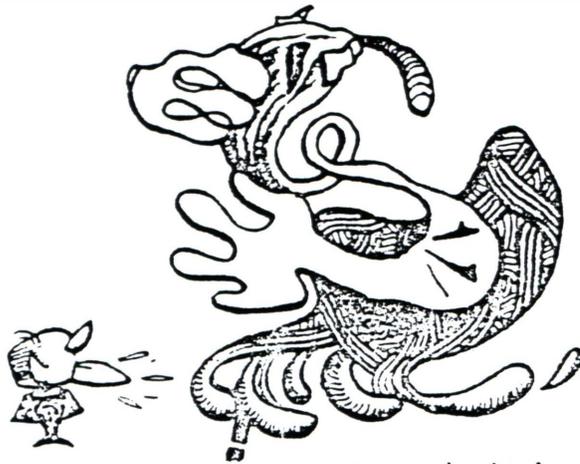


DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE
Vol. II Whole Number 49

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



SCIENCE-PERSECUTED-BY-THE
UNLEARNED-RABBLE

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

35c.

2/— in Great Britain

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the
FORTEAN SOCIETY

Box 192 Grand Central Annex
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1931 A D = the year 1 F S

We use the Fortean 13-month calendar

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FIRST PRIZE

No flowers will be accepted for this item because it was called to our attention by our own good wife, but it is put at the head of the column as the datum of the period which would have given Charles Fort the greatest delight.

Police of Lakeview, Ont., were baffled, accto UP, 3-28-55, by finding two bodies, one dead, one unconscious, in a trailer home. Charles Tessier died, coated with shaving cream, with his eyes, ears and nose plugged with foam. "He was clutching an egg in one hand. An autopsy failed to uncover the cause of death."

Frank Madeley, the unconscious, was once famous as a jockey. "His head was covered with a salad bowl that had been filled with shaving cream. One arm was in a sling and a sheet had been pinned around him. Clothes pins were pinned to his ears."

The pair had been drinking all day, and—as a police official put it, "All we can find out is they must have been as drunk as they could get."

One paragraph is not quite clear to YS. What does this mean? "Dr. F. W. Eagleson said there appeared to be an identification in Tessier's forehead."

Less ribald, but still laughing, is the bit from MFS Leslie Shepard. A Reuter despatch from Copenhagen, Jan 6, states that a Danish woman, unnamed, puts her telephone out of order every time she laughs over it. "Technicians have evolved an intricate scientific explanation . . . (but) the telephone company insists that the subscriber must not, under any circumstances, laugh when telephoning her friends."

Anonymous takes second place for a printed flier put out by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. The flier's topic is Nuclear Fission, and it offers books and things for sale. Item 17 is a 17x20 color photo of "Atomic Explosion, Frenchman's Flat, Nev." The description reads, in part, "this striking picture is suitable for framing for display in school classrooms". Pretty?

Doctor Darling, who has been here before, sends a page from the *Boston Sunday Globe*, 9-5-54, showing an aerial photo taken with an "infra-red filter", revealing that Boston and Cape Cod, sixty miles apart, can be caught with one click of the shutter. MFS Darling writes on the margin: "Put a straight edge on this horizon and you will find it curved THE WRONG WAY!!!" Sure enough, that's just what you find.

MFS Milton Smith gets more than an honorable mention for copying a squib out of *Fellowship*, Feb, 1955. It tells about the Civil Defense evacuation of Philadelphia in which the Quakers refused to participate. Smith writes: "Newspaper accounts did not mention the Quaker protest."

By and large, probably MFS Smith is correct, but the *N.Y. Times* did print it, 11-24-54, cr Mitchell. The *Times* states that Lawrence Mallery, chairman of the policy committee . . . issued a statement denouncing the evacuation test.

Here's a suggestion that might stop their idiotic drills. Suppose that, one hour before the announced time of every test, every employed person put down his tools and went home for the rest of the day. Do you think they would stop the drills—or take

revenge by holding them between 5 and 6 in the evening?

Credit goes to MFS Mealy for discovering to us the wisdom and justice of U.S. District Judge George A. Welsh of Philadelphia. Judge Welsh had before him Abraham Minker, represented by counsel, Jacob Kossman, and the judge told counsel that it would not be necessary for his client to "use the fifth amendment because according to the theory today a man using the amendment is guilty of a crime". The judge promised not to permit the government to ask any questions that Minker would regard as possibly incriminating.

A Daniel indeed!

St. Paul *Dispatch*, 3-30-54.

Accto Bernard Fitzsimmons, "security chief" of Douglas Aircraft Corpn, testifying in Washington, D. C., Douglas had dismissed the inventor of a jet engine starter, denying him the right to work on his own invention, because they could not obtain security clearance for him. *Manchester Guardian*, 3-16-55. Cr. Gee

At Seaford, Long Island, three jostling boys fell against the door of the Fort Neck National Bank. The door opened and they "literally fell inside". They told the cops and received a reward "in savings bonds". *NY Times*, 5-1-55. Cr. Steinberg

It's the same the whole world over. (Old Song)
This instance is from Liverpool, England. The Chief Supt. of Police, H. R. Balmer, and his deputy, J. Morris, "spent the past 10 days investigating allegations made against certain senior officers of Birkenhead borough police force . . . the allegations have been entirely disproved. Chief Supt. Balmer refused to disclose the nature of the accusations." *Daily Telegraph*, 3-8-55. Cr. Hibbert No echo in the *Echo*?

Somebody telephoned from London, England, to Bristol, Virginia, paying \$9.00 for the privilege. The caller got Chief of Police John Stoner on the wire, told him to drop dead, and hung up. Allegedly, Stoner cannot think who that would have been. *Daily Express*, 2-8-55. Cr. Greene, who has reproduced our cover of DOUBT #47 for use as his personal letterhead.

Two items from MFS Simpson stand out: Alan Dick in the *Daily Herald* writes that soapless detergents fatten pigs at a great rate, but cost more than the pork is worth. 3-19-53, and in the same paper, 3-7-55, an announcement from Washington, D.C.—"America's first commercial supply of electricity from an atomic reactor at West Milton, New York, will be ready for sale this summer." Anybody else hear about that?

Brother Darling sent in the notice of a change in the First Methodist Church of Chicago. As you may know, the church is in a Loop skyscraper, the parsonage is a 27th floor pent-house. Charles Ray Goff is the preacher, and he had the red neon sign that advertises the church taken down and changed to white. *Boston Globe*, 6-12-55.

Here's an odd waif, delayed since 4-14-52. Local authorities at Jakarta, Indonesia, were informed of a boat floating "aimlessly along the east coast of Flores". When they caught up with it, they found six corpses which could not be identified, one Singer sewing machine and one bicycle.

WHERE HONOR IS DUE

This is a long overdue tribute to Life Member Jennie Selby Thomas, whom members may know better under her pen name of Anne Hume.

Mrs. Doubting Thomas recently sent YS a clipping which announced the birth of Gene Fowler's seventh grandchild, and with it a note in her fine, firm hand telling us that this same baby was her 35th great-grandchild. "I had 18 grand ones," she writes.

The clipping was signed by Hedda Hopper, who states that the girl baby was named after her writer grandfather, but the infant's name is Jennie Gene Fowler, and the fore-part thereof comes from *our* Jennie.



The Society owes Jennie Thomas a great debt of gratitude never before acknowledged. But let us check the record chronologically, so that you may appreciate this unquenchable Fortean spirit, now in her 86th year, as much as we do.

She wrote first in June of the year 14 FS, that is eleven years ago. She had just read *THE BOOKS*, and found them "most absorbing and freeing to the mind . . . I read *LO!* and *NEW LANDS* ten years ago or more, and was taking notes on the data concerning earthquakes, which I was busily engaged in using in Astrological research three hours before the big quake in Long Beach, where I was living at the time. I notice that Charles Fort omitted any reference to the Science of Astrology and won-

dered if he did not have some belief in it since it did not come under the hammer . . . I thought your introduction a classic . . . I have been a philosophical quester all my life, which has been a long one. I do not remain lodged in any cult very long. I only belong to the *difficult* . . . The blind leaders of the blind are responsible for conditions today."

(As a matter of later interest, YS parenthesizes that at the time of the Long Beach quake mentioned, he was a resident of Hollywood, within sight of the edifice which has grown up to be Manly P. Hall's Philosophical Center.)

In July of that year, Mrs. Thomas wrote, "I predict that when this war is over there will be a great increase of free thinkers if there is a grain of intelligence left in the minds of the suffering ones. Freedom of thought should be added to the Four Freedoms."

In August: "When mineral can drop from the sky it should waken sleepers (mental) to a realization of things not being what they seem."

In September: "the average mind has accepted traditional thought to such an extent that they refuse to THINK."

She joined the Society that month, and told of taking over the publication of Will Levington Comfort's last book, *The Yucca Story*, 1934.

Comfort had been developing an original, mystical philosophy in his magazine, *The Glass Hive*, for about five years, and had many followers. The MSS of *The Yucca Story* was at the printers when he "left", as Mrs. Thomas writes it, and she carried out its publication, assisted — as appears — by Manly P. Hall.

In October, Mrs. Thomas wrote: "The Fortean magazine gives one a lift — a sense of freedom." And in connection with the passing of Wendell Wilkie, Ghandi and Theodore Dreiser — "Three famous ones going out about the same time must have a tremendous effect on our destiny."

Our notice of Dreiser's death in DOUBT (see #s 14, 15, 16) mentioned the unfinished biography of Charles Fort, which Dreiser was thought to have started, and our never-to-be-praised-sufficiently Jennie Thomas got Helen Dreiser's ear.

The details of the long misunderstanding between Theodore Dreiser and YS will have to wait for publication in Fort's biography. The nub of the matter here is that I was wasting time corresponding with former Dreiser attorneys, whilst Jennie was friends and neighbors with Lorna (Mrs. Byron B.) Smith, who had done research work for Dreiser and was on most intimate and sympathetic terms with his widow.

In May, 16 FS, Jennie writes: "I enclose a letter from Mrs. Theodore Dreiser which is a reply to mine in which I enclosed a copy of your announcement of Dreiser's death. I thought she could give you the material you wanted."

And bless your dear pure heart, Jennie, SHE DID.

It wasn't accomplished in a day. YS had to face Mecca and beat his forehead in the dust, but the Society obtained documents without which a biography of Fort never could have been completed. Now it can be —and soon it will be—and no one deserves a greater share of gratitude for that than Jennie Selby Doubting Thomas. I hereby dedicate the volume to her. That much, at least, is written.

In appreciation of her service to us, Mrs. Thomas was made an Honorary Life Member of the Fortean Society, and in her acceptance, July, 16 FS, she writes: "I belong to no organization. I once heard an eminent Philosopher remark that it was Satan's method to organize a new idea. It limits the thinking. True Forteans do not."

When the "saucers" began to fly in the papers, she wrote: "Man is becoming sky conscious now and the light of a new era may dawn on darkened minds. Scientists may find Charles Fort enlightening."

In March, 20 FS: "I believe the reading of intelligent literature enables one to flower instead of wither with age. Manly Hall has been a wonderful teacher and guide. I have heard him lecture on Charles Fort. Wishing you continued success in the extension of truth."

YS never has heard Manly Hall's lecture on Fort, but it is frequently mentioned by members, and the Philosopher wrote a long article of appreciation and comment upon Fort and Forteanism, published in an Astrological magazine.

Also in 20 FS: "I enjoy the magazine and share it with friends. I wish you success in your mode of progressive thinking. Nothing so essential now as RIGHT THINKING."

Also that spring Jennie sent a typescript of a poem by Berton Braley, suggesting that we print it in DOUBT. We should be delighted to do so if we could obtain permission from the author or copyright holder. It has been published, and perhaps as long ago as 1937 A.D.

It is called, *The Children's Hour*, or, *Longfellow didn't know the half of it.*

Between the dark and the daylight,
There comes from each radio tower,
A series of gentle broadcasts,
That are known as the Children's Hour.
And the girls and the boys are gathered,
To listen with bated breath,
To educational programs,
Of Murder and Sudden Death.
Then the air is athrob with sirens,
As the ears of the Little Ones,
Tune in to the soothing echoes,
Of "gats" and of "Tommy-guns".

It goes on, developing that theme beautifully, for another six stanzas. If any member knows Berton Braley, put us in touch.

And only a month ago—"I fail to see how the Orthodox believers can accept their teachings . . . Now this Polio scare. My Fowler granddaughter who had her new baby—had Polio when we first had the epidemic. And her little boy had it. They both had their *tonsils out before*. DOUBT has good reason for being . . . My husband was advised not to marry me, by our family physician, as I would only be a funeral expense."

Hail to thee, blithe spirit!
All hail to Jennie Thomas!

RUSSELL'S BEST

An electric camera telescope which they promise can see farther than any now in existence, and can do in four minutes what Palomar's white elephant can't do in eight or nine hours, is announced in Paris by M. Andre Lallemand and M. Maurice Duchesne. *Liverpool Echo*, 1-7-55.

"Experts" investigating an explosion in a bomb factory, Lindesberg, Stockholm, where one was killed and twelve injured, said it may have been set off by a spark from some gal's nylon undies. *Express*, 1-10-55

The *Straits Times*, Singapore, published a photo of a mongrel bitch nursing one pup and three kittens.

The owner — Mrs. A. Hendricks — asserts that the bitch bore the cats as well as the pup. (I'd as soon believe her as Adamski.) Dr. R. D. Purchon, Prof of Zoology, Malaya U: "This is most interesting, but, personally, I think it is impossible." *L. Echo*, 3-17-55

Out of work and job hungry lawyers and former police officials infest Washington, D.C., selling their services as probers to members of Congress. They think up headline-catching probes, then try to interest headline-hunting "statesmen" to get money for them. *Daily Express* quotes Senator Allen Ellender. 3-21-55. Immediately below that, same column, Capistrano's swallows returned on schedule as they have done "punctually for the past 100 years". *Hum*.

"P.J." a corr of the *Manchester Guardian*. 3-22-55, comes up with a balloon solution of the "Devil's footprints" made on the bank of the River Exe, "a hundred years ago".

Same paper, 3-24-55. Richard Bland, Mayor of Nelson, is well known as a pacifist. When the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were to visit Nelson, the usual companies of the military came ahead and took up their posts. Bland resigned.

BEST OF ELSENDER

Alfred Krupp is out of the red for the first time since the war. In his last fiscal year he grossed about \$249,000,000. *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 3-28-55.

A bridegroom honeymooning on the Isle of Wight walked out of the hotel on bare feet and had not been seen again at press time. He was Leonard Victor Paine, of Finchy, London. *North Mail*, 4-1-55

Economics as she is practiced in Britain was highlighted on Blyth Quayside when 3,000 tons of locally-mined coal was being loaded into the collier *Cimbria* for delivery in Fredericia, Denmark. The *Cimbria* had just emptied her holds of 3,000 tons of coal bought by the British government, mined near Gydnia in Poland. *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 3-12-55.

The same paper on 4-28-55 notices "A double-barrelled telescope that can record a golf ball's flight eight miles away has been developed for the U. S. Air Force." Called "Roti", the first one will be installed at the Holloman base, Alamogordo, N. M.

After 5 years of testing, the Government-backed Medical Research Council has declared the side-effects of cortisone worse than the disease it alleviates. *Daily Herald*, 7-28-54.

Thirteen women in Montreal claimed to be victims of a "slasher", whom they described, "but police say that the case has aroused mass hysteria, and some of the knife wounds are self-inflicted." *North Mail*, 1-30-54.

Pretty soon they'll be saying that everybody out of a uniform is crazy.

COUPLETS — OR MORE

The most colossal and flagrant insult to American intelligence perpetrated in modern times has been in hand a long time. It has been crowded out of issue after issue, but I cannot relegate it to the archives unpublished.

It comes in two pieces, two hand-out stories from White Sands proving ground.

Item A of the exhibits was printed in the Chicago *Daily News* under the headline, EXTRA, 2-25-49. The story quotes Brig. Gen. Philip C. Blackmore, and it is written in the past tense as if the events recounted had actually taken place. A rocket, it says, had gone 250 miles up, breaking all records, at a maximum speed of 5000 m.p.h., "also a new mark", and there are other detailed figures, all copied from the drawing board and from estimate charts of what the damned thing was *expected* to do. The last paragraph reads: "The spent missile descended in the north section of the proving ground's target range" So that, if you heard no more about it, the story would be believable, verifiable.

A week later, 3-3-49, comes item B, the second hand-out, and from it we learn that the "record-breaking missile" has not been found and probably never will be. But all the same drawing-board figures of its performance are repeated, actually crammed down the reader's throat although they are no longer provable by any means whatsoever.

"The ordnance department issued a statement throwing cold water on unofficial speculation that the rocket may have burned up like a meteorite as it streaked through the stratosphere at a top speed of 5,000 miles an hour (*sic*).

"There is no doubt that the rocket returned to earth, officials said, because it was tracked down by automatic electronic equipment installed in its shell before it took off."

That is, electronic equipment which can no longer be found. Some tracking, what?

Further — "it took six and one half minutes to reach its peak altitude . . . and five and one half minutes to plummet back to earth.

"Due to this extended time of flight (12 minutes in all) it was necessary to take into account the rotation of the earth, and aim the missile approximately 10 miles east of where it was supposed to land, the statement said."

And DID this thing which cannot be found come down where it was "supposed" to land?—or 10 miles east?—or ten miles west?

Go back to sleep, suckers. You are still paying the bills at White Sands, and read this: AP, out of Baltimore—that a "rocket fired from the White Sands testing ground today reached a record altitude of 158 miles." *Daily Express*, note the date, 5-25-54.

A cop in St. Louis, Fred R. Jacquemin, went through a routine health check-up by Dr. Edward P. Reh. Finding—"nothing alarming". As the man started to put on his clothes he collapsed and died of a heart attack. Peoria (Ill) *Star*, 4-20-49.

In Washington, D. C. David Luria went to a doctor for pains in his chest. Doctor summoned an ambulance. The ambulance driver — Samuel V. Hurdle — collapsed in the doctor's office. A second ambulance picked up both men, and both died "of heart attacks" before they reached the hospital. *Buffalo Courier Express*, 8-26-49. Cr Giles

In Rome, Italy, Italo Lubinati reached the age of 56. He went to "his factory doctor" for an examination because, he said, his father, two brothers

and a sister all had died of heart attacks at *ae* 56. The doctor turned to pick up his instruments and Italo dropped dead. Paris edn of N.Y. *Her-Trib*, 2-16-51. Cr Gee

At Arlington, Va. Walter Loflin was examined as a candidate for the air force. "You are in perfect shape," said the unnamed doc. Walter walked out of the room — bang! His heart. *Express*, 4-16-51. Cr Russell

Our good member B. Goldstein asks, of "accidents" to hunters, "Does the aura of murderous intent attract something that boomerangs — and pursues *them*?"

ANS: I doubt it, but it's a wonderful suggestion to transmit to the gods of things as they ought to be. We have a few instances of the hunted turning on their would-be killers, or related phenoms.

May 12, no year, near Paris, France. Jean Emile Rioutord tried to drown a dog. When the dog came home the family looked for Jean and found him drowned.

In the first 36 hours of the deer season in Michigan, 20 FS, three fathers killed their sons, "accidentally". One at Mt. Morris, one at Bessemer, one near Manistique. *Buffalo Evening News*, 11-8-50.

A whale "angered by a blow over the head" sank a small boat. *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 3-29-52. Cr Bristol

At John Muir College, Pasadena, Calif, "scientists" put a female mouse into a rattle-snake's cage, "as an intended meal". The mouse bit the snake to death. *Liverpool Echo*, 5-11-53. Cr Russell

A bull intended for slaughter killed the butcher, M. Marcel Pierquin, at Revin, in the Ardennes, France. *Evening Standard*, 5-21-53. Cr Hibbert

A moose attacked a red hunting suit airing on a clothes line, Lowell, Mass. 7-29-53. Cr Steinberg

A baboon in the Mikushi forest of Northern Rhodesia took his gun away from a native and shot the man with it, pulling the trigger with his tail. *London Times*, 1-3-54. Cr Gee

FOUR DOLLAR QUESTION

As we go to press the volume of fascinating data left unpublished for lack of space moves us to ask —Would you rather go back to the old larger size DOUBT and pay \$4.00 per year dues, or stay as we are?

Even with the small page size, the Society loses money at \$2.00 per year annual dues. The deficit is made up by one life-member who supplies much of our printing gratis, but who is not equipped to print the magazine, and by YS in cold cash.

This is not a complaint. We'll keep going, and if we were desperate a good many would kick in. That isn't the point.

As member #22 (who shall be nameless) points out, the "dues" in every other organization under the sun have been increased in the past 5 or 10 years. The Society is 25 years old and the dues are the same today as at its founding.

We can't ask more than 35 cents a copy for DOUBT on the stands. We tried to get 50 and the dealers simply cancelled their orders.

But the prices of printing and postage and every thing else have gone up so much that the present small page DOUBT is all we can afford at \$2.00 a head.

It just seems a shame to have all this wonderful material lying fallow because of the economic factor. What do you say? How many will pay \$4.00 a year for a return to the larger size with Volume Three?

I can't even tell you—in this issue—how the "mechanical brain" called UNIVAC found Jupiter's lost moon, and nothing could be more hilarious.

IT'S NICE WORK IF — ETC.

Data under this head has been piling up for some years, apparently since the year 19 FS.

In April of that year John J. O'Neill of *Her-Trib* fame got a column out of an article in the *Journal of Parapsychology*. It concerned the activities of Dr. Russell G. MacRobert of the New York Neurological Institute. The Doc took a poll of "2510 of his fellow doctors, all diplomats (sic) of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and members of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental diseases."

Accto O'Neill, the aim was to find out how often people hit the nail on the head when they predicted their own deaths. One question was, "Do you believe psychiatrists and neurologists would serve a useful purpose by sponsoring research to determine if extrasensory perception has a place in the psychodynamics of the nervous system?"

YES, they replied, 4 to 1. But when he asked if they ever had observed such phenomena, only 163 of the 2510 said that they had.

In September of that year, *Newsweek*, issue of the 5th, the researches of Benson Purdue were recounted. Benson was a student at the U of British Columbia. He wanted to know if buttered toast, when dropped, always hit the floor butter-side down. He made a machine to flip the toast and came up with these figures:

Dropped to a plywood floor, butter down, 52% of 175 drops.

Dropped to worn-out carpet, 71.4%.

Dropped to a valuable Persian rug—89.1%.

Thus the law of gravity was amended: "When an object falls, it tends to fall in such a manner as to cause the most damage." Cr Steinberg

Two separate announcements contributed to an AP story printed in the *Toledo Blade*, 11-1-49.

Joseph Kaplan, UCLA professor of physics announced "a hitherto unknown layer of oxygen molecules which mysteriously change the wavelength of the sun's deadly ultra violet rays".

"If some sudden piercing of the earth's atmospheric shield — perhaps by a comet or an atomic explosion — should let that layer of oxygen escape, life might vanish from the face of the globe."

The other fellow, Dr. Renato Dulbecco of Caltech, had been working with "invisible light", and found that, "if an overdose of ultra-violet rays from the sun did nothing else, it might touch off a cancer epidemic of severe proportions. The likelihood of such an occurrence is fantastic, he pointed out, but within the realm of speculation."

Without credit to anybody, on the first of February, 1950 old style, the *Seattle Times* gave the world this end-result of someone's industry:

"Because of the vagaries of tide movement in the oceans, there are 25 coastal localities in the world that have no tides at all." p. 15.

The *Smith College Alumnae Quarterly*, Nov 1949, notices one of the institution's graduates, Marie Poland, who married a man named Fish and became an ichthyologist, or *vice versa*. She works at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the *Quarterly* quotes *Time* to the effect that Mrs. Fish was then engaged in learning "why certain parts of the ocean bottom sound like a N.Y. subway station during rush hours". Cr Natanson, who recalls Shakspeare, in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* Third Fisherman, "Master, I marvel how the fishes live in the sea." First Fisherman, "Why, as men do a-land, the great ones eat up the little ones."

In December of '50, "volcano experts" explained why "a deafening whistle shrilled from the depths of seething Mount Etna." The sound "apparently came from a lava-blocked crater, as pent-up gases forced their way into the open." Cr Lasko

A joint expedition of the U of California's Institute of Geophysics and the U. S. Navy announced an undersea mountain range, "1,000 miles long, 100 miles wide and up to 14,000 feet high" from Wae Island to Necker Island," near Hawaii. *News Chronicle*, 11-7-50.

Dr. Hugh B. Cott, a curator and lecturer on zoology at Cambridge, presented the Zoological Society with a paper showing the relative preference of four hedgehogs for twenty-five different kinds of eggs—buzzard, coot, little owl—etc. Out of 332 experiments, Dr. Cott "gradually assembled a mosaic of egg-preferences", saith the *Manchester Guardian's Science Reporter*, 11-1-50. Cr Russell.

"At the bottom of an unnamed coal mine", as well as in "underground railway stations at Holborn", Dr. E. P. George and Mr. J. Evans were exposing "nuclear research plates" to test the penetrating powers of cosmic rays from the upper atmosphere. *Ibid, do*, 12-8-50

Dr. C. F. Powell, of Bristol U, collected a £10,000 Nobel Prize in Physics for chasing mesons. In Stockholm he said that hunting them "was much more fascinating than the wildest detective story". He chases them with the aid of balloons sent up into the stratosphere with packages of photographic plates. *Reynolds News*, 12-10-50. Cr Russell

The intrepidity of British entomologists in capturing two female moths, *Luceria virens*, is described glowingly by *Tit-bits*, 12-16-50. "They went to the desolate mountain regions of Western Ireland (no mean feat in itself), carrying a ton of equipment over rocks . . . Specially designed mercury vapour lamp trays were used to lure specimens into boxes by ultra-violet rays. These hunters laid out miles of cable, current being provided by their own generator. Often in continuous rain, they spent night after night anxiously watching . . ." etc. Cr Russell

The contributor left the year off the next one, but whenever the American Association for the Advancement of Science opened its 117th annual meeting in Cleveland on December 26th: Dr. Donald A. Macrae of the Case Institute of Technology announced a "new species" of star, which "has been recognized for almost 90 years but its peculiar nature has just been determined". It was a "hot blue dwarf", but deponent saith not where to look. Not visible to naked eyes anyway. *Spokane Chronicle*, same date.

A member who won't let us credit him sent six sheets of photostats of some Navy publication which he does not name. The stats were supplied to him by Congressman Herman P. Eberharter, and they bear the hand-written date, Nov. 15, 1950.

The article is by Instructor Commander C. T. Suthons, R.N., and the subject is, Observation of Ocean Waves. This study has been mentioned in DOUBT before. The author's first sentence will give you some idea how long it can be continued. "During the late war the need arose for reasonably precise information concerning the growth, travel and decay of waves on the oceans."

When that project is completed they can count the grains of sand on the beach.

Speaking of counting: "The Fish and Wildlife Service this week will count the North American ducks and geese that escaped the guns of hunters." That is all. UP in *Cleveland Press*, 1-8-51

And again: "Can Birds Count?" asks the *Manchester Guardian*, 4-6-51, and goes on to say that they do, aceto Professor O. Kohler, of the U of Freiburg, who published an account of his experiments in the *Bulletin of Animal Behavior*. The birds used were a raven, a grey parrot, pigeons, jackdaws and budgerigars. The jackdaws stole the show. Cr Russell

"The curriculum issued by the U of Wyoming includes a course in rainmaking." UP in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 3-7-51. Cr Lasko. One wonders which of the numerous methods is taught. See further along in this article.

No fooling, the *London Times* gives the following by-line, "From our Gliding Correspondent." Apparently an altitude record for gliders had been set the previous December in California, at 42,000 feet, so a party from the Imperial College Gliding Club, London, including two scientists from the meteorological department—Messrs R. S. Scorer and F. H. Ludlam—departed for Clwyd Gate, North Wales, to take the wind out of the California sails. "They will investigate the wind flow by indicators and pilot balloons, as well as the odolite observations of the sailplane in flight." 3-22-51 Cr Elsander

On the 31st of that month—"A group of Yale University scientists presented evidence today that a person can be scared into forming an unshakable opinion. The scare treatment, the scientists say, is effective in most matters, whether it be fear of dental decay or atomic bombs." Carl L. Hovland, Sterling professor of psychology at Yale was captain of the team. UP in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Cr W. Marshall.

Apparently those studies were the basis for a book by Hovland, Janis and Kelley, *Communication and Persuasion*. It is pretty dull reading, and practical advertising men will not agree with the savants much of the time, but if you care to see for yourselves—from the Society, \$4.50.

The Devon Spelaeological Society bands bats it finds in local caves and disused mines, and keeps a record of "re-finds". They had banded 900, "re-found" sixty as many as 5 times, one, 14 times, and learned that the bats move as far as 17 miles in their peregrinations, as of 4-9-51. *Manchester Guardian*, Cr Russell

The *Dallas News* editorialized, 6-28-51, in a somewhat Fortean manner on the admission of the American Astronomical Society that the world "is" about 500 million years older than they thought. The editor winds up: "Astronomy is a popular science, and a safe one. Exactness is not a credential; assertions or predictions may be made with impunity. A physician who misses a tonsil an inch may have a mortality on his hands. But an astronomer missing by half a billion years gets 24-point type in the newspaper." Cr Bennett

Captain Lief Hansen, of the Norwegian liner *Stravangerfjord*, said in Oslo that the Gulf Stream had disappeared. Counter-currents and cold water had been encountered where it used to be. *Evening Standard*, 8-17-51. Cr Gee

Whether that brought it on or not, unnamed US scientists were trying to measure the flow of the Gulf Stream between Florida and Cuba, as of 1-23-51. aceto the *Evening Chronicle*. "Accurate measurements of the Gulf Stream were begun by the United States only about 60 years ago." Cr Elsander

Lieutenant-Commander J. N. Bathurst — ? any relation? — of the deep diving vessel *HMS Reclaim*, looking for the sunken submarine, *Affray*, reported upon the efficiency of underwater television in his work. "With the television set I was able to sit in an armchair in my cabin and give orders to the ship's company for moving the ship or the camera as I considered necessary." *London Times*, 9-15-51. Cr Elsander

"About twenty scientists, technicians, and naval officers"—British—had about £30,000 ready for an announced expedition to Greenland "in July next year". They expected to stay one or two years, studying the mountains and the "great ice cap". Commander C.J.W. Simpson was the leader, the then Princess Elizabeth was patron, the then Mr. Churchill was vice-patron, and the junket was organised cooperatively by the Admiralty, the Royal Geographical Society, the Scott Polar Research Institute, the Royal Society, the Air Ministry, and the War Office. *Manchester Guardian*, 10-19-51

Four days later, 10-23-51, all papers printed the account of a French expedition's return from Greenland after being there "several" years. It was called the Paul-Emile Victor expedition and a Captain Rouillon was in charge. They had found that Greenland—under its Ice Cap—was not one island but three. Cr Russell, Giles and others.

Query: did the much-sponsored Simpson sail anyway?

The French went to look for Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat, commanded by M. Jean de Riquier. He was financed "by popular subscription" to the tune of about \$300,000. An American effort under Dr. Aaron Smit had failed in 1949. *Liverpool Echo* 10-22 and 10-24-51. Cr Russell

University of Chicago geneticists gather seeds in Costa Rica and take them home to see if cosmic rays "create new species". The seeds that grew at all grew "normally". *Manchester Guardian*, 11-8-51. Cr Russell

Scientists of New Delhi, India, announced 11-22-51 that they would look for a spot to establish a laboratory on the heights of the Himalayas "for

research in cosmic rays, astronomy and other spheres." *Ibid*, do.

Columbia University announced that it had established an Institute of War and Peace Studies "to investigate the function of war as a means of protecting human liberties." Los Angeles *Examiner*, 12-10-51.

The Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* took pleasure in announcing a British Government publication, *Play with a Purpose*. The slyboots out there wrote: "Months of expert research have resulted in an official announcement that pre-school-age children do love to play." *Cr Bristol*

The (US) airforce school of aviation medicine and the U of Texas, at Austin, were training 2 chimpanzees and 24 Rhesus monkeys to test if their brains and skills were affected by radioactivity. MFS Herbert who sends the account writes, "They better be careful not to mix the monks with the profs? And who's to say it wouldn't be a healthy change?" *Sacramento Bee*, 1-3-52

From St. Louis—who knows why?—AP told the Liverpool *Echo* that "Dr. Nicholas Collias, zoologist at Cornell U, and Professor Martin Joos, U of Wisconsin, say they have recorded and understood a conversation between chickens." 1-6-53

The next one is not dated: "After experimenting for ten years, Dr. Andrew L. Banyai, of Cincinnati, has found that the muzzle velocity of the human cough is 45 m.p.h."

Dr. Jose M. R. Delgado, Yale School of Medicine, keeps his misshapen dwarf soul and whatever he has for a body together by sticking electric wires into holes in monkeys' heads and sending shocks through "Anywhere from 7 to 40 wires", the Chicago Daily News Service told the Pittsburgh *Press*, 4-10-53. "When the current is turned off, the monkey reverts to normal." And what does Dr. Delgado revert to: Cannibalism, perhaps?

Twelve monks got away from their butchers out at Caltech, and were not all recaptured for four days. The L.A. *Times* had the sportsmanship to laugh at "some of the best brains in the animal research department", but — after all — what does that tell us? The only man named is Karl Niedermann, "a laboratory technician," who should get himself a different job. 6-26-53 *Cr Joquel*

A patent was granted to Dwight J. Ingle or the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Mich., for a rotary treadmill for measuring the fatigue of rats. "As (the rat) weakens and slows his pace, he receives additional and repeated shocks, which keep him moving until he is completely exhausted or until the test is stopped for other reasons."

Such as, the inventor becoming civilized? 12-25-53

A group of British, Norwegian and Dutch scientists sailed from Sandefjord to shoot identification tags into whales with 12-gauge shotguns. *NY Times*, 10-27-53. *Cr Mitchell*, who heads it, **NEW SPORT**.

"Eight practically perfect skulls" of Eohippus—Eocene horses—were found in Colorado by diggers of the American Museum of Natural History. They were in a block of rock and bones weighing about two tons. "The block has just been opened, but, said Dr. (George Gaylord) Simpson, removal of

the bones without injury might take several years." Liverpool *Echo*, 12 15-53. *Cr Russell*

That same museum undertakes other long-range projects. Accto an ad for *Hammond's Nature Atlas of America*, the entomologists have studied the weather "predictions" of the woolly bear caterpillar and kept statistics "for several years, but it will take another 50 years to establish the facts."

Virtually the same account of Delgado's electroded monkeys appeared in *Modern Medicine*, Jan 15, 1954. There a colleague's name is added—Dr. H. Enger Rosvold. There, also, it says, "no pain results". That probably means, no pain to the doctors. *Cr Darling*

At Ann Arbor, Mich, Dr. David F. Bohr has been trying to develop a strain of absolutely disease-free rats. His best hopes caught cold, 1-22-54, and he had to start over again. "It's important, he explained, that none of the rats has even a common cold. For example, an experiment to determine how much radiation a rat can take would be next to futile if the subject were diseased." Boston *Evening American*.

Dr. J. M. Warren, U of Oregon, has discovered that monkeys and chimpanzees are left-handed by about 50% *N.Y. Times*, 1-26-54. *Cr Mitchell*

Accto E. V. Durling, a columnist on the Boston *Evening American*, we have psychiatrists in NYC who specialize in treating pet dogs. Apartment life is frustrating, sezee, and the doccs recommend that you take your pooch to the shop and let him pick out his own toys. 3-6-54. *Cr Goldstein*

If you've been wondering what all the geologists are doing in Alaska, here it is. Don J. Miller, US Geological Survey, told a gathering of his clan in Seattle, 3-27-54, that a wave up to 400 feet in height arose in 1853 or 1854, and again in 1936, at the T-shaped head of Lituya Bay, "and swept at high speed toward the sea seven miles away". They are trying to guess how come-it. *LA Herald-Express*.

"Heavy isotopes of oxygen" in our breathing air have been concerning Drs. Malcolm Dole, D. P. Rudd and G. A. Lane, all of the Department of Chemistry at Northwestern U. Likely they will continue to be fascinated by this subject as long as the dough lasts "Their studies were supported in part by the Air Force Cambridge Research Center and the Abbott Research Fund of Northwestern."

Either the above named docs or Robert K. Plumb who reported, on their report, to the *NY Times* from a conclave in Kansas City, has or have a touch of Fortean humility. The line reads, that the heavy isotopes are increasing, "if traditional ideas about how the air we breathe is kept in balance are right." Somebody in the set-up deserves credit for that IF.

The *Sacramento Bee* of 4-1-54 or 4-2-54 adds an eye-witness to the Alaskan tidal-wave of 1936. He was a prospector named Jim Huncroft, and the wave had dropped from 400 feet to 29 feet by the time it reached him.

The National Geographic Society sent out a team to Bloemfontein, South Africa, to look at Mars, June, 24 FS. Mars was closer to Bloemfontain then than at any time since the year 11 FS. Newcastle *Evening Chronicle* 4-5-54. *Cr Elsander*

The British took up the question, How High is a Wave? In April, 24 FS. Twelve scientists from the Admiralty and Cambridge U. sailed on voyages of 4,000 miles, or one month, in the Discovery II. I'll bet they had a jolly good time too. *Daily Mail*, 4-6-54. Cr Elsander

Children, I have a whole pile more of these that I wanted to print in this issue, but the text of this one from the London *Times* has to be read in its entirety to be appreciated, and it is longish. Brother Elsander sent it. We'll continue the NICE WORK category next issue.

Here it is:

ELEMENT NO. 100 U.S. ATOMIC SCIENTISTS' ACHIEVEMENT

By Our Science Correspondent

The century of chemical elements has been completed by the making of element No. 100 by workers in Professor G. T. Seaborg's department in the University of California.

Other research not yet made public has been done in other laboratories and, pending the publication of this, it is suggested that the question of priority in its making should be left open. The making of element number 99, the last previous new element, was announced in February by the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

Whereas element 99 was first made by bombarding uranium with the nuclei of nitrogen atoms accelerated to high energies in a laboratory machine, element 100 has been made from plutonium by heavy exposure to neutrons in a nuclear reactor. The reactor used was the Atomic Energy Commission's "materials testing reactor" at Arco, Idaho, and the experiments were done by B. G. Harvey, S. G. Thompson, A. Ghiorso, and G. R. Choppin, all of Professor Seaborg's department.

Irradiation was in two stages. In the first, plutonium (element 94) was converted into californium (element 98) and this was separated chemically from both the plutonium and the other products. The californium was then again irradiated and elements 99 and 100 obtained from it. Element 100 is the first new chemical elements to be made in this way. Although the quantity of it available was very small its chemical identification is considered definite.

Just as element 99 showed analogies with the rare earth element holmium (element 67) so element 100 shows analogies with the succeeding rare-earth element, erbium (element 68). In the form in which it has been prepared it has a "half-life" of about three hours and an atomic weight of 253, the highest yet reported. The element is said to have no application either in atomic weapons or the development of atomic energy.

NEW BOOKS

The Unleashing of Evolutionary Thought, by Oscar Riddle, is 414 pages of ammunition for those who think Science is a better religion than some of the older "organized" religions. The author "believes in" evolution the way Catholics "believe in" immaculate conception. Nothing could jar his perfect faith. It is a good book if that is the kind

of book you need. It is as un-Forcean as the Epistles of Saint Peter or Newton's *Principia*. It suffers for want of an index. From the Society . . . \$4.50

Focus on the Unknown, by Alfred Gordon Bennett, goes over some familiar ground, but the author has been to pains to add a little something of his own to the classic insolubles he examines. Sea-monsters, insect invasions of Earth, black magic, the Devils Footprints, African mysteries and experiments with time are the burthen of it. You'll enjoy it. He quotes Fort. Well worth the price . . . \$3.95

NOW IT'S OUT

If you believe in peace and civil rights, or if you oppose fluorides in city drinking water and frown upon police brutality — YOU are a Communist. For further details, write to Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, asking him to send you the pamphlet, *How to Spot a Communist*. N.Y. Times, 6-12-55 old style.

CREDITS

Ninety-eight "saucer" items received in three months. Looks as if interest were waning. For those and for other data not credited elsewhere, we thank Borden, Pekownik, Millar, Farnsworth, Mealy, Ruble, Eaton, Elsander, Darling, Barneson, Pontius, L. Wilson, Markham, Oltscher, E. Johnson, Martin, Goldstein, D. Kelley, Powers, M. Smith, Scandret, Childers, Barrows, Hibbert, Jessup, R. F. Smith.

SALK-SUCKERS

Naturally, the membership has seen the name Salk, Jonas E., very frequently of late.

Let us consider the situation in logical sequence.

1. The public was getting hep to the connection between tonsilectomy and polio.
2. Next only to high colonics, tonsilectomy is the most profitable single operation the medical profession performs.
3. Honest doctors had stopped yanking tonsils, and sometimes wrote articles against the practice.
4. Even the American Medical Association permitted its members to warn against tonsilectomy "in the polio season"—knowing full well that there never would have been a "polio season" if a tonsil jerking "season" had not preceded it by about two months.
5. Something had to be done to save the medicos their tonsilectomy fees.
6. Ideally, that would be a serum injected with the left hand while the right extracted the tonsils.
7. Jonas E. Salk announced that he had found it.
8. The President of the United States and uncounted scores of others heaped medals, money and honors on Salk for his service (they said, to humanity, but his real service—so far as it went—was) to tonsil extractors
9. Come to find out, the Salk serum had three possible effects.

A. It left X % immune to polio.

B. It infected Y % with polio.

C. It left Z % exactly as they had been before, neither infected nor immune.

In other words, every patient, no matter how great his ego or how much he means to his folks, is nothing but a statistic once he's had a shot of

Salk. This is the commonest medical practice in this day of miracle drugs. Laboratory success of 50+% is all they ask. The 49+% who may die of it are called ALLERGIC to the new boon. Poor damned deviants, probably Reds at hearts.

That's all the space we can waste on Salk. Keep your tonsils and you won't need his nasty concoction.

In a private letter to its customers, Carl M. Loeb, Rhoades and Company, a Wall Street brokerage house, estimated that the six drug houses licensed to sell Salk vaccine would profit \$20,000,000 by that operation in one year, acco Los Angeles *Herald-Express*, 5-2-55. Cr Moore

FOR THE RECORD

Under this head we have printed, from time to time, such notes as the following, of no immediate significance, perhaps, but of possible use to posterity.

Some time before July, 22 FS (1952 old style), one Sekai Suhn Kyokai, of Yokohama, Japan, had written, and one John Kiyosi Yamaguti had translated, an "open letter" to Pearl Buck. The letter, apparently titled, *The People Who Never Grew*, was critical of that lady's written opinions. *Book Seller Baroda*, Vol 2 No 2 S No 14.

FOR THE STUDIOUS

Some of you will very much enjoy a long feature article in *The Amateur Book Collector*, December, 1954. You may obtain it by sending sixty cents to the editor at 1822 School Street, Chicago, Ill.

The article, by James J. Martin, is headed, *A Beginner's Manual for Apprentice Book Burners*, a preliminary reading list of books dealing with minority opinions, unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints, and other unpleasant subjects, etc.

Within the quarter two members have recommended, *Year of Consent*, by Kendall Foster Crossen, but the book is out of print. See it in your public library.

Three periodicals you should see every issue if you make the slightest pretense to being enlightened—

The NATION (weekly)
333 Sixth Avenue
New York 14, N. Y.

Send \$7.00 for the year.

WORLD INTERPRETER
Wilton, Conn

Bi-weekly or so. \$4.00 a year.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
545 Fifth Ave
N.Y.C.

Send \$1.60 for four issues Start with No. 22.

THE LAUGH IS ON US

This one was so bald that even the *Times* gave it a facetious heading, but what are we laughing at? U.P. May 17. "Robert T. Stevens, Secretary of the Army, asked Congress today to approve \$45,000,000 in military construction work so secret that even he does not know what it is."

GET OUR PLANET

Before you sleep tonight put \$1.00 in the mail addressed to—Our Planet, Box 7602, Lakewood, Colorado.

Philip Isley has come back with a bang. The April issue of his mimeo'd publication is vibrant with new enthusiasm and determination to do something about the international mess. Read "Our Planet" and see if you are not moved to help him.

Another tireless in the labor of making this one world is Mary H. Weik, 2246 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. Send her 60 cents for A WORLD SET FREE.

And if you wish to vote in the first world referendum ever held, send a dollar to World Referendum Association, 55 rue Lacepede, Paris 5, France. Ask them for a ballot.

In connection with world organization and world citizenship, one must report the passing of one of its staunchest workers. Caroline Urie, MFS, was a semi-invalid, confined to a wheelchair, *at* 81, but she could still write letters boosting world organization and peace, until the last. She was one of the founders of the Tax Refusal Committee, who refused to pay federal income tax as long as so much of it was spent for armament.

EINSTEIN TOO

Albert Einstein is gone too, as practically everybody knows. He had made it increasingly difficult for us to tilt against him in recent years. One was compelled to agree with him on every point but his physics.

Einstein was one of three Named Fellows of the Fortean Society for the year 23 FS. He was the only one of the three who did not reply. We shall have to look far to find another adversary of his calibre. *Newsweek* mentions a mathematician of Darjeeling, India, who sets up rival to Einstein, but how are we to deal with a man who calls himself Gaganbihari Bandyopadhyah?

AND LEWIS SPENCE

James Lewis T. C. Spence, the poet and well-known writer upon Atlantis, died in Edinburgh 3-3-55.

CARESSE AND DELPHI

Our own first citizen of the world, Caresse Crosby, has suffered personal illness and a tragic loss in the accidental death of her son, all since the Greek government reversed itself after welcoming her movement to Greek soil.

Complete court proceedings and much international press comment is in our hands, but we understand that Caresse plans to present the entire story in book form as soon as she is able.

MITCHELL'S BEST

"A native medical orderly" is blamed by the nearest Director of Health in New Guinea for 17 deaths. Somebody injected stale coconut milk instead of distilled water. *N.Y. Times*, 9-3-54

Luis Alejandro Velasco, a seaman, was in a shipwreck off Bogota, Twelve days later he was washed up alive "some 300 miles" from the scene of the wreck *N.Y. Journal-American*, 3-13-55.

Accto *Newsday*, 4-15-55, CD has wanted to issue dogtags to everybody "for the past three years but has been thwarted by lack of personnel and funds. The Federal Civil Defense Administration, *through a food manufacturer*, is now able to distribute the tags on a nation-wide at-cost basis." Mitchell slugs it, "Operation Boxtop".

In vein was the invasion of Huntington, Long Island, public schools, 3-14-55, by "forty business and professional groups in the community (who had) expressed a desire to entertain the teachers . . . They will explain the operation of the various businesses and present such economic facts as teachers may be able to work into their everyday teaching." Mitchell's headline is, "Coca Cola Marches On!"

"Black-haired mice, placed in balloons that soared up for seventeen miles, had a tendency to turn gray, the London News Chronicle reports." N.Y. *Times*, 4-26-55

DISPLACED CRITTERS

11-15-49. A ten-foot boa in Paris, near the Pont-du-Carrousel. Cr Russell

10-25-52. An exhausted pigeon, banded, in a State St parking lot, Bridgeport, Conn. Pigeon fanciers who own 40 strains could not identify the breed, and the markings on the band are alien to either the American Racing Pigeon Union or the International Federation of Pigeon Racers. Cr Gochros. Photo in Bridgeport *Post*.

2-16-52. A golden pheasant—alive and energetic—in South Park Avenue traffic, Buffalo, N.Y.

6-25-52. A kangaroo in a garden, Crawley, England. No zoo had reported one missing.

5-30-54. A dead blue shark, 7 feet and a half long, in the middle of Sunset Ave, Azusa, Calif, 40 miles from sea. Fresh, not long dead. Cr Powers

2-6-54. A monkey, frozen stiff, at Epsom racecourse. Cr Gee

9-18-54. An Egyptian ibis, "dazed", on a road near Cambridge, England. Cr Gee, Elsander, Mitchell, Russell

8-26-54. Sea-snails, called "pelagic", *Iantbina*, drifting ashore alive in North Cornwall. Called a rare occurrence by no one less than Douglas P. Wilson, Marine Association of the United Kingdom, Plymouth. Cr Gee

10-4-54. A "dragon king's messenger" fish, said to be seen only once in 30 years, caught in a net by a commercial fisherman off Osaka. Cr Mitchell

9-13-54. Two "bird-eating" spiders from South America turned up in England, one in bananas. Cr Elsander

7-26-54. A bird with a wingspan of 68 inches, blue and yellow-brown feathers, a six-inch beak, killed by alighting on a high-tension wire on the farm of Alvin Gillis, near Murrysville, Westmoreland County, Penna. Gillis thinks it's a crane or a stork, but that description hardly fits. Cr Oltscher

9-10-54. Crawdads—crayfish, to you—on lawns and in sewers of Portland, Oregon. None seen to fall. Cr R. F. Smith

5-12-55. A rattler, in the midst of Bakersfield, Calif, traffic, bravely killed by a forest ranger named Lewis Kuehnert who drove his car over its head. Cr Eaton

FALLS

Please forgive duplication. The index is not finished, and I can't possibly remember all the icicles already noted.

8-3-46, Newark (N.J.) *Star-Ledger*. In the column of Edwin Way Teale, a melange of objects which have fallen, few dates and no sources noted, Fort was used but not mentioned.

12-8-49, Oakland (Calif) *Tribune*. Ice fell on barn of Frank Trunkey, 633 Douglas Ave. No plane heard or seen.

Jan. 1950. *Telebriefs*, a house organ of the Illinois Telephone Company. Telephone wires short-circuited in "Oregon" by a dead halibut. Suggested that a dining car chef threw it from the window of a train.

6-18-50. *Empire News* (Brit). Frogs at Torris-holme, near Morecambe. "Thousands—inch-long—in a downpour of rain."

10-5-50. *Australian Post*. Fall of "spider-web" substance, "resembling strands of cotton wool and up to 11 inches long", at Redpa, Tasmania. "Like that which mystified western Queensland recently." Some observers "related the phe to "secret activity at the Woomera rocket range" but "naturalists said the substance was spider web."

Incidentally, the stuff that fell at Horsehead, N.Y. never was identified. Nobody called it spider web, however.

12-26-50. A Scottish newspaper I cannot identify. Block of ice—"100 lb" crashed and splintered in Ardencaple Drive, Helensburgh. Witness, David Paterson. Photo of fragment on p. 1. No plane seen or heard.

1-12-51. Liverpool *Daily Post*. Something crashed through a slate roof in Dunbarton Road, Glasgow. A plane was passing at the time. No object found that could have made the hole.

3-25-51. *Sun Express* (Brit). A block of ice into Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex. No plane seen or heard.

4-15-51. *Ibid*. Block of ice "a foot square", garden, Rotherwood Road, Putney.

5-26-52. Cincinnati *Times-Star* Column. Where in the World? Copyright, N.Y. Herald Tribune. Fall of fish, Marksville, La, "in 1949". Witness, Dr. A. D. Bajkov, of the Oyster Laboratory, Biloxi, Miss. Cr Whitacre

11-8-52. *The Star* (Brit). Ice through a warehouse roof in Slough.

2-22-55. Boston *Daily Record*. Ice in street, Kansas City, Mo. "The chunk fell from a plane."

3-12-55. Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin*. While a devastating storm was killing 4 persons in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, "reddish brown splotches of water fell in a light sprinkle" at Baltimore, Md. Radioactivity denied. Explanation—"only a Texas duststorm that got dampened on its way east." But—"the weather bureau reported there was no dust blowing." Cr Borden

3-25-55. AP papers. Salty "white goo" rained on Salt Lake City, Utah. Said to have been picked up from salt flats by wind. Cr Eaton and others. Altho the flats have been there ever so long, and wind is pretty common, the phe "caused consternation".

4-19-55. Boston *American*. Chocolate-colored snow covered Wasatch Mountain resorts—Alta and Brighton—near Salt Lake City. The salt story is repeated, as if this were a second occurrence. Private geiger counters showed radioactivity but, "C. N. Stoner, liaison man for the atomic energy commission, said counters at the university of Utah showed only normal background radiation." Cr Bloomwald

4-24-55. Des Moines *Register*. Occurred the previous afternoon, around the Roosevelt Shopping Center, west part of Des Moines. Rain began at 2:30 p.m. and witnesses heard sharp rattle of falling pebbles. Not from roofs, say witnesses, "like a hail-storm but stones instead of ice". Covered cars and sidewalk. Photo of Barbara Kephart, 17, with a handful she picked up. Cr Eaton

4-25-55. *Oregon Journal*. Huge chunk of rotten ice, estimated to weigh 25 to 30 lbs, on a farm near Washougal (Wash.) Farmer Jake Brown "found" it.

5-10-55. *Baltimore Sun*. In the course of this story the object is called both a "pipe" and "solid

metal". One wonders how it could be both. Anyhow, "twenty-pound metal bar — about two inches in diameter and 14 inches long — crashed through the roof and second floor of an oil plant", American Oil Company, 1500 block, Russell Street. Complainant, Joseph A. Amer. Nobody could guess what its use might be. A police sergeant suggested it was "part of a flying saucer".

5-22-55 to 6-5-55. *Sunday Times*, Colombo, Ceylon. About 1 p.m. Sat, May 21, "saffron-colored" drizzle spotted white clothing and stood in yellow puddles on roads and vehicles, "only near the Dalada Maligwa and the Upper Colombo Street section" of Kandy, Ceylon.

MFS Nelson, a resident, attests that a second similar fall occurred one week after the first. *Times of Ceylon*, 5-31.

Then, to make the data perfect Fortean-wise: "A Mystery is Solved/ Why the Rain was Yellow/ . . . nothing more than wind-borne pollen grains . . . The discovery has been made by Mr. D.M.A. Jayaweera, Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya." The botanist is something of a local hero for saving a Bo-tree in 1942 and again in 1947. "An examination under a microscope of residue left by the yellow rain showed him particles resembling wind-borne pollen grains."

Dig that "resembling".

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

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

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

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

1868

Box 3 (Continued)

Aug

- 17 several shocks at Gibraltar and the current of the tide turned / Melbourne Leader, Nov 7
- 17 ab 10 a.m. shock New Zealand / had been minor shocks from 10:45 of 14th. Wellington Independent, Aug 29,p.5
- 17 ab 9 p.m. bet Ballengo and Ivrea, Italy, something with the effects of a whirlwind. It was an immense dark cone with a luminous base. From its upper part, smoke issued. ab 10 metres wide and 3 metres from the ground. San Francisco Ev Bulletin, Dec 19
- 17 10a.m.Christchurch (N.Z.) Press 18th / sharp shocks in N. Zealand
- 17 BO / acto Brisbane Courier, Aug 25 (I take from Oamaru Times, Sept 18) at 12:30 a.m. off Crowdy Head; a meteor burst near the schooner Urania, with report like discharge of a cannon, killing a member of the crew, scattering soot.
- 18 Eclipse / see R.S. vol 2
- 18 by M. de Crety, during eclipse, at Aden — after totality 3 triangular protuberances from the limb of the moon — looked to him like gaseous discharges as from a chain of active volcanoes. C.R. 67/1146

- 19 Port Blair, India / high wave / Nouvelles Meteor. 2-100
- 20 Severe quake in morning at Mooltan, India. Delhi Gazette 25th
- 22 Drought-rain / Birm Gazette this date / "The most terrible drought ever known in the Midland Counties in the memory of man" followed by enormous falls of rain.
- 24 night / severe quake Peru / N.Y.Trib, Sept 14
- 26 severe shocks at Quito / B and R.P.M. Oct 7
- 27 sharp shock Guatemala / B and R.P.M. Oct 22
- 27 severe snow storm lasting several hours at Braemar. Field, Sept 5, p.145 or 195
- 27 South polar seas extraordinary number of icebergs. A sea capt thought a great quake near pole had detached them and sent them adrift. C.R. 74-1128 (page dubious, TT)
- 29 2 severe shocks Guayaquil / B and R.P.M. Oct 22
- 30 remarkable halo around moon at Oamaru, N.Z. O.Times, Sept 1, p.2
- Sept 1st week / swarms of b. flies / Danal's Archippus / Champaign, Ill. Canadian Entomologist. 12-120
- Sept 4 at 8:35 Berne time or 8:15 Paris / met / see Sept 15 at same hour / L'An. Sci. 13/49
- 4 New star? See Aug 13
- 4 8:35 p.m. Switzerland meteor / C.R. 67-547
- 4 Star after volc see ab Aug 15, 1886
- 4 Chili / (N.Y.)Trib, Oct 7, p.1. At Callao, Peru. at 12:30 (not say a.m. or p.m.) a shock equal to that of Aug 13. A brilliant star of large magnitude was seen in the direction of the WSW, which remained visible for many minutes. Some persons declared they saw a tail to it, and others saw sparks of fire dart from it."
- Sept Met in many places France and Italy / C.R. 69-326
- Sept 5 8 p.m. bolide Clermont, Ferrand / C.R. 67-618
- 5 4 a.m. severe shock New Zealand / Wellington Independent, Sept 12, p.5. This was at Taranaki.
- 5 (Read) Clermont-Ferrand bolide / C.R. 67/618
- 5 (Star) Clermont, France / large slow met / 12 seconds from due E. (indcipherable) W. BA 69-226
- 5 (Met p.m.) (Dubious reading: "no parallax" TT) Met reported from France, Switzerland, Italy — all descriptions — as if from Jupiter. Rept 1879-78
- 5 Berne 8:5 G.M.T. / Zurich Observatory / came from close to Jupiter / at Tremont, Saone et Loire, France / origin so close to Jupiter that was seen to appear in same field with Jupiter in a telescope / Acto Zezioli at Bergamo, Italy, its origin was 5 or 6 (paper cut off) to the left of Jupiter. Rept BA 1879-77
- 5 8:30 p.m. Mets Piedmont / BA 69-226 / See Feb 29 / Sept 7
- 5 1:4 p.m. (?1:04:TT) Pitlochrie, Perthshire, by G.Forbes / saw a body cross sun / its apparent diameter was greater than the mean diameter of Saturn — crossing sun in about 1½ seconds — too slow for meteor & if for planetary size. (That's what it looks like.TT) BA 1869-278
- 6 Near Faversham / Cor Standard Sept 9 / saw object like a balloon but assuming different shapes, yet having seeming cohesion of its particles, finally it made a downward plunge and was seen no more / 10th someone says simply a flock of starlings
- 7 Met at Sanguis (Basses-Pyrenees) "the material identical with one at Casale (Piedmont) Feb 29, 1868 / La Sci Pour Tous 13/397 (F)
- 7 2:30 a.m. Metite of Sanguis — Saint-Etienne / C.R. 67-873 So like Feb 29, 1868, that to the eye there was no difference / also like Aug 5, 1856 and Oct 4, 1857
- 7-8 night / Acto Daubrie this stone so like one Feb 29 that impossible by the eye to distinguish one from another / Les Mondes vol 18
- 8 2:30 a.m. Metite Sanguis (Basses-Pyrenees) Details La Sci Pour Tous / 13-397
- 10 Ship 1° .08 N, 29° 55' W / violent shock / C.R. 74-1126
- 11-12 Inyo Co.Cal. 300 shocks (quakes) "The sky was very full of smoke " / Holden — Catalog of Earthquakes on Pac. Coast
- 11 11:50 p.m. Germany / det met / Zeit Met 3/506,7
- 13 ff, great quakes S.Amer. (all) N.Y.Trib 13th, p.4, 16th, p.5, 19th, p.1
- Sept 15 Ascend: met / Servia and France / BA 1869/272
- 16 (BO) Christchurch Press that from several places in New Zealand been reported "a singular appearance in the heavens. It was like the tail of a comet or the hair of a great meteor. Some persons thought it the reflection of a great fire, but it was in band of light
- 17 6:31 p.m. quake Java
- 19 quake and sound / Alpine, Cal. Smithson Miscel / Cols, appendix to 37 — p.75 / at 9 p.m. 2 heavy shocks / the air became so dark that mountains ½ mile away could not be seen. At 5 p.m. 2 other shocks
- 24 9:45 a.m. shock Malta / L.T. Oct 3, p.9
- 25 Violent quake San Salvador / Nouvelles Meteorolog 2-72
- 27 9 a.m. darkness and shock at Tuddenham. L.T. Oct 1, p.7; also L.T. Oct 9, p.9 / also at Thriplow, 9 miles from Cambridge
- 27 Germany / det met / Zeit Met 3 / 507-592
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 29 L.T.of, p.10 Spon Comb?

Box 3 (Resumed)

- 30 Waterspout at Brighton / L.T. Oct 3, p.5 / water appeared to rise / said that soon afterward rain fell / no mention salt water falling
- Oct 1 L.T. of, p.7 and issue of 9th, p.9 / whirlwinds
- 1 (F) Siderolite / Lodran, Punjab, India

Box A (Resumed)

- Ab
- Oct 1 / Strange disap in Brixham / Mrs. Hocking / Morning Oct 6 / busied self ab. house. Sent young son out for milk / not seen again

Box 3 (Resumed)

- Oct 7 Met color / Wimbledon 11:50 p.m. / det met — color of its light bluish / L.T. Oct 9 / in Cornwall night of 8th red ball turned blue / L.T. Oct 13
- 7 11:59 p.m. Paris, France / det met / BA 69/232. See Oct 1 / great met 11:53 in Eng. (same) Cosmos 3/3/21/510 / Observation 1908 by Herschel, CR 67-771 Astro Reg 6-243
- 7 537
- 17 554
- 26 588
- 27 607 / meteors / Vol 3 / Rep Jan 1, 1866
- 7 10:15 p.m. Lozere, France "met as bright as full moon BA '69-230
- 7 Large met England lasted dif places from ab 11:30 to 11:55 p.m. BA 69-232
- 7 Ab midnight Angers, France / Large met / other places and in Belgium / BA 69-232 / at Paris a violent explosion was heard
- 7 At the time stars were scintillating — notably the planet Venus / Cosmos 3/3/421-510
- 8-9 Quake and phe at sea / midnight / Captain Christie of the barque Euphrosyne / 3 / submarine volcanic activity. "Several large meteors shot out from the heavens." Melbourne Argus, April 16, 1869 Supplement / Long 165' Lat 4 W. Sky suddenly overcast dense black clouds and sounds as if of distant cannonading — commotion in the sea. The ship trembled with seeming (paper cut off)

Box A (Resumed)

- 8 phe in Glasgow? Med & Day b. 1894-745

Box 3 (Resumed)

- 9 Vesuvius active / eruption expected / L.T. 10th, p.9 14th increasing, L.T. 15th, p.5 / See Nov 15
- 10 10:17 p.m. at Dunedin, N.Z. remarkable meteor from a point in Pisces / Oamaru Times, Oct 16, p.2 (BO)
- 13 6 a.m. shock Kalapoi, New Zealand / Christchurch Press 15th
- 13 1:20 a.m. In Chili — Copiapo and Coquimbo and Serena / Acto many persons a "large globe of fire of a very luminous

nature, which soon dissolved itself in a sheet of yellow flame." This like description of a meteor and its train. Said that (?) Aug 13, object together was seen at Africa. Said that clouds in the east turned as red as if by sunrise / (p.2) Said that on 17th word of a volcano about 80 leagues from Capiapo / Trib, Nov 16, p.1

- 13 At Tacna — sky to the northeast in the direction of volcano Saa?ama (?) red light at horizon / It lasted several hours. Sky overcast. Cosmos 3/3/628
- 13 Quake Chili (indecipherable) Aug 13 / Trib / Nov 16, p.1
- 13 Shock in Wellington, N.Z. Taranaki Herald, Nov 7
- 17 9 p.m. Met Germany / Zeit Met 3/554

Box A (Resumed)

- 18 began phe in house in Kensington. Evening Standard, Jan 23 on a Friday & every Friday since, & sometimes on Saturdays. Old lady, aged 84, her daughter and one servant / loud knocks on street door & no one visible. At irregular intervals. Police on guard & raps while they were watching. Never after 11 p.m.

Box 3 (Resumed)

- 18 Quakes listed at same places as 26th in BA 11 (?) (Fort's question. TT)
- 18-19 The meteors in the evening. The shock at 12:10 a.m. of 19th / star / Taranaki Herald 2-4th / Then minor shocks till 22nd
- 19 At Taranaki, N.Z. before the quake the meteors / darted across the heavens in all directions and the atmosphere had a vivid (or livid) appearance resembling the dawn of day / Wellington Independent, 29th, p.3
- 19 Acto Taranaki Herald / Cor from Pakawau describing the quake writes, "The number of falling stars was very great, as there were at least thirty-six between one and two a.m., one of which, falling to the eastward was of peculiar brilliancy. The shocks were from 12:10 a.m. at short intervals until 4 a.m. then longer intervals
- 19 Quake Mexico / Oaxaca etc. BA '11
- 19 Ab 10 p.m. (Beam) Sun / Hexham / a met train 10 minutes / L.T. Oct 22, p.9 / Times, Oct 26, p.11 — report from Stonyhurst — was a nebulous arc in a great circle passing through position of sun and moon / in Dublin — brilliant
- 20 Quake Taranaki / Oct 22, 1855 (?) (Fort's question)
- 20 Quake Peru and mets N Zealand / See May, 1877
- 20 At Newton & near Mallow, Ireland, shocks sound like thunder / Taranaki (NZ) Herald, Jan 9, 1869
- 21 9:26 p.m. Oxford large red met from Draconis to Herculis / L.T. Oct 23, p.6
- 21 Destructive quake, San Leandro, Calif. Religio-Phil Jrnl, Sept 16, p.2, 1882

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