
- 4, 8, (R) T. Coronae claimed by Wm. Barker
- 9, 10 of London, Ontario M. Notices 27-57 A controversy here. Prof. Watson against in A. J. Sci. 2/42/82 is for "about the first." However great burst on 12th To support read p 60 especially / Also Am. J. Sci. 2/40/79 claimed before May 1 very indefinitely.
- 12 Obs on this star in 1913 / Nature 91-382
- 12 Another new star by John Birmingham May 22, 1881
- 12 Seth Carlo Chandler / Born Boston Sept 17, 1846
- 12 Coronae Borealis not in the milky way.
- 12 Coronae Borealis / See Romance of Reality by Capt. Ellison Hawks, Secretary of Leeds Astro. Soc. / by amateur astronomer John Birmingham of Milbrook, near Tuam, Ireland of 2nd mag.
- 12-14 was brilliant / New star in Corona Borealis usually credited to John Birmingham. Ab. 2nd mag on 12th. On 14th ab. 3rd. 19th reached 6th. On 31st about 9th. Tuam, was seen earlier in the evening ac to E I Farquhar, of the U S Patent Office writing in Am. J. Sci. 2/42/79 M. Notices 26/275 27-57

- 12 Mag of when discovered. Decreased rapidly and invisible to the eye by end of May. Todd — Stars & Telescopes p 267
- 13 Afternoon 5 PM Tremendous sandstorm Jersey City and Hoboken. N Y Trib May 14, p 5
- May 14 New star T Coronae Borealis waned and told in LT 1872, March 9, p 12 was diminishing farther.
- 14 The star discovered by Seth C. Chandler, Jr., "A young astronomer of great earnestness and promise" of Boston, N Y Trib May 21, p 7.
- May 18 Mets at Greenwich rate of 12 per hour BA 66-140
- 18 Dispatch dated / destructive tornado in week before date in Clark Co., Mississippi. N Y Herald May 20, p 6.
- 18 Striking prevalence of meteors traced to a radiant near S. Herculis, N. M. Nature 101/252 / Herculis and Coronae Bor. adjacent
- 20 Destructive tornado Rochester, N. Y. N Y Herald May 22 p 6 details May 23, p 5.
- 20 New star by Gould N Y Times May 20 p 3
- 23 Quake Nepal and Bengal, India BA '11 See April. See meteite on 27th.
- 23 Ab. A volcano reported from the Monghyr District but no more of it learned Pioneer June 6th Allahabad Pioneer
- 23 Rather severe quake. Half dozen reports in the Allahabad Pioneer May 28th. Fyzabad — 322 PM Jounpore — 3.08 PM Lucknow at 3:20 PM Banda — 3 PM at first a low rumbling sound / Azimgurh —3:30 PM
- 23 Shock at Calcutta at 3:45 PM Pioneer May 28th
- 23 See March 5 fireball

## BOX A (Resumed)

- May 9 LT p 12 Number of swallows found dead in Hants
- 14 LT p 12 Cattle plague in England
- 16 LT p 12 Cattle plague in Ireland
- 17 LT p 7 Cholera in Holland
- 17 LT p 7 Cattle plague in York, Maine N.Y. Herald / I think also in England at same time
- 18 LT p 8 Cholera in Liverpool
- 23 LT p 6 Cattle disease in Paname attributed to cattle eating young grass N Y Herald
- 24 LT p 4 Cattle disease said be the rinder pest in Cuba N Y Herald
- 24 LT p 9 Cholera Turkey
- May-June Cholera in U S See cattle disease Chile Jamaica N Y Herald June 28 p 4

- May Plagues / See Feb and Jan 1 1879  
 May Cattle disease 1473 new cases of rinderpest in Holland N Y Herald May 13 p 7
- BOX 3 (Resumed)**
- May 25 Several nights before 25th at Agra dust and rain The Pioneer May 30th  
 26 Morning slight shock Barrackport / Pioneer June 4th See May 1865  
 27 Pokhra, Bustee, Goruckpar, N W Prov India (F)  
 29 German meteor 1/106 R-Jan 1 1866  
 30 Dust fell at Lucknow for more than an hour Pioneer June 4th
- May 30 3:45 AM / St Mesmin, Aube, France / Meteorite BA 1866/133 CR 61-1305
- Ab 1st Morn Star-like light in Aristarchus by Tempel Astro Reg 5/29 See '67
- June 4 Early morn Mossoorie violent shock Pioneer 11th
- 5 2 severe shocks San Francisco N Y Herald June 9 p 4
- 6 Schmidt's New Star Ab 2° S of Spica not nova bet 4th and 5th mag. It had been catalogued of 8th mag. Astro Reg 4-231
- BOX A (Resumed)**
- June 6 LT p 14 ext. impost. / See 6-13
- BOX 3 (Resumed)**
- 9 Kuyahinya, Hungary / 1000 stones—one weighed 600 lbs. / Stones slightly warm / BA 1867-430 (F)  
 9 Aerolite / Also 1867 E Mec 79/383 See 67  
 10 Tempel saw a remarkable light in Aristarchus / Dennin "Telescopic Work" p 121 / Also '67  
 13 News of Radford told of in Nottingham Daily Express, June 16 (only a paragraph)  
 12-13 Nottingham Journal of 14th no mention of dirty water—says fall was night of 13th or early morning 14th so doubtful anybody saw dirty water falling.  
 13 News / Cor to Land & Water, June 30 that into the streets of Radford near Nottingham, in a heavy th storm fell great number of news, from 3½ to 6 inches long. Cor saw living ones, in possession of 3 residents of the town / not far away fell dirty water.
- BOX A (Resumed)**
- 13 News, England  
 17 Sheep England
- BOX 3 (Resumed)**
- 20 LT June 21 etc 10:45 AM / det met / heard in Boulogne, Folkstone, Eng. / LT June 22 British Consul at Calais writes that the extraordinary sound that had been heard was from the explosion of a powder mill at Esquerbes / (NOTE: the foregoing was crossed out by Fort but not the following) near St Omer ab 30 miles from Calais. Says would not deny that the explosion might have been brought about by the fall of a "thunderbolt". / in later issue he says a canard / See Jour des Debats It was explosion after all
- June 20 Another great day meteor / 11:21 AM Delft, Holland LT 23 p 12  
 20 See March 5 fireball  
 20 11 PM / Maidstone, Kent two reports heard BA 66  
 20 The 11 o'clock met Boulogne was Paris time BA 66-100  
 20 Ab 10:40 AM / Large met northerly to southerly 2 reports heard BA 66  
 20 10:45 AM South Eng 11 PM France S. Eng. great det mets / q. phenomena / BA 66-108 p. 128  
 20 10:40 AM det met Boulogne, Hastings, Kent, Surrey Another explosion 11 AM BA 66-106 Times index — E. Mec.  
 25 LT June 27 p 5 Tornado Buffalo N Y Herald June 26 p 4  
 29 Lat 31N 40 W light quake BA '11  
 30 Th. bolt of Notting Hill. In a London daily of July 2 Symons 1-66 D-105
- July 5 Noon Met in sunshine / BA 69-284  
 13 LT p 14 Submarine volc off Serrate Point  
 15 LT p 8 Worms N. Y. Times  
 17 Meteors (Hawkhurst, Kent) shooting from the Aug 10th radiant BA '66  
 17 8:52 PM great met. / a train 12 minutes Eidsfjord, Norway. BA 66-131  
 19 8:52 PM Norway / Met train BA 66-131  
 27 LT p 5 Quake at sea
- Autumn Aerolite like a bullet / Italy
- Aug 9-11 Mets ordinary or less at Hector N Y A J Sci 42/286
- Aug 10 Hourly rate of mets not greatly above ordinary BA 66-140
- 15 Meteor Pressburg Hungary Zut Met 1/203
- BOX A (Resumed)**
- 15 LT p 11 Missing Persons
- BOX 3 (Resumed)**
- 19 10 PM / Met N.Y. & Conn. BA 67-361  
 21 7:20 PM Meteor at Vichy CR 63-407  
 30 Solar halo at Argus CR 63-507
- Sept 5 Qs began Navigator Islands in Pacific / Sept 12 dense volumes of smoke from the sea / LT Dec 5 1867 p 5  
 6 7:10 PM Met Germany Zeit Met 1/249-267  
 13 9:45 PM Budleigh / 2 shocks 5 minutes apart Symons 1/82 Geol Mag 1866-537  
 13 & 15 5:25 AM / quake Depts of Cher and Nièvre Sept 15 8 PM Sudden deluge L'Tempest CR 63-651  
 14 5:15 Q. Paris See Paris papers / evening before bet 8 and 10 o'clock aurora of great brilliance LT 17 & 18  
 14 Quake and aurora Paris also Tours and Angouleme Riom and Clermont Q preceded by an aurora Timbs 1867-258  
 16 Ship Whinfell overtaken by a cyclone ab 200 miles from Cape Verde Islands. A great many birds and butterflies came aboard, a heron, 2 owls and smaller birds. Entomologist 3-226  
 18 2 AM / Meteorological phenomena at sea. / Zut Met 1/328  
 19 LT p 12 / G. Devon / not in vol in N.Y.  
 20 Quake Trinidad also Sept 26 BA '11/55  
 22 Vendome / Lightning without thunder / CR Nov 25-1896

- 24 10 to 11 PM / Clear fine night. In one hour no meteors seen Birmingham BA 67-292
- Sept 24—Oct 11 / Mets Germany Zut Met 1/318
- 26 Trinidad Quake BA 1911-55
- Autumn LT Dec 10 '66 Cur writes that in autumn of '66 a friend of his, at Florence, Italy, had in his garden a narrow escape from being struck by an object from the sky "The missile was examined by us and its specific gravity exceeded that of a bullet."
- Oct 5 8:55 PM / Chagford slight shock See May 3, '09
- 5 Jamkheir, Bombay, India (F)
- Oct 16 Schmidt rem that the isolated crater on eastern p of Mare Serenita known as Linné no longer existed as a crater
- 18 Linné as a spot of light/ Schmidt/ B A 167/7
- 21 LT p 3 Q's Heptin of N Y Times remarkable
- 21 Great met Hoboken At first seemed stationary. Sci Amer Nov. 17, 1866
- 28 Evening / Dunedin, New Zealand slight quake Timbs 1867-260
- 28 8:25 PM Hoboken, N. J. Large met Sci Amer Nov 17
- 28 New Zealand quake and flash / "preceded by a bright flash of lightning and followed by a strong gust of wind. Ponton Earthquakes p. 125
- Nov 1 Great meteor N. S. Wales from e. to w. Sydney Morning Herald LT Nov 10 p 6
- 1 7:40 PM / Dijon Great meteor first seen in Dijon CR 63-864
- 13 Meteor of 1866 not seen in Mexico CR 64/273
- Nov In CR 68-384, M. Poey comments upon lack of lesser (indecipherable word) in South says Greenwich—100,000 Athens—24,000 Cape Good Hope—12,000
- Nov Meteors/nothing extraordinary seen in Yokohama and Shanghai CR 68-384
- Nov 13 2:14 AM Met train England MWR '07/391
- 13-14 No mention of meteors seen by Hall in Arctic in Nourse's Hall's Second Expedition
- Nov Flashes of vivid lightning from below the radiant by Mr. Hurd Astro Reg 4-308
- 13-14 Predicted not before midnight because Leo not rise till then. Astro Reg 4-293
- 13 It was the center of the group predicted for this date so should have been as many 1865 as in 1867 Astro Reg 1864-290
- 14 2:41 AM at Aberdeen Meteor train in Taurus / Pop Sci 79/193
- 14 Rept BA '64, p. 96, Prof. Newton's quoted prediction: A maximum display on the morning of the 14th of November, 1866 is expected to be chiefly visible on the Western Atlantic
- Nov Leonids / "Nothing in America In Europe a fine shower was seen though it was not equal to that of 1833." Todd Astronomy p. 288.
- Nov 14 1:08 AM / met cloud 12 minutes over Cardiff. Extraordinary streak (indecipherable word) to 6 o'clock. Eng. & Scotland. BA 67-309. See Appendix
- 13 12:30 AM / Bristol / Great met streak  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour/ BA 1873-370
- 14 Met trains 15 min. / Wales 1:08-1:20 AM / Scotland 2:41-2:45 AM Pop Sci 79/193
- 13 York—J. E. Clark and other observers—meteor as if from point close to Mars B A 1873-370 (NM)
- 14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 Linné as a spot of light / Schmidt B. A. '67/7
- 14 2:11 AM / meteor train / New Haven, Conn. MWR 07/391
- 14 India 19°, 55'N 74°35' E meteor train late in evening
- 14 Early / The Leonids reported from Barclay's Observatory the first to appear from Mars" 9 others "from Mars or "from near Mars." Out of all recorded the proportion is small. LT 1866/Nov 16
- Nov 13 The Leonids and several vivid flashes of lightning radiated from below (word cut off) ac to Hind LT 1866/Nov 14
- 6 5:55 PM / Sussex Great meteor from near Venus 68-284 PA 67-206
- 12 In Turkey N Y Times 1867 Jan 13 p 6
- 6 (CL-26) / Light /N W Columbia LT Jan 2, '67
- 11-12 Many meteors at New Orleans / One visible ten minutes / C R 64-273
- Nov Leonids Nothing in Trans Roy Soc of Victoria
- Nov "The densely overcast state of the sky in England permitted few observations to be recorded." BA '67 BA 1867-382
- 12-13 Sky clear Aberdeen, Scotland, "Streaks of aurora appeared irregularly throughout the whole night. BA 67-382
- 13-14 Bright auroral glare London BA 67-385
- 13-14 Manchester at 1:45 AM 50 counted in 6 minutes BA 67-383
- 13-14 Meteors not unusual Shanghai and Japan A J Sci 2/43/277
- 13 1:45-2:30 AM  $\frac{1}{4}$  sky clear 11 meteors counted by one observer A J Sci 2/43/85
- 12-14 Meteors in U S inferior to those in Europe ac to Prof H A Newton A J Sci 2/43/78
- 13-14 10 PM to 3 AM 317 meteors Sandwich Islands "There was no special radiation from Leo" A. J. Sci. 2/43/276
- 13-14 Dindigul, India observer—"I saw thousands" A. J. Sci. 2/43/277
- 12-13 New Haven Meteors small "very few from Leo" Prof H A Newton A. J. Sci. 2/43/78
- Nov 13 Radiant point in Leo rises ab 11 PM which in U S corresponds with 4 AM Greenwich time so US observations from midnight onward on morning of 14th to be regarded as a continuation of those interrupted by daylight in England—Prof H A Newton A. J. Sci. 2/43/78
- 12-14 Leonids of Azores and France C R 63-961
- 12 Times Nov 12 1866 Prof Herschel's letter telling readers to look after midnight or be disappointed.
- 13-15 No more than ordinarily at the Santa Clara Observatory, Mexico C R 64-274 But he cites observer on West Coast of Mexico who saw many (M. Poey)
- 12 See Meteors active Dec. 8, 1866

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