

DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE
Vol. II Whole Number 48

⁶⁶ *Science does not know*
its debt to imagination ⁹⁹
+EMERSON+



SCIENCE-SPEAKING-SO-THAT-THE
MERE-LAYMAN-CAN-UNDERSTAND

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

35c.

2/— in Great Britain

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the
FORTEAN SOCIETY

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FIRST PRIZE

Bob Steinberg is a sharpshooter. He doesn't send enough data, but the few pieces he does send are almost always bullseyes.

Two stories in adjacent columns of the *NY Post*, 12-16-54, were headed:

1. "Gold TV Set Sent to Pope By 15,000 U.S. School Boys"

2. "Test Shows Pope Has No Ulcer"

Steinberg writes alongside, "Just wait!"

From the same paper, 3-9-54, he sent the story of the Army Engineers who started building a bridge over the Missouri River at Decatur, Neb. A flood changed the course of the river so that the bridge spanned dry land. The Army finished the bridge anyway. That was four years ago, and subsequent floods have moved the river channel even farther away.

Second best, to our wry way of thinking, comes from Jack Campbell, now in Paris. The story was in the (London) *Daily Sketch*, 1-6-55, old style.

Householder John Tuck, Victoria Road, Stockton-on-Tees, was served a standard "notice to pave" the street in front of his residence, a routine form which went to all residents of that street, preliminary to the actual paving by the local County Council. Tuck, however, is himself a road builder, so he took the Council's order literally, roped off the street and went to work. He figures to save himself about £130.

An official of the town corporation said, "The notice to tenants to make up a private street is really regarded as a formality. There would be chaos if everyone decided to do his own stretch of road."

Third choice, from F. McMahon, who found it in the *N.Y. Times*, 1-13-55.

The Eskimos of Greenland have recently been granted "citizenship" as Danes, aceto NANA. Pride in their new political "rights" has caused them to petition the government of Denmark to impose "direct taxation, including income taxes," upon them. That's what comes of eating blubber!

Ibid, do, 11-27-54, a Reuters despatch, quotes the Deputy Governor of Kenya, Africa, "that 7000 Mau Mau had been killed since a state of emergency was declared in October, 1952. The terrorists' active strength is declining," he added.

The statement is either ambiguous or redundant. If the Deputy Governor is referring to the whites who have committed these murders as "Terrorists" — which they would certainly seem to be, inasmuch as no like number of them has been reported slain — then the decline of their strength wants explaining. If the Mau Mau are referred to by the term, it is a gross redundancy to say, "we have killed 7000 of them, so now they are fewer."

McMahon also sent a column from Dublin last summer, *Irish Press*, 8-31-54. The National Library of Ireland had a vast cataloging problem which had been piling up on the staff for ten years. Director Dr. Richard Hayes "by a brilliantly conceived arrangement with the Department of Justice" got the help of long-term prisoners in Portlaoise Prison. "Some of these men are just born for the job. We couldn't have got better anywhere." The columnist, Sally Noggin, adds: "I wonder what the Occupational Therapy experts will have to say about that?"

Sally also observed in her column that chicken eggs "went rotten less readily" if they were not washed.

The runners-up run all over the place. A former member who remains a correspondent sent this from Gaza, Egypt, *The Egyptian Gazette*, 2-7-55, a Reuter despatch from Blackpool, Eng., notices that a local church organist, Dr. Frederick Wood, "believes he is the reincarnation of a 3000-year-old Egyptian general". He planned an "expedition" to the Upper Nile with a local school teacher, Miss Ivy Berumont, "who claims in a previous existence she danced before a pharaoh and was hand-maiden to his daughter, Princess Nona."

YS had an aunt named Nona, but he was not invited to join this Safari or Caravan. The pair "intended to use their psychic powers to investigate ancient Egypt" — but — Dr. Wood said, "The trip is finally cancelled. I can give no reasons and there is nothing more to be said." Our corr writes, "Let's find out why he quit. Can't we help this guy?"

MFS Simpson of Newcastle sent a yarn from the (Eng) *Daily Herald*, 2-10-55, about a gold fish in nearby West Denton. Fish is named Peter, belongs to Ian Millar. Peter leaped out of his tank. Found, and put back, he could not swim but lay on the bottom, blowing bubbles. Ian "cut a piece of cork to fit comfortably on Peter's back, securing it there with an elastic band. Peter popped to the top of the tank and began merrily swimming around again." Allegedly this happened a month ago and the fish is still alive.

MFS Goldstein sends a piece signed by Alan Frazer in the Boston *American*, 2-11-55, stating that Sgt. Marty Maher of West Point Military Academy taught swimming there for 35 years although he himself could not swim and went in the pool only once in that period of time.

MFS Gee found this in the (Eng) *Daily Herald*, 1-31-55. Police-Constable Donald Shortt, Haltwhistle, Northumberland, volunteered to act as a casualty in a first-aid lecture. Another policeman, Alan Smith, tried artificial respiration on him and fractured plural of Shortt's ribs.

In Dennison, Ohio, a bank's burglar alarm began ringing at 10:00 p.m., 2-6-55 old style. Police called it a short circuit. Bankers said it would stop in 20 minutes. It rang an hour and a half. An electrician was called but could not reach the box. The firemen came with a longer ladder. The motor of the fire truck stalled, and efforts to start it caused backfire. Residents thought this was gun battle with bank robbers. Backfire set fire to the fire truck. Firemen had to use hand extinguishers. At 1:00 a.m. quiet was restored. Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, credit Barker.

Anybody who ever lived near a gully coast knows how the birds drop clams on rocks from the air in flight, to crack them and get at the meat. YS has watched this operation many times. Now, at Mystic, Conn, the gulls have taken to chunking the clams through window glass. One went through the pane of an insurance office and conked Mrs Dorothy Bailey on the head. "She was treated by a doctor for cuts." Philadelphia *Bulletin*, 1-5-55. Cr Borden — who is to be specially commended for the intelligent, handy, all-to-be-praised manner in which his data

are invariably presented. Thank YOU, Brother Borden. (Directions and printed slips-in-aid are being printed for distribution to the membership to facilitate the handling of newsprint Forteania.)

The smartest boy in Virginia is Jackie Felts, 10, of Galax. He was on the operating table of a hospital, readied for a tonsilectomy, when he changed his mind, jumped down and ran home. "The operation has been postponed." Don't go back, Jackie! Boston *Daily Record*, 11-25-54. Cr Goldstein.

Whilst the rocketeers go gaily on planning to take over Luna as a military base for their several countries respectively, a British selenographer who has specialized in the moon for 44 years — one Dr. H. Percy Wilkins — announces that the satellite is cracking up. "Cracks" were first sighted in 1891. Now they are multiplying aco Wilkins. *The Albertan, Calgary*, 12-15-54. Cr Millar.

In Santa Clara, Calif. one Robert Norona (address on request to anyone who volunteers to check for us) returned to his home after "an evening out". On the wall was a picture which had not been there before. "As far as he knows, no one had been in the house. All doors and windows locked. Nothing missing, he told police." What YS wants to know is — What does the picture represent? San Jose *News*, 1-8-55. Cr Forster, who should please stop using Scotch tape.

Up in Lone Rock, Wis. a farmer, Kenneth Crook, was stopped by order of Circuit Judge A. W. Kopp from operating a "uranium tunnel". As appears, a "uranium tunnel" is an "enclosure lined with bags filled with low-grade uranium ore", in which people pay a dollar an hour to sit. Aco the charge, Crook represented that the ailing and sick would experience improvement of their health from sitting there. YS submits that, for all the Judge knows, the people would benefit as much by sitting there as by attending any other medicine man, and if the dopes want to do it, it's none of his business. Minneapolis *Tribune*, 11-25-54. Cr Mealy

ANOTHER "FIRST" METEOR

Not taking time to count them at the moment. we must have reported in DOUBT some four or five meteorites which have struck persons, or houses, or exploded in flames in streets. Nevertheless, almost every time it happens, some stubborn die-hard characteristic of the fuddy-duddy orthodox astronomers or their faithful slaves of the press causes them to parrot the old saw, "It never happened before."

Last November 30, a nine-pounder came through the roof of a home in Sylacauga, Alabama, bruising Mrs. Hulett Hodges. Identified as a "sulphide" meteorite by George Swindle, field representative of the U.S. Geological Survey. The flash of the meteor bursting in air only seconds before the fragment tore through the roof of the dwelling was seen in three States, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi.

The object was not hot by the time police got there, and it did not set fire to the house. Cr Borden, Pollard, Eaton, Powers, Forster, Mealy and others.

L. L. Hawthorne, an amateur astronomer has a private observatory near Kirkland, Wash, across the lake from Seattle.

Shortly before noon, Jan 17, 1955 old style, two meteorites "larger than golf balls" pierced the aluminum dome of the observatory. One was so hot it had fused aluminum from the roof on it. They broke a clock and set fire to Hawthorne's books. "They were too hot for the firemen to handle." *Pasadena Independent*, credit Powers.

On Jan 23, in Darby Township, near Philadelphia, Pa, a ball of fire "size of a grapefruit" crashed through a window of William C. Cunningham's bedroom over his grocery store, as he was dressing about 7:45 a.m. Despite that it was blazing, Cunningham picked it up and tried to throw it out the window. It exploded as he let it go. One fragment hit the bed and exploded again, others were imbedded in the window sill, others were found later on the roof of a parked car below the window.

Cunningham's hand was burned nearly to the bone. His second floor was set afire and it took firemen an hour to put it out.

Dr. C. P. Olivier, emeritus professor of astronomy at U of Pennsylvania, who has been mentioned here before and never without moss a foot deep on every direct quotation, "expressed doubt that it was a meteorite". If it was, quoth the fossil, it was the first meteorite ever to reach earth still ablaze. Hohum.

Fragments were subjected to heat of 1700 degrees in the flame of a propane torch. They only got red, did not melt, cooled rapidly. The metal could not be identified by local examiners. It was non-magnetic. Olivier advised the police to send fragments to Dr. E. P. Henderson, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. for tests. *Cr* Oltcher, Powers, Chapin, Borden, and Goldstein, who suggests it may have been a misguided missile. Says she: "If they guide enough of them, we can all take to the hills."



A BONNY QUARTER

Since last we met, the Freeprez has been spinning like a Fortean pinwheel and every mail has brought us sparks from an alert and discriminating membership.

The largest body of data concerned Dr. Charles A. Laughhead who hitched his wagon to a "flying saucer" and joined Mrs. Dorothy E. Martin in predicting the end of the world. They withdrew the prediction after a seance but not before the Doc had been fired from Michigan State College.

Mrs. Martin writes down messages "from higher intelligence in outer space" since she had a buzzing in her head last March.

Cr Mealy, Kittinger, Eaton, and many more.

Next most numerous were the clippings on London's "mid-night smog at noon" 1-14-25 FS, actually at 1:30 p.m. Women screamed and fell on their knees to pray on the sidewalks. A photo in the *Daily Mirror* looks black indeed. A letter from MFS Evans who witnessed it passing over his home in Surrey states: "I can assure you it was most disquieting. I can quite understand the simple people who thought it was the Day of Judgment. Alternatively, it looked almost as if the sun were going out — a thing for which a Fortean ought to be prepared, I suppose!"

It lasted only ten minutes *acto AP*, called "freakish in every way." Some thought they had gone blind. Some compared it to U.S. "dust storms". The official explanation was "smoke held to earth by extremely thick clouds". *Cr* Borden, Hibbert, Gee, Elsander, Chapin, and many more. Other record fogs had occurred in England the middle of November.

Also well covered was the fall of substance, "gray and cobwebby", over a half-mile square at Horseheads, and Elmira, N.Y., 2-21-55 old style. It fell for twenty-four hours *acto UP*, "spread a thin film over buildings, streets, lawns and trees", called radioactive "but not dangerously so".

"Still a mystery" to the *Minneapolis Star* on Washington's birthday, but the *N.Y. Times* has it "described by scientists as cotton waste. It may have been blown into New York State from industrial cities in Pennsylvania."

Dr. Charles B. Rutenber, head of Elmira College Chemistry Department, also another chemist, and "an independent researcher" — the two latter anonymous — made separate tests. "They agreed it was a short-staple cotton, possibly lint."

The next day, Boston papers called it "fuzzy" and quoted Dr. Rutenber as stating that it was "badly damaged", and "heavily damaged in some sort of explosion". The concept of *undamaged fuzz* is pregnant with possibilities, but *AP* does not go into it.

That night the *N.Y. World Tele* added a word from John Stelmak, called a chemical engineer, who advanced the theory that the stuff was "milk-soot" from a local milk powdering plant. He also said it "looked to him like a synthetic fiber of the hydrocarbon class". That could be "milk-soot" he said.

In NYC, the Atomic Energy Commission suggested that the alleged radioactivity was a "static electricity charge", and that the stuff had not come from Nevada bomb tests.

An *AP* photo goes with this story in the *World-Tele*. It shows Charles L. Shull, president of Horseheads' Chamber of Commerce, handling strands of the stuff.

Two days later, the *Seattle (Wash) Times* calls it "powdered milk" and attributes that identification to John B. Diffanderfer, chemist at Horseheads' Westinghouse plant. This story also mentions "cobwebs". *Cr* Chapin, M. McMahon, E. S. Anderson, Mealy and others. Incidentally, if you want credit for data you send, your name must appear on each piece sent in.

About the same number covered the Connecticut Christ story.

The Pittsburgh *Post Gazette*, 1-6-55, headed its AP story, CHRIST IMPOSTER ARRESTED, although how that paper or anybody else could tell the difference between an "imposter" and the real McCoy is not stated. Come to find out, Connecticut has a law prohibiting the impersonation of a deity, but who is competent to pass on a question so knotty? Police Court Judge Harry Ginsburg sat on this case in New Britain, and sent the prisoner to a nut-house at last. For all Judge Ginsburg knows, he has God locked up.

The prisoner's other name is John Tszchaplinski, and John has a wife, Vera, also five children, 2 to 8 years.

John was picked up a few weeks before Jan. 5, because he was handing out \$20 bills to patients in the local hospital. MFS Sawyer, of New Britain, writes that this is obvious evidence of insanity. Nobody ever gets out of that hospital for less than \$500.

The police let John go home that first time, but on Jan 5, a neighbor called the station about "strange doings".

Arrested with John were his disciple, Mieczyslaw Majewski and two "Sisters" in the faith, Antonina Suszko and Dina Karanowicz. All were called "displaced persons from Poland". All wear monkish robes tied with a cord at the waist, except John, in private. Indoors he wears a loin cloth and a crown of thorns. He keeps a wooden cross, seven feet tall, handy too, complete with spikes. John's hands and feet bear wounds *a la* "stigmata", and he claims they appeared miraculously on the Sunday before Jan 5.

The men had worked at factory jobs until shortly before their arrest, and some \$500 was found by the police, in \$20 bills, "for the poor," says John.

One of the women has a bank account of several thousand, acts the St Paul *Dispatch*.

The entire group claims to be about 2000 years old.

The charge preferred by City Prosecutor Steven E. Perakos was "blasphemy", in violation of Chapter 423, Section 8566, of the State Statutes, which the New Britain *Herald* quotes as follows: "Any person who shall blaspheme against God, either of the persons of the Holy Trinity, the Christian religion, or the Holy Scriptures, shall be fined not more than \$100 and imprisoned in jail not more than one year, and may also be bound to his good behaviour."

That is so obviously an unconstitutional statute that one supposes it must antedate the Constitution. One of these reports states that this is the first time the statute ever has been invoked. John can't make a test case of it, however, because the bug-doctors have committed him to a mental hospital, and the charges against the others have been dropped. *Cr Otcher*, Mealy, Eaton and others.

By coincidence, another screwy Connecticut law comes to notice in the pages of *Secular Subjects*, from St. Louis, Mo. This second one "forbids ridicule of a person because of his race, color or creed". YS submits that these matters are not controllable by law but must be achieved from within, and that no legislature can deprive a man of the weapon of

ridicule, which is a keen blade and trusty and true and useful against the priestcraft of all creeds.

YS frequently drives through Connecticut, and promises to do all the blaspheming and ridiculing he cares to every time business or pleasure calls him among the nutmegs.



HE'S AN INDIAN TOO

Away back in the childhood of YS, "Indian songs" were the bebop of the day. Just before rag-time, we sang *Red Wing*, and *My Pretty Rainbow*, also *Pony Boy*. One ribald number ran —

I'm an Indian,
Your an Indian,
He's an Indian too.
I'll tell you what I'll do.
I'll make a bet with you.
He'll be standing
When we're landing
In the calaboose.
I'm an Indian,
Your an Indian
He's an Indian too.

This bit of nostalgia is brought up by the coincidence of two Indian stories in the current grist.

Both Indians are dead, which makes them "good" Indians at last, and both are — after some difficulty — buried. The one was John Rice, of Sioux City, Iowa, the other Ira Hayes, of the Pima Reservation in Arizona.

Both Indians served in the armed forces of the USA, whether as volunteers or as draftees one knoweth not, nor why any red man should do anything for any white man's government.

John Rice was killed in Korea, whether by the enemy or by an American truck is not stated. His body was shipped to his widow in Sioux City. Observe that the name of the town as well as the soil on which it stands was taken from the Indians.

Mrs. Evelyn Rice had signed a contract with the Sioux City Memorial Park, which is a cemetery, for her husband's interment, but "after a graveside service" the proprietors pointed to the small print in the contract and refused to permit the body to be lowered into the soil stolen from the red men. The bug paragraph restricted burial to CAUCASIANS only.

The case of Ira Hayes differs in that he had been discharged from the service before he died. Probably some will remember a photograph, purporting to be a "news" photo snapped in action at the front at Iwo Jima, in 1945 A.D. It reproduced a group

of uniformed men raising a flag. It has been reproduced countless times and was used on a postage stamp. No question about it, that photo was a work of art. It's aesthetic values, the composition, the action, the distribution of the figures, the costuming, the folds of the cloth, the positions of hands and feet — the whole works — added up to such a fine work of art that if it was not posed, composed, and shot time after time to get it just right, then that photo is unique in the history of the camera obscura. Never before has the chance action of so many men arranged them so well to produce a picture for a purpose. It is more reminiscent of such paintings as the "Spirit of '76" and Leonardo's "Last Supper" than of any battle photo ever taken under fire.

One's experience on newspapers, movie lots and in editorial offices leads one, by the logic of that internal evidence, to the opinion that the released photo was the best of many "takes", and that the pile of rejected negatives was high.

Nevertheless, one of the uniformed men in the picture was our second Indian, Ira Hayes, and it does not detract from his hero status if he was asked or commanded to be a combination photographer's model and movie actor after Iwo Jima was taken. Ira Hayes was there, and on the winning side, and all the boys in the picture deserve Oscars.

After Ira was mustered out, he was not made the president of a university or of the local soft-drink bottling works. He went back to the Pima Reservation and preferred the hard stuff. He drank more than he could handle, and clashed with the Law he never made, but defended, for obscure reasons. In January of this year Ira died "of exposure" at *ae* 32. That made him a "good" Indian at last.

Ira Hayes and John Rice were both buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., "with full military honors". That should make their shades very happy, don't you think?

THAT LAST COVER

Apparently the cover of DOUBT #47 brought Joy to the World! Everybody loved it. Many have suggested that it be made into Christmas cards, and that is exactly what it was. It was sent to YS as a Christmas greeting from a member then in Panama, of all places. He is MFS Jesse Douglas, who joined us while he was an undergrad at the U of Minn. Some four fraternity brothers joined the Society at the same time, and Fort was the rage of the campus that semester.

Our blanket credit-line to Art Castillo mistakenly caused many to think the cover was his, but now we learn it was drawn by MFS Swisher — another of the Minnesota Four. Congratulations, Swish.

STOCKTON SOLON

Out in Stockton, Calif, one L. D. Beckwith has been publishing a paper called THE FORUM for 34 years. As currently appearing, the paper consists of two pages, full newspaper size, per issue, and the pages are now approaching 5,600.

THE FORUM proudly claims, "You can get from these two pages a more accurate understanding of

economics than you can get from any college in the world."

Other prominent assertions are: "Taxes are not necessary! People will pay (in rent), what the government is worth. Taxation is a racket. Taxation is the world's oldest Racket. And the Greatest of All Crimes against humanity." . . . "Rent changes with development on other sites. Rent is, therefore, not paid for the use of land. Nor is it interest on the investment in the title. Rent is, therefore, a debt due the public. We need no new laws to collect debts. All we need do is to realize what rent is" . . . "Rent is the compensation due people who make investments of labor or capital on other sites around and about, far and near, which add to the security and convenience of the people who pay the rent."

THE FORUM costs you \$2.50 per year. Send your subscriptions direct to 1325 Poplar Street, Stockton, Calif.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

We have a good many data on the topic which is exemplified by the items mentioned in a moment. It is Fortean only by extension. That is to say, when one applies the Fortean viewpoint to all phenomena, these things stand out like Jupiter's contrary satellite.

Now, in the membership are any number who have a leaning toward this type of data, individuals who could develop it in a workmanlike manner. YS has more than he can do properly and this is a category which should be delegated to a member with a real feeling for it.

We have a good many clippings on related subjects which we will send to a bona fide volunteer in good faith. What we have is only a smattering, however. Anyone who undertakes to write it up should go back over the record since the cessation of hostilities.

These are the typical:

Jan 26, at Dugway, Utah, 49,000 "fragmentation bombs" were exploded in the desert, called "obsolete", said to have been destroyed "to save storage costs" . . . Officers would not say how much the anti-personnel explosives had cost."

Last Dec 17, the government began "selling" the synthetic rubber manufacturing plants to private companies for a fraction of their cost.

Dec 10, a retired colonel was accused of piddling away \$170,000 for an officers' golf course and riding stable near Tooele, Utah.

You can see, this is a special field. YS will continue to assemble and mention data on the more costly boondoggles of the future, like launching an artificial satellite etc., but the classic waste to date wants more attention than he can give it.

Somewhat related is the menace to all our lives created by the irresponsible bomb-happy military, drunk upon inflated dollars, who continue their "tests" for the sole purpose of giving the economy jets in the arm.

A pile of ~~dam~~ on this subject was ready for this issue, but as we go to press the world-wide public outcry against this practice is rising in good shape without our help. Even the scientists are protesting! — so we save the space.

ST. LOUIS SECULARS

The Rationalist Society of St. Louis, Mo., whose several moving spirits are also Fortean — have a new home. By pact with a local German group of freethinkers — called *Freie Gemeinde* — which has been active for 104 years, the Rationalists have a meeting place of their own, club rooms, lecture hall and library, at 2218 St. Louis Avenue, St. Louis 6, Mo.

If you are passing, stop in and make yourself known as a Fortean. You will enjoy their monthly publication, SECULAR SUBJECTS. Send \$2.00 to their new address.

NOMINATIONS

James F. Lincoln, President, the Lincoln Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, has been nominated for Fortean Fellowship, because of his lectures to the Cleveland Press. Following here is one that was actually printed.

Sir:

There is much question at the present time as to what should be done about the mess in Korea. Has anyone thought of approaching the matter in a perfectly honest and straight-forward way?

First, admit that we are the aggressors and that we have no business invading Korea or any other country. Second, bring back our army to America. Third, pay for the damage that we have done in Korea.

In order to do this, the following program would be necessary.

First, impeach Truman as a war monger who ordered the invasion of Korea by illegal action, without reference to congress who, under our constitution only, can declare war.

Second, if the dangers of invasion from Communistic Russia are in any sense true, which is doubtful, build up our home defenses and don't weaken ourselves by a war on the other side of the world.

Third, go to China and Russia, after showing our honesty by the above action, and tell them we are not war-like; that the one thing we want to do is to live at peace and in cooperation with all nations. State the fact that the invasion which took place was contrary to the desires of the majority of the American people who, under our representative form of government, should have, and will in the future have, control of our acts. In doing this we will not lose face, we will not kill our sons, and if we are fearless in our honesty, we will achieve a lasting peace with all the world.

Yours very truly,
J. F. Lincoln

Walt Kelly, cartoonist, creator of Pogo "because of his superb ability to poke fun at organized stupidity."

M. H. Alexander, of St. Paul, Minn, who has had a long row with the local school authorities and has at last withdrawn his son from attendance rather than permit him to take an "oath of allegiance" containing the word *God*.

Bruce A. Wallace, a private in the U S Army, who is alleged to have "failed to stand at attention and salute" as the flag was lowered, sunset Nov. 3, Edgewood, Md. The Los Angeles *Herald & Express*, 12-17-54, quotes Wallace thus: "I do not respect the flag and I did not feel it necessary for me to render proper respect to the flag at retreat if I am not in formation."

"My being in the army has lessened my respect for the country. I feel that my service is unnecessary and a waste of time. I classify the flag as a symbol not requiring respect according to my religion."

Dr. Alvin Johnson, active president-emeritus of the New School for Social Research, and one of the founders of that institution. He was 80 years old on 12-18-54.

Wilhelm Reich, specifically because, acto his sponsor, the government has burned his books.

Robert Graves, for his "Fortean view of history" as shewn in his books, *The White Goddess*, *King Jesus*, *Nazarene Gospel Restored*, etc.

Kenneth Roberts, the novelist, specifically for two books endorsing dowsing, *The Forked Stick*, and *The Seventh Sense*.

George and Charles Finn, the twins who bought a "surplus" airplane from the Vineland (Calif) School District, arrested an officer sent to arrest them, etc., etc. As of Dec 9, they had won their case and were awarded damages from the government by U.S. District Judge Mathes.

The Town Board of Lanaster, N.Y., for refusing to turn over dogs and cats from the local pound to Buffalo General Hospital "for research purposes".

Several nominations are excluded on the ground that the persons named have no other claim to attention than their political activities.

WE LOSE

Although neither was a member of the Society, both had been nominated for Fellowship, and were correspondents of YS, and certainly they belong among our posthumous Fortean. The passing of Arthur Garfield Hays and Joseph McCabe is a loss to us and to the world.

Nobody has done more for civil liberties than Arthur Garfield Hays, and nobody since Robert Ingersol has done so much to further atheism as Joseph McCabe.

Let's keep kicking, in their memory.

SICILIAN SUPERSTITION

Legend in the Lipari Island group hath it that when Stromboli and Etna both erupt at the same time, that will be the end of the world.

Dec 3. A quake shook buildings down and opened cracks in the streets of Camporeale near Palermo.

Dec 6. Stromboli erupted for the second time in year. Previous instance, Feb. "Five serious eruptions have occurred in 61 years."

Dec 29. Stromboli erupted again. Rolling earth tremors shook the islands. Smoke poured from Mt. Etna.

Dec 30. Etna active for first time since the year 20 FS. The entire population, 3500, of the island Salina camped in the open to avoid flowing lava and falling buildings.

Dec 30. The director of the Institute of Volcanology at Catania visited Etna and gave his opinion that "the steam and ash . . . do not presage . . . lava, nor do they have any connection with the present flow of lava from Stromboli . . . the simultaneous activity of these two volcanos has no bearing on the earth shocks in the Lipari Islands." *Cr* Gee, Elselder, Goldstein, Borden and others.

L.A. GETS "ACTION"

According to the Associated Press despatch of Oct 16, 1954 old style, "An aroused citizenry is crying for action — and getting it — as the Los Angeles area is blanketed with a blue-gray eye-stinging smog that began ten days ago."

Then AP numbers four steps taken.

1. The Governor of the State flew to LA "to determine why the air pollution laws are not being enforced."

2. A 10-year-old girl died, "apparently of mucous asphyxiation".

3. Physicians reported an increase in colds and sore throats.

4. The cops set up 61 roadblocks and handed out tickets to drivers of cars whose exhausts were smoking excessively.

It just goes to show what an "aroused citizenry" can accomplish when it cries for action.

About five weeks later, the (London) *Daily Mail*, 11-27-54, reported the deaths of three Los Angeles babies, each three months old, "of respiratory ailments . . . believed to be victims of smog."

We have no further reports of "action" in the Sunny Southland of Calif, but San Francisco got busy. In the Oakland *Tribune*, 2-6-55, almost a full page of space is devoted to a project conceived by Dr. Samuel Welles, U of California paleontologist and geologist. He wants to cut a canyon 2 miles long through some mountains, to create a draught which will blow the smog away from the Bay area.

It would take 10 years to cut the canyon, and would cost about \$400,000,000. After it was finished, if the smog continued, the cops could go back to pinching drivers with faulty exhaust pipes. The local Lions Club is backing Welles.



STENCHES

The warmest Dec 28 on record in NYC — 60.4 degrees — was accompanied by a foul odor, first in mid-Manhattan, then moving North into the Bronx. No fog, no gas leaks, no clouds to hold it down. Smelled like cooking cabbage, rotten cabbage,

sauerkraut, something dead, overripe cheese, bad fish or meat, to various smellers. *Cr* Mitchell, Millar, Forster, Goldstein and others.

In the *NY Times*, 1-1-55, which is four days later, a little story comes from Lexington, N.C. No dates appear within the story itself, but the events described could have taken four days to transpire, and the wind had been from the South.

1. Stench in Lexington, made children sick, adults tied handkerchiefs over their noses.

2. Police found that five gallons of a chemical used by the local gas company to trace leaks in their pipes had been stolen.

3. The story does not name the culprit or say that he was apprehended but states flatly that, "The thief put the chemical into the fuel tank of his automobile and drove around town."

That is all. *Cr* Mitchell

In Chilton Foliat, Wilts. (England), the postmaster had no gas in his home, called "all electric". Nevertheless, the postmaster, Charles Dawson, and his wife, were found dead in a "gas-filled room" — 11-9-54. "Thirty feet across the road gasmen, wearing masks, uncovered a cracked main. In nearby houses where gas is used no one noticed fumes. 'The incident is a mystery,' said a Gas Board official." *Cr* Elselder

In Stoke-on-Trent, Charles Herbert Aslin, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and his wife, were found unconscious in their hotel room, suffering from the effects of gas. No gas outlets in their room. Next day a fracture was found in a gas main 50 feet from the hotel. "How the fumes reached the hotel is a mystery." The Aslins recovered. (London) *Express*, 1-23-55. *Cr* F.C.B. Greene

Last Sept 7, in Pittsburgh, "a transformer exploded" under a downtown street, tipping half a ton of pavement crazily into the air. Two manhole covers were dumped into the pit by the elevation of the unbroken concrete.

GAL. 6

"Coincidentally, another underground explosion shook a section of the North Side at almost the same instant. A manhole cover flipped 50 feet from its location . . . that blast was attributed to sewer gas." *Cr* Oltcher



RICH RUN OF THE MILL

A fire of unknown origin was first reported shortly after 8 p.m., 2-7-55, visible from Tuscon, Arizona, blazing in the Santa Catalina mountains. Flames from 30 to 50 feet high. Burned for 11 hours. Spread over an area of more than 300 yards, on a ridge 1500 feet above sea level. No planes missing. No bolides seen. No evidence of people at scene.

Police, airmen and other investigators found only more mystery by daylight next day. One scorched rock was found 15 feet above the charred area. No evidence of fire in between. Also, the fire "hops-cotched" around "small" areas of dry grass "which laid in the fire's path". Photos in *Arizona Daily Star*, 2-7 and 2-8-55.

In an article signed by Earl Zarbin, he calls it, "something out of science fiction." *Cr Whitacre*, author of *Little Known Facts About Ohio*. See book-list.

On St. Catherine's Hill, overlooking Winchester (Eng), a "scar" appeared overnight. "Looks like a question mark." So-ho, maybe local Fortean are advertising, eh?

The "scar" is made by a trench, 6 feet wide, 18 inches deep, covering a quarter of an acre. One observer estimates that the digging would have occupied "5 or 6 hefty chaps" all night. Officials of Winchester College say that such an absence of undergrads could not have gone undetected. *Daily Sketch*, 11-6-54. *Cr Campbell*

A coach-load of people set off from Lancing, Sussex, on a "trip to nowhere" or "mystery tour" with F. J. Herbert of Worthing at the wheel or reins, not clear which. They stopped at Storrington "for 20 minutes" and everyone alighted. When the driver was ready to go back, one passenger — Mrs. Adalnia Beatrice Hopwood, 83, of Downland-close, Sompting, Worthing, and her Peek (of the same address, likely) — failed to return to the coach. They searched half an hour. That was Sunday night. Neither the lady nor her Peek had been located by the following Wednesday. *Sketch*, 4-28-54. *Cr Campbell*

In the Blue mountains along the Weston-Elgin highway, near La Grande, Oregon, snow plow drivers and others have reported a "bobbing blue light". First seen about Jan 15, by Manuel "Swede" Erickson and Barney Thompson. Later reported by Robert Backus. Three reporters from the *La Grande Observer* went to check and saw nothing to correspond. Nobody has been closer to it than an estimated 500 feet. Said to appear at road level, then to rise over the trees and go off in a leisurely manner, humming. The movement is suggestive of a helicopter, but the sound is quite different, besides, no helicopters are known to be anywhere near La Grande. *The Oregonian*, 1-29-55.

Out of all the freakish, stormy weather in the British Isles this winter, this stands out. Dick Dugdale, a farmer at Peel, near Blackpool, reports that on 11-22-54, about 3:20 p.m. he heard a "loud, high whistling noise". It lasted only a few seconds, but while it lasted — slates rained into the yard from his roofs, one roof of a hen cabin (sic) flew through the air, two other hen cabins were flattened, four others completely blown away, one lifted to a roof top 70 yards away. Four stout trees were split, power lines had fallen.

Smith Holt, a neighbor, heard the noise and lost a few slates himself, but "there was no other damage in the immediate area."

"However, the same sort of thing happened a few miles down the coast at Lytham St. Annes." A

"whirlwind" hit eight houses only in Eddington Road, Fairhaven. *Manchester Guardian*, 11-23-54. *Cr Gee*

As told by the widower, Mrs. Jennie Terrell, elevator operator, dreamed that she was sitting on a window sill to have her picture taken and fell to her death. Three weeks later Jennie asked a sister operator in the Medical building, Oakland, Calif, one Mrs. Clara Young, to take her picture sitting on the sill of an open window on the sixth floor of the building. Mrs. Young obliged. *The Oregonian*, 1-31-54.

A black taffeta skirt blew down Michigan Avenue, Chicago, and was caught by a hotel doorman. "Its owner was nowhere in sight." *Air Force Daily*, 4-15-54. *Cr Campbell*

At Gardners Lodge, Trelovarre estate, Mavgan in Mereage, Cornwall, one Ronald Albert Solomon went into a shed 50 feet from where his wife and sister were sitting. An explosion occurred in the shed, and Solomon's hand was amputated in the nearest hospital. "The cause of the explosion is not known. There was nothing in the shed to account for it." *Sketch*, 4-12-54. *Cr Campbell*.

An explosion in the firebox of a moving passenger train, from Swansea, near Carmarthen, killed the fireman, W. A. J. A'Hearne, and injured the engineer, Goerge Inkerman. The engineer was able to pull the emergency brake, probably saving the lives of his 100 passengers. No explanation of what could have got into the coal. *Ibid. do.* 4-5-54.

Georges Roux, called "the Christ of Montfavet (France)" has founded a religion he calls "the Universal Christian Church". One tenet makes it an unpardonable sin to give any care whatsoever to sick persons. Five or six have died unattended, the latest a babe of three months, declared by authorities to have starved. "The Minister of Justice has ordered an inquiry." *Catholic Bulletin*, St. Paul, Minn, 10-16-54. *Cr Mealy*

The Hutterites, those religious who swarm in the Dakotas, Montana, and in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada, have the highest birth-rate in the world. The average Hutterite woman, by the time her family is complete, has borne 9 and a fraction children. This is the more wonderful to the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., Washington, D.C., because Hutterites are not permitted to marry until they are 20 years old. If the teen-agers were allowed to get together, the Hutterites would reach "the theoretical maximum of human fertility". *Minneapolis Tribune*, 12-5-54. *Cr Mealy*

ELSENDER'S BEST

That little old lady who was nominated for Fortean Fellowship, Mrs. Margaret Mullen, 90, left her new home to sit in Victoria Station, London, daily. Asked about that, she said, "I'm waiting for someone." That went on almost five months. Then, on 2-9-55, after waiting 12 hours, she started home, stepped in front of a taxi and was killed.

Shall we Name her for the year 24 FS? Other, final nominations in this issue.

In the sea off New Ireland, Bismarck Archipelago, the water is reported by sailors to be taking on "a definite pink tinge". *Newcastle Chronicle*, 11-8-54.

Do, 11-18-54. A meteor was observed the night before by Fred Rutter, a member of the Newcastle Astronomical Society, but that is mere routine. What is most extraordinary is the last sentence of the account. "Some meteors of the famous Leonid stream may be seen during the next few nights but it is not expected to produce many this year."

That is the first time YS has ever seen an astronomer face up to the statistical fact that the old stand-by "streams" such as the Leonids and Perseids are petering out.

We have already condoled with Moon-ho Farnsworth and other local rocketeers over the armed forces muscling in on their racket. Now the British "security officials" have moved in on the British Interplanetary Society. Leonard J. Carter, secretary, is bemoaning the restrictions upon information and their activities. "Nobody working on rocket motors — motive power of tomorrow's space ships — is allowed to lecture unless the script has a security vetting (clearance). . . . We have to import an American rocket journal and distribute it to members because we wouldn't be able to publish the information that it contains." *Daily Herald*, 1-11-55.

The boys who have been remeasuring the height of Mount Everest for the past two-years (INWIYCGI) have not only elevated it 30 to 40 feet, but also announce that the hill is "about 40 ft incorrect both in latitude and longitude". *Times*, 11-6-54.

You will pardon YS if he smiles up his sleeve. The shift is only one of many gathering data confirming his pet notion that Earth is steadily growing. Remember? It isn't that Everest's location is "incorrect" as measured a century ago, but that she has moved. Much more anon.

Out of Chicago to the *Daily Mail*, 1-13-55, comes the announcement that, "Experiments are being made on a radio-controlled rocket to take parcels from the United States to Europe in three or four hours."

In Amsterdam and the Hague, some 30 supply pumps are providing a new motor fuel called "liquid petroleum gas" which — apart from taxes — costs only half as much as gasoline (petrol). The "Rootes Group" of England is considering making it there. *Dispatch*, 1-30-55

Do, same date. Otto Faust, a West Berliner, has perfected a radio which operates on "light" power instead of electric current or batteries. Sunlight is best, but a desk-lamp will do. Faust hears the BBC from London on his machine.

A new tanker, now called Vardefjell, built at Blyth, is called a "jinx ship". Here's why. In September, 24 FS, John Raffell, a foreman, was found dead at the bottom of a tank aboard the unfinished vessel. On Nov 25, she was to be launched. "The ways lifted a few inches and it was decided by yard officials that the launch would be too dangerous." They tried again next day, but "the wind was too strong". On the third day, the pretty girl who had been on hand twice before, pushed the button and nothing happened. The Vardefjell just stood still. On Feb 14, the ship keeled over in dry-dock and crushed to death John William Wood, a workman. "The entire labour force of 1000 went home." *Chronicle*, 2-15-55



THE COMPLETE MITCHELL

Besides his contributions upon Stromboli, the height of Everest, a "new planet", and practically every other item in this issue, MFS Mitchell sends in his wonted quota of the quite unique.

The *NY Times* reduces Everest's increase to a mere 26 feet, and frankly admits that 10 feet one way or the other "is not important because the seasonal fluctuation (sic?) of snow on the summit can well be of this order of magnitude."

The big quake of 12-16-54 was — in terms of ground displacement — "without doubt one of the most important ever recorded in the U.S." Rocked five States, Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah. In Nevada, in an area where water never had been found before, a stream of warm water coursed along a cleft twelve feet deep and thirty feet across.

Mitchell's own favorite is from the *Times* of 2-9-55, with the by-line of William Freeman. It appeared in the business section, and you'll see why. The headline is — SCIENCE DICTATES MERGERS IN DRUGS/ New Products Are Soon Old Hat — Makers Must Seek Stability in Variety. You will understand that *financial* stability is indicated. The "story" is a full column long, but I'll just hop down it to show you how the makers of miracle drugs look at their problems.

"Life-saving drugs are pouring out of the laboratories in bewildering numbers . . . Leaders in the industry are applying to their operation a principle somewhat akin to that of the investment trust . . . Great numbers of new drugs have been introduced since World War II. Many produced large earnings. When these earnings dropped, amalgamation and diversification have been a logical result . . . Penicillin made high profits . . . then . . . the bulk price of penicillin dived from 70 cents for 100,000 units in 1945 to 0.4 cents (that is, four-tenths of one cent) by the end of 1950. . . . Cortisone . . . first supplies were quoted at as much as several hundred dollars a gram . . . Cortisone now retails at about \$10 a gram . . . the pharmacist is doing much better than the soda fountain man in the drug store . . . Prescriptions accounted for 12.4 per cent of total drug store sales in 1929. In 1953 the figure was 23.7 per cent, almost double. In the same period soda fountain income fell from 14.9 per cent of the total to 12.7. (Follows a list

of recent mergers of big manufacturers.) The industry, diversifying, hopes to live longer, like the population it serves."

And, you know? — they'll do it, too.

Hailstones so large they crashed through roofs and killed five persons fell in Maidha, India, 12-31-54. *News* 1-2-55.

A new wrinkle in so-called Civil Defense is to "enlist" supervisory employes of a plant or factory as a body. The suckers will then obey or lose their jobs. Thomas J. P. McVeigh — with a CD title too long to bother with — signed up 60 in a Brooklyn brewery, "for twenty-four hour protective coverage". *Times*, 11-30-54

Conrad L. Wirth of the National Park Service "rejected" a restaurant design by AFFS Frank Lloyd Wright for Yosemite National Park, "because it would not fit into the scenery." Wirth called the design, "a mushroom type of thing." *Times*, 12-1-54

Newsday, 1-15-55, uses quotation marks but does not name the person quoted. A five-week-old infant turned blue and died in its crib at West Islip, apparently from a "severe, quick acting virus".

Last year the bird-watchers complained of the dearth of snowy owls. The breed had formerly operated on a four-year schedule, in sync with the lemmings. This year, the owls have arrived around New York, out of rhythm. *Times*, 12-11-54

Dust-storms of unprecedented density occurred around Riverhead and the Hamptons, Long Island, Jan 14 and 27. Farmers who had no cover crops saw their topsoil carried to sea by strong winds.

A Federal grand jury sitting in Chicago was investigating the possibility that glaziers might have inspired school window breakage. It is said to cost the schools \$275,000 a year to replace the glass. *Times*, 12-21-54

J.B.S. Haldane, called a "left-wing" British scientist, after a visit to India, announced "It is entirely possible I shall die as a citizen of the Indian republic, if they will have me." *Times*, 1-24-55



X SNOW, ICE AND FISH

A chunk of yellow ice, sinking "to high heaven", size of a shoe, fell near Greensboro, N.C., morning of 12-1-54. No planes seen or heard. It was put in a jar and subsequently melted. The finder, Benny Lewis, was treasuring the liquid at last reports, hoping that some scientists would make him an offer.

Brown snow fell in abundance at Largo, Fife, Scotland, 1-16-55. *Cr Gee*, whose corr writes: "It must be the same substance in the air that caused the blackout in London."

After a rainstorm in Arcadia, Calif., 11-11-54, children scooped carp out of the gutters in the street. Called "snow run-off gutters" to carry melt from the mountains. Local guess was that "a lake overflowed". No fish seen to fall. *Cr Forster*

Elsie Hix, in her syndicated feature, *Strange As It Seems*, had a typical ambiguity in her drawing 12-27-54. At Yoro, Honduras, she says, "thousands of sardines" fall on one day every year, no date stated, but, "in the rainy season and usually occurs about 5 o'clock in the afternoon." *Cr Powers*

EUREKA

As if the quake they had was not enough trouble, one resident of Eureka, Calif., discovered "a strange white solution" on his roof. It removed graphite and bared the shingles, "believed thrown there by someone." Our datum is not complete. Will a local member ask Mrs. John Semenov more about it? 1624 Fourth Street. Happened some time in December.

DISPLACED CRITTERS

A dead rattlesnake in a street of Winston-Salem, N.C. "Must have fallen out of some Texan's car, since nobody could figure out any other origin." *Air Force Daily*, 5-6-54 *Cr Campbell*

At the height of rainstorm, a two-foot alligator walked down Wilshire Blvd in Beverly Hills, Calif. "Nobody knows where he came from." *San Jose News*, 11-12-54. *Cr Forster*

Two birds, black, 3-ft high, landed in the street of Blaydon-on-Tyne, "sauntered" past police station. Took off, and perched on buoys in the river. One observer said "like black swans", but that "perching" doesn't sound like Dusky Dorotheas does it? *Chronicle and Mail*, 12-1-54 *Cr Elsander*

An Octopus in a creek near Grafton, W. Va. Found by four nameless boys who gave it to the dog-catcher, logically. "Two-foot long tentacles" It died shortly. *Pittsburgh Press*, credit Maitland.

NEW BOOKS

The following will be added to the next booklist, but here is your chance to get them at once.

MFS Eileen Garrett, publisher of *Tomorrow*, has published a new work by Honorary Founder Hereward Carrington. This is the *American Seances with Eusapia Palladino*. As older members will recall, Palladino put on the best and most convincing mediumistic show that the world has ever seen. Although Hereward was in on the tests, and wrote a big book about her in 1909, he still does not know how she accomplished some of her effects.

These seances took place in 1909 and 1910, after the other book was written. For believers and non-believers in "spiritualism", this is exciting data. From the Society \$3.75

Another Fortean has burst into hard covers after a life-time on newspapers. He is Cecil Williams, whose contributions to DOUBT have been numerous for many years.

Brother Williams calls his book *The Foundations of Intelligence*, and YS is not the man to contradict him. The book is a study of thinking processes, also called "a simplified approach to four-dimensional logic". Its value would appear to be that it names the mental tools you have been using right along, and tells you how to get more work out of them. For instance, compare p. 388 of Korzybski's *Science and Sanity* with Williams' diagrams on pp 22, 28. See what I mean? . . . From the Society, \$2.50

Named Fellow, William O. Douglas, the only man who has said anything constructive on the subject of Formosa, has written another book you should own — *An Almanac of Liberty*. As the name implies, the book is arranged date-wise, but she starts with July 4, as if that were the New Year's Day of Liberty. Then, on each date you read some reason for man to be proud of that day. Justice Douglas had the devil's own time finding 365 such events, but you'll be glad to know about most of them. From the Society, \$5.50.

Honorary Founder Scott Nearing and his wife Helen have written a pair of books which come boxed together at \$5.00 or may be had singly, as follows. Scott's solo book, *Man's Search for the Good Life*, follows that title in contents, as he views the world after a lifetime of relentless rebellion. That is the slimmer volume page-wise. \$2.50. The other book is the collaboration, illustrated with photos, showing plainly how you can make plenty to live on if you have a good maple sugar bush. \$3.50

At last we have a small supply of W. L. McAtee's pamphlet, *Contradictions in Darwinian Source-books*. As you know, brother McAtee is a retired professor of any number of sciences, but he never could swallow Darwinism. Here he tells why. 12 pp, wrappers, only 75 cents. Very limited supply.

A real event for Fortean, many of whom will remember it in earlier editions, long out of print and scarce, is the reissue of De Morgan's *Budget of Paradoxes*, in a single volume, 800 pp., truly well edited, well printed and bound — a joy to own and read and laugh with. It has been pointed out that Augustus De Morgan had more in common with his contemporary, Lewis Carroll, than their vocation of mathematics. Here is wit — applied to squaring the circle and a thousand other foibles and quirks of mankind. Those who don't know the book may order it on my recommendation, satisfaction guaranteed. From the Society, \$4.95

The same inspired publishers have reprinted FLATLAND, another rarity. FLATLAND is "a romance of many dimensions", by A. Square (Edwin A. Abbott), a brilliant fiction, fore-runner of fourth dimensional and even fifth- and sixth-dimensional philosophies. It is, in its way, a preachment against the intolerance of dogmas which cannot conceive of more or other dimensions (or senses) than they themselves possess. The only reason we haven't touted FLATLAND to you long before this is that it was unavailable. Now you may have it, from the Society, in cloth, \$2.25.

MFS George Wetzel has written and produced an 18 karat Fortean item of which only 70 copies exist. It is *Natural History in Water Pipes*, and concerns itself with the eels and fish and other critters which have frequently been drunk by humans in tap water. What's more, the material is handled in a

manner reminiscent of Fort himself. YS got three solid laughs out of its 8 mimeographed pages, fully documented.

It's a home-made job, put together with wire staples, rather too full of typographical errors and so on, but one feels sure you will treasure it, all the same. Suppose you send 80 cents. Money back on request.

A WORD OF CAUTION!

(Reprinted from the advertising cols of the *Nation*.)

Our author has sacrificed nearly all his money, his health, and most of his adult life to the production of a book that probes with keen, if glacial, lance into our carrion roots. Hence, ere you decide to buy it, MASTER PUBLICATIONS would have you answer some pertinent questions. Are you addicted to the prejudices that pass today for education and enlightenment? Are you religiously committed to the saga of Darwinian evolution? Do you accept the "scientific" view that cause and effect are of one level of perception? Do you believe the legend that physicians treat diseases instead of symptoms? Are you convinced that there are just and unjust wars and that ours is the best of all possible worlds? If your answers are in the affirmative, keep your money: we neither want nor need it. But if you hunger for the truth, here is a book to cherish to your dying day. *Crisis and Resurrection*, by Samuel Greiner, from the Society, \$4.50.

IN THE SKY

It is not remarkable that we have received 117 "saucer" items this session, including three new bound books, but most extraordinary to receive also 11 reports of meteors or fireballs which do NOT refer to them as "saucers" or even use the word.

Credit for these, and for other data not otherwise ascribed is due to E. Martin, Eaton, Kittering, Pollard, Mealy, Bump, Jessup, Millar, Borden, J. O. Evans, Barneson, J. Campbell, Darling, Spence, Duncan, F & P. McMahon, D. W. Johnson, C. Williams and Livingston Gearhart.

MFS Gearhart is struck by the coincidence that two airline pilots over Florida, one near Miami and one at Key West, both changed course in a hurry to dodge a meteor which seemed that close, plus a report from Salt Lake City, Utah, that on the same night — Feb 7 — an object "likened to an exploding star" had been observed there. The Utah report calls the meteor of Feb 7, the second in a row. That is, one had been seen on Feb 6. Both traveled from S to N.

Brother Gearhart, quite sensibly, would like to compare the exact times of these sightings, so far apart geographically, to learn if they were the same or several phenomena. Will Florida members check into Feb 6, 7, and please report the hour and minute if possible? The times in Salt Lake City were, on Feb. 6, 9:42 p.m. on Feb. 7, 7:55 p.m.

The rest will have to wait, for we are running out of space.

A good word must be said for a group in Tasmania, which has got out one issue of a magazine called FIREBALLS. They are trying sincerely to be less zany than most. More about them later.

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.

1868 BOX 3 (Continued)

- Jul 20 violent fall of water — Baltimore / Cosmos, 3/3/172
- 21 Ixtaccipuatl (the White Woman) burst into eruption, having been silent in recorded time. (reverse) This volc in Mexico. LT, Oct 24, p. 8
- 22 See July 15 (plus sign in a circle)
- 23 Metite India / A man was struck by a thunderbolt, or meteoric stone, on the 23rd at Bandsee / Times of India, July 28, p. 1 / in the Ghazeeapore district. The corpse, which was transported to Ghazeeapore, is said to have been rather crushed than scathed or blasted

BOX A (Resumed)

- 23 LT, p. 10 / Remarkable year

BOX 3 (Resumed)

- 25 Angers / Seemingly phosphorescent lights made by a storm / C.R. 67/400
- 26 (BO) bet 8 & 9 p.m. At Serampore, a dazzling globe from NW. In Calcutta "An immense volume of blue light." Allahabad Pioneer, 31st, p. 4
- 26 bet 8 & 9 p.m. at Serampore luminous obj from the NW. Times of India, Aug 4, p. 3 / illuminated the whole heavens. Another cor describes similar sight at 8:30 p.m. at Calcutta but acts him this was (paper cut off TT)

- 30 early morning / Great det met Rio Janeiro / Brazil ? (Fort's question) or near Rezende & Sau Paulo in the south of the province of San Janeiro / Gaz — Peru? (Fort's question)
- Aug Meteors / BA 1868/13
- Aug Rare events in England / see Field
- Aug Exceptional rain Natal / Proc Brit Met Soc, 4-1867
- Aug 1 ab / Along shore of Lake Ontario, near towns of Sodus and Williamson, "on Friday" fish large and small came rushing ashore by thousands / said that been a sudden fall of 20 degrees in the temperature of the water. San Francisco Ev Bulletin, Aug 21*

BOX A (Resumed)

- 1 LT, p. 9 / Ghost at Bermondsey

BOX 3 (Resumed)

- 2 (BO) Yuma Co. Arizona Territory (far from sea) "A water spout" volume of water came rushing down a ravine and overwhelmed a wagon-train. San Francisco Ev Bulletin, 29th
- 5 7:15 p.m. near Wellington, N.Z. great met exploded — about size of moon / rumbling sound. Trans & Proc New Zealand Institute, 1-40
- 6 "Terrible" tornado in New Hampshire / N.Y. Trib, 17th, p. 1
- 8-14 At Calcutta 15.21 inches of rain. Average for this period in preceding 14 years 2.48 inches. Allahabad Pioneer, Aug 21
- 9 Heavy rains and floods Bombay. Allahabad Pioneer, 19th
- 10 Small quake near Paris. BA '11
- 10, 11, 12 etc / rains at Guzerat and Kattiar, India / equalled ordinary fall of a year. Floods in other parts of India. Times of India, 18th / in following issues details of disasters — villages flooded and washed away — estimated that 1/3 of buildings of Asmedabad damaged by deluge
- 11 12:08 a.m. Birmingham met train / MWR, 07/391
- 12 ab / huge meteorite that had fallen near Cheatham's Cross Roads, Tennessee. Great hole found & hot for 3 days. People dug to a hot wedge shaped stone 7 feet in longest measurement. San Francisco Ev Bulletin, Sept 8
- 13 ab / Great sun spot / San Francisco Ev Bulletin, Sept 10, quoting N.Y. Ev Post of Aug 24
- Aug Chile / Apr 2, 1851

