

DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE
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⁶⁶ *Science does not know*
its debt to imagination ⁹⁹
+EMERSON+



SCIENCE-CONSCIOUS-OF-THE
SMALLNESS-OF-ITS-KNOWLEDGE

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

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DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the
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FIRST PRIZE

Practically all the regulars sent it in—so the biscuit will have to be divided about twenty ways.

On March 23, eighteen astronomers at the Paris, France, observatory walked off the job in a strike for higher salaries. All the accounts of this buffoonery are very short, but one assumes that the city authorities took the steps necessary to safeguard hospitals and similar institutions against hardship through this crisis.

Probably the discontent in Paris was caused in part by the boon to British astronomers at Cambridge announced 3-10-57. Those blimeys were given an air-conditioned telescope! Cr Steinberg.

The next most fetching item is from Anonymous. It is the UP story out of the Washington, D. C. zoo, where the pundits, keepers, experts and authorities were waiting for Laticaudi Colubrine to deliver offspring. Lati is described as a "poisonous sea serpent" who is "supposed" to deliver her young alive. The zoologists—even at Smithsonian—said so, but Lati up and laid twelve eggs. A little knowledge is so difficult to come by.

Simpson, mentioned prominently elsewhere in this issue, deserves third mention for this nugget: "The First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Selkirk, said yesterday . . . (that) he thought it improbable that battleships would again be used in operations . . . the Navy's policy concerning the future of battleships had not been definitely settled. But it was possible they would be sold to friendly countries who wanted to strengthen their navies." *Daily Telegraph*, 2-26-57.

Barneson pressed hard upon Simpson's heels with the announcement that the road safety council of Havent, England, had obtained a copy of the British highway code—in Braille. *L. A. Her-Exp*, 3-6-57.

The same good performer snipped from the *L. A. Times*, 2-3-57, the notice of a Boston school nurse who was dropped from the payroll because she had been "absent a long time". She had not reported for duty since 1948.

Barneson also sent in the name of a bootblack in Mexico City who stabbed his fortune teller because she gave him the wrong number for the \$80,000 lottery. *L. A. Her-Exp*, 4-4-57.

YS found this one for himself. Little Rock, Ark., April 10, 1957, a letter from the Coast Guard addressed to the Board of Commissioners who had built and paid for the two biggest bridges across

the Arkansas River, authorized them to turn off the navigation lights on the bridges. The Board of Commissioners had been dissolved in 1950 when the last bridge bonds were paid off. This piece does not state how long before that the bridges had been built, but no navigation lights ever had been installed. N. Y. *Jour-Amer.*

THE PEACEABLE EICHELS

In World Fraud I, Julius Eichel was a Conscientious Objector and served a term in prison for it. Today his son Seymour is in prison for following his father's example.

The Eichels have never stopped working for Peace, even in Peacetime. They picket and agitate and refuse to take oaths they don't believe in. They are active pacifists and well-known as such to all the authorities. Nevertheless, Seymour was not arrested for not registering until *two days* before he would have passed draft age.

The timing was probably the result of equal parts vindictive vengefulness and skill in public relations. The bravery of the Eichels would attract little notice and inspire scant emulation so many years after the casualty lists had been dropped from the daily papers. As Julius points out in a letter to YS, if every person who is opposed to war were prosecuted, the outcry and efforts for their freedom would be even too great for the warmongers.

However, the two judges who have been instrumental in putting Seymour in prison for a year decided he should be punished, as an example and warning to others who might object to becoming murderers. The judges are Matthew T. Abruzzo and Robert A. Inch. Keep their names in mind in case you are ever hailed before them. You haven't got a chance.

You need not weep for Seymour, I think, because his imprisonment is the natural consequence of his noble character and he is proud to be where he is. His example makes me ashamed to be free in the United States of Abruzzo and Inch.



RUSSELL'S BEST

A Western Australian Parliamentary Committee conducted an investigation into the condition of the natives affected by the British atomic testing ground at Maralinga. The report stated that "the tribesmen's wanderings in search of food had to be restricted to keep them off the testing ground, and that tests carried out at the range had driven off game . . . malnutrition, blindness, disease and infanticide among the aborigines were commonplace; (the Committee's members) find it hard to visualize

that any people anywhere in the world could be more in need of assistance . . . The Commissioner of Native Affairs for Western Australia, Mr. S. G. Middleton, described the committee's report as 'grossly exaggerated' and said the recommendations were of no practical value." *Manchester Guardian*, 1-14-57.

The same "scientific" method that pretends to relate cigarettes to "cancer" has now been applied to alcoholics. Acto Dr. O. O. Omartensen-Larsen, called a Danish "authority", if your mother and maternal grandmother were both eldest children in their respective families, there is a good chance that you will be an alcoholic. As Fort used to say, statistics can be found to prove anything. *Liverpool Echo*, 2-5-57.

It isn't easy to tell who is laughing at whom, and maybe they are all serious except us: the *Echo* credits to Reuter who quotes ADN (news agency) of East Berlin, asserting that one Juri Chlebtsevich, Moscow, would launch, in 1962 to 1967, from a "stratosphere rocket carrier", a rocket which would approach Venus in three stages. The initial fuel load is to carry the rocket 22,000 miles from Earth, where it will circle Earth as an artificial planet until it is "refueled by five radar-controlled tanker rockets each weighing 50 tons at take-off. After refueling, the rocket would begin the 146-day flight to Venus" and at the distance of 60,000,000 miles will begin sending back "cosmic television pictures". Juri is "convinced that television pictures could be received over such tremendous distances. But very strong aeriels would be needed. Electric brains would prevent disturbances." 1-15-57.

That amazing method of dating objects (back at least 45,000 years) by reference to "the constant rate of disintegration of Carbon 14" has been further refined in New Zealand, acto T. A. Rafter, Dominion Physical Laboratory, Wellington. Rafter or his staff have worked on it to such good purpose that the margin of error has been reduced to 30 years on either side of a date within the last 1,000 years. Just how they check their figures is not stated, but one assumes it is done by the same cute little fellow who counted the locusts raised by Moses to plague Egypt. *L. Echo*, 6-27-56.

Ibid: In the night before 1-22-57, an auroral display was seen in Portugal and southern Italy, for the "third time in this century".

A new French political party, the Abstentionists, founded by M. Gayout, has adopted the motto, "When in doubt, abstain." As M. Gayout explains it, his supporters need not trouble to go to the polls, "When you stay in your armchair, you vote for me." *Observer*, 2-10-57.

Nobody in the U S A sent this in, so it may be top secret here, but A. V. Peterson, called a U. S. atomic research specialist, told "industrialists" in Paris that 35 tons of potatoes treated with radioactive (gamma) rays were being fed to U. S. soldiers in a test. "The result of the experiment is expected to be known in six months." *L. Echo*, 1-25-57.

Mrs. Albert Wollner, whose history includes sleep-walking, woke up at the wheel of her husband's car 23 miles from her bed, having driven from Oakland to Hayward, Calif, in her sleep. *L. Echo*, 1-10-57.



NOT SO "FUNNY" MONEY

Whenever you thoughtful Fortean reads in your daily papers that Senator Whoever is a defender of "funny money", you may know by that glance that the editorial writer who uses that term is trying to put you off any serious investigation by the cheapest of semantic dodges. By that shallow mockery the Federal Reserve System is perpetuated, a dead weight on our backs.

From the standpoint of the entrenched defenders of the Federal Reserve—designed to keep us all in debt forever—anybody who questions that bloodsucking System is a "funny money" crack-pot, not to be trusted around the children. The truth is rather otherwise, but one must admit that none of the monetary reformers offers a simple primer or step-by-step guide toward achievement of his aims.

We asked Albertan Fortean how they liked Social Credit after living with it some 21 years, and several responded with sheafs of newspapers and some pithy comment. The Canadian press is uniformly hostile to Social Credit, and the Dominion government in Ottawa has prevented the Albertans from working any major changes, but only last March their Legislature announced a "dividend" of \$22 per year to be paid to all citizens over 21 and who had lived in Alberta the previous 5 years.

One member writes—"I cannot think of anything good to say about it . . . They've kept in the lead with religion. Their political campaigns seem to be no more than religious rallies, and it is through continued and everlasting bible-thumping that they seem to hold the vote. . . . Alberta liquor laws are as outmoded as celluloid collars . . . I read cases where high school graduates of Alberta schools do not have requirements to enter universities elsewhere . . . The theory of Social Credit may be good but not in the hands of politicians."

Another member writes: "They enacted some financial legislation but the Supreme Court of Canada threw it out as being beyond the power of a provincial government. They contented themselves with opening local Provincial Treasury Branches all over the province and, when in really desperate straits, issuing scripe on these branches. Some merchants did not like it but all the scripe was eventually honored and redeemed. They have since become ultra-conservative, put the provincial finances on a sound pay-as-you-go basis, increased assets far beyond liabilities, and assisted the discovery and development of our oil resources. They are not corrupt; there has been no graft worth notice. They are bigoted and anti-semitic. Our Alberta provincial premier, Honorable E. C. Manning, Q.V., can be heard every Sunday morning preaching his

"Back to the Bible Hour" at the Prophetic Bible Institute in Calgary. One example of their bigotry is the liquor question here. There are only beer parlors for public drinking. Hard liquors must be bought from the provincial government at their prices. In all the province the sexes can mix while drinking beer except in our two biggest cities, Calgary and Edmonton. It seems that our beloved premier imagines city folk to be more immoral than their country and small town brothers. Which is strange because these cities voted Social Credit provincially. My own conclusion about these Social Creditors is that they are okay so long as they do not get too strong. This, of course, is the same of all politicians. I would not trust them in the federal parliament."

Now that the President of the USA has called for "a broad inquiry into the nature, performance and adequacy of our financial system", you are likely to be hearing more about Social Credit, so send \$2.00 to Mrs. Cecil Clyma, 21 Cherwing Road, Yonkers 2, N. Y.

In a recent letter Mrs Cecil Clyma asked YS to name one or two of the "battles" he regards as more immediately "essential" than monetary reform, and when he came to write them down they added up to 8; monetary reform is number 9.

1. To force surgeons—not by law but by embarrassment of their guilty conscience—to admit that the chief cause of paralytic polio is tonsilectomy.

2. To remove all so-called "lie detectors" from the police stations and to convince the judiciary that such evidence and evidence gained by "truth drugs" and "wire taps" is inadmissible in any trial whatsoever.

3. To stop the fluoridation or other medication of public water supplies.

4. To repeal all compulsory vaccination laws.

5. To break the grip of the medical doctors upon our law courts, most especially as that grip applies to cancer and insanity.

6. To guarantee the rights of Conscientious Objectors to war when they refuse to bear arms for any cause or country.

7. To make all supernatural religions ridiculous in the eyes of their members.

8. To get their sacred cows and Brahmins and all other priests off the backs of the people of India.

9. After all that is accomplished, I grant that perhaps elimination of the Federal Reserve is next in importance.

Unfortunately for the fame of Social Credit as practiced in Alberta, our researches produce an old datum from MFS Mealy, concerning laws passed in Alberta "regulating and controlling what the newspapers in the province could print". The supreme court of the Dominion threw that law out also. St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, 1-20-54.

MITCHELL'S BEST

In 1946, a bridge was started to span the Missouri River from Decatur, Neb., to Onawa, Ia. Just as the bridge was being finished, 1951, the river changed its course, moving 250 feet easterly, leaving the bridge with no river under it. In 1954

Congress appropriated "several" millions to have the river put back. "That work was completed in August, 1955." The bridge was finally dedicated 5-3-56. N. Y. *Times* of the 4th.

A meadow lark near Port Credit, Ontario, sings like a cardinal. "Experts" think it is an adopted orphan. *Do*, 6-9-56.

One of the pilots who participated in the bombing of Hiroshima, and later in the tests at Bikini, was identified—aceto the N. Y. *News*, 3-24-57, as a bandit who has held up five grocery stores with a shotgun. He is also charged with robbing two Texas Post Offices. Join the Army and Learn a Trade!

The Vatican—which needs money like Africa needs more Negroes—was awarded \$964,199.00 for "war" damage to the Pope's summer home. N. Y. *Times*, 6-6 and 13-56.

A racing pigeon of Belper, England, tardy for three weeks after a flight, brought an excuse tied to one leg. "I have been cared for for eight days by M. Leurette Christian of Pas de Calais, France." N. Y. *Journal-Amer*, 7-29-56.

Dr. Fred L. Whipple of the Smithsonian Inst. predicts that "America's" artificial satellites will be able to "chart the earth's shape to an accuracy of thirty feet". N. Y. *Times*, 6-14-56.

That will be nice, because, after "months of field work in Africa" and the help of a Univac, Bernard Chovitz and Irene Fischer of the Army Map Service announced, 5-3-56, that the distance around the equator was half a mile less than had been thought, AND, a new measurement of Mt. McKinley was announced, 8-13-56, "based on more than ten years of surveys". The new figure, as agreed upon by the National Geographic Society and the U S Geological Survey, is 20 to 63 feet greater than previously "believed".

Also Mt. Rainier: "some scientists believed modern instruments would show Mount Rainier to be fifty to sixty feet higher" than it was measured in 1913, so a helicopter was going up to see, 8-7-56.

Science Service, which speaks with the voice of the New God in these matters, announced the result of that flight, 8-30-56. Mr. Rainier is only TWO feet higher than it was in 1913.

Then there is Amne Machin, a peak in China, computed in 1949 to be 633 feet taller than Mt. Everest. That wants settling. N. Y. *Times*, 8-6-56, and Peter Holmes, a British mountaineer, would like better maps of the Spiti region. He came home with tales of a new peak—"We took nine readings from different points on our instruments and it appears to be at least 24,000 feet. The highest peaks marked on maps of the area—which we found were completely wrong—is 21,760 feet." *Ibid*, 8-24-56.

After the artificial satellites and Univac have all those points settled, let's see what they can do about the paintings in a cave near Perigueux, France. Battle lines were drawn, with William Martin and Bernard Pierrat on one side versus Louis Nougier, Romain Robert and Abbe Henri Bruuil on the other. All are "experts", and the Martinis say the paintings are eight or ten years old whilst the Bruuilists assert they are at least 20,000 years old.

Le Monde of Paris published a review of mistakes in archaeology, probably in July, 1956, in connection with this debate. Will not one of you Parisians look that up and send us a copy?

FIG LEAVES, ANYONE?

One of Britain's leading Nudist/Naturists is now revealed to be no other than our own Edward H. Simpson, who offers to correspond with interested Fortezans on that subject so near to his heart. You may address him at 20 St. Thomas Street, Kells Lane, Low Fell, Gateshead-on-Tyne, 9, England.

Brother Simpson calls attention to the recent announcement that the XIII Duke of Bedford—the son of our former Accepted Fellow—is an honorary member of the British Sunbathing Association, and has offered the facilities of his historic family seat, Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, for the world congress of nudists "next year". That "next year" is an ambiguity of the *Sunday Pictorial*. One assumes the congress meant will convene this summer. If you would like to take your clothes off in Woburn Abbey, straighten out the date with Brother Simpson.



NYC TOO HOT FOR FLUORI

We don't want to crow, because the poisoners will be back again, and the battle is only temporarily won, but it was a joy to see the way the natives of this village on the subway turned out to stop fluoridation of New York City water. The speeches, the mail, and the organized opposition of the Greater New York Committee convinced the city fathers—early in March—to forget the whole thing.

Falmouth, Mass., Stamford, Conn., and Syracuse, N. Y., have all defeated the issue by ballot this spring. Tuckahoe, on the other hand, discovered that it had been drinking the stuff four and a half years without being told about it. The mayor is leading the revolt. *Cr Mitchell*.

In New Britain, Conn., where they've had fluorides since 1950, Richard Dehm proposed a law to stop it, and in the scrap to shut his mouth it was discovered—3-7-57—that the plant had been out of order, delivering no fluorides, since the previous Nov. 16. *New Britain Herald*, *cr Martin*.

Chicagoans were not so fortunate or not so determined as the New Yorkers. They picketed the opening ceremony of their fluoride plant but Mayor Richard J. Daley "avoided" the picket line and opened the poison valves anyway. N. Y. *Times*, 5-2-56.

This piece, unassociated with the debate, comes from the *Oakland (Calif) Tribune*, 2-14-57: "*Boston* (sic)—Fluorine, the most reactive of all the earth's

elements, makes water burst into flames, and eats through glass and asbestos."

Then we have Dr. George Philpots, dental surgeon of Melbourne, Australia, who says children will have stronger teeth if they are kept away from brilliant electric lights and radio horror plays. *Seattle Times*, 12-8-50, *cr* Bristol.

The Red Cross has told Canadian children not to bother sending tooth brushes or powder to Ceylon. The natives have fine, strong white teeth which they clean with the burned ends of sticks. *N. Y. Times*, 5-24-56, *cr* Mitchell.

OH, THAT AGAIN

Remember those stupid scientists during World Fraud II who used to go around leaving their brief cases full of atomic secrets sitting outside telephone booths? Well, on Jan. 30 of this year, Fletcher C. Paddison who calls himself a physicist, "connected with" Johns Hopkins U, en route to the Bendix guided missile plant, South Bend, Ind., with a brief case containing "dynamite" left it outside a telephone booth in the Illinois Central Station at Chicago. The local cops and the FBI are trying to help him find it. *N. Y. Times*

AND AGAIN

Ten living specimens of a mollusk thought to have been extinct for 300,000,000 years were brought up from 11,775 feet off the coast of South Africa by the expedition of Dr. Henning Lemche. Attached to their undersides were moss-like creatures the size of the tip of a ball-point pen, the like of which the Dr. had never seen or heard of before. *Manchester Guardian*, 1-10-57.

HOW OLD A CROW?

At a dance in Linehead, Scotland, the piano sounded out of tune. When the lid was lifted a dead crow was found "sprawled" across the strings. *N. Y. Times*, 2-17-47, *cr* Steinberg.

The Steinberg touch upon data, unique and usually hilarious is also on all the following:

The first piece of synthetically made granite has been announced by the Sorbonne, Paris, as the handiwork of Jean Wyart. He took a chip of obsidian, water and salt and subjected it to heat and pressure. *N. Y. Times*, 2-10-57. Bob writes on the margin: "At last they've found something to put in artificial egg shells."

From the same issue of the same paper he also clipped the notice of a nameless resident of Canterbury, England, who bought a tin of Australian peaches. Canned with the fruit was a bright green and brown insect. The man complained to the Health Department and "was told by delighted officials that he did not know what a rare prize it was. The bug, a rare type of cricket, will be presented to the London Museum of Natural History."

The Post Office put out of business a mail order operation based in Lombard, Ill., which had been selling a do-it-yourself kit "For the Man Who Has Everything." The kit contained a witch doctor's pouch, a straw doll, voodoo needles and "secret incantations". The ads read: "No more tiresome trips to the West Indies. You can now deliver

good or bad hexes right from your own home. The neighbors don't have to know."

The distributors said the kit is "strictly a party gag" but promised to stop selling it by mail.

On the other hand, the Post Office is powerless to stop the Redemptorist Purgatorian Society from peddling memberships for "any person, living or dead". The advantages of membership in this mooching racket are, "1. Every day ELEVEN HIGH MASSES are offered for all members, living and dead, annual and perpetual. This totals more than 4,000 High Masses yearly.

2. In all their Masses the Redemptorist Fathers make a special remembrance of all members, a total of more than 200,000 Masses yearly.

3. When a living member dies, a low Mass is said for the repose of that member's soul.

"Enrollment Offering/ Annual Membership . . . \$.50/ Perpetual membership . . . \$10.00 Family Membership . . . \$25.00 (Family includes parents and children only)"

We haven't room to go on with this unbelievable text in full, but you are offered a time payment plan on those upper bracket memberships, and—"Perpetual members are entitled to all the advantages and benefits of the Purgatorian Society forever. They are thereby exempt from all further contributions." *Cr* Mealy.

Nonetheless, and despite the irregularity of man's slow climb toward civilization, we need not be discouraged. The Salem witches have been exonerated of crime after 265 years, and on this May Day, just past, the American Legion did *not* kill any mayors or ministers in Mosinee, Wisconsin. Things are looking up. *Cr* Barneson and Block.



ICE

Valley Stream, L. I., 3-3-57. "A huge block" crushed roof of parked car, "the rest lay nearby . . . Police said the ice was so hard it couldn't be chipped, and jagged on one side. They speculated that some airplane had become coated—" *Cr* Bennett, Steinberg, Zrust, Essenhigh, Borden and others.

Limerick, Ireland, 3-16-57. Fifty pounds "from a transatlantic airliner" crashed through roof of bungalow smashing objects at bedside where Conor Roche and his wife were sleeping. *L. A. Times*, *cr* Barneson.

Los Angeles, 3-18-57. Fifty-pound chunk, bounced off one roof on 108th Street, pieces broke window next door, in 3667. Householder "hazarded the conclusion" that it fell from a plane. *Cr* Barneson.

San Gabriel, Calif., 3-19-57. A 50-pound piece cracked a 48-inch hole in a roof at 6856 N. Ruthless Ave. "The ice 'bomb' still unexplained . . . a foot long and eight inches thick when deputies arrived." *Pasadena Independent*, 3-20-57.

Moline Acres, suburb of St. Louis, Mo. 3-28-57. Called a "35-pound" chunk, but it was all crunched up in landing in the yard at 1929 Crown Point Drive. "Authorities speculated it may have fallen from an airliner." The householder, who heard it hit, discounts that theory.

Texarkana, Ark., 4-3-57. After a fifteen-minute hailstorm, one hailstone found by Leo Oceanbeam measured 8½ inches in diameter. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.



COLORED RAINS

Add to the bibliography of "blood" falls:

Notes & Queries, 7th Ser. IX 3/5/1890, p. 344.

Gentlemen's Magazine, 1853, Vol. i, p. 512.

Saxo Chronicle, translated, Rolls Series, pp. 202, 203, 206.

Richer, *History of Royal Genealogy of Spain*, p. 146.

Holder, C. F. *Living Lights*, pp. 153-154.

Leeds (Scot) *Mercury*, 2-5-1890, fell on deck of a ship at sea. *Cr Simpson*.

Black snow—in the Hudala Valley, near Mosjeen, North Norway. "Wide areas, which were covered with white snow, were changed during one night into black. A similar phenomenon has occurred occasionally after violent volcanic eruptions in polar regions." *Daily Telegraph*, 3-6-57. *Cr Fraser, Es-senhigh*.

Mud—"left a reddish deposit"—in Rochester, Syracuse and Utica, N. Y., 3-14-57. Weather Bureau: "soil particles were blown east from dust storms in Kansas and Oklahoma." *N. Y. Post* *cr Steinberg*.

Not said to fall: "The waters of Lake Albano in the mountains outside Rome have turned blood red." Scientists say "fungus or algae", but near-by residents recall that "Two years ago the headless body of a woman was found on the lake shore and the killer never was caught." *N. Y. Jour-Amer*, 3-18-57.

TO PRICK A SWOLLEN
ONE IN THE BELLY I
CALL GOOD SPORT.



VERSAILLES REVISITED

Those, Misses, Moberly and Jourdain, who walked in the garden and wrote a book about it—*An Adventure*—have recently had their wigs pulled askew by one of their former pupils. As appears, the spinsters were Principal and Vice-Principal of the famous ladies' college, St. Hugh's at Oxford, and one of their pupils grew up to become Mrs. Iremonger. Now Mrs Iremonger has published a book, in England, *The Ghosts of Versailles*, which is noticed in *The Freetrinker*, Jan. 18, 1957.

We have not yet seen the book but the reviewer—who hates ghosts for some reason—asserts that the work riddles the adventure "out of existence (and) shows these ladies as they really were—utterly irresponsible and one of them—Miss Jourdain—an unmitigated liar."

It is Fortean that this should be brought to our attention in the same mail with a contribution from George Sassoon, of Cambridge, who has kindly typed an excerpt from another book, a yarn almost certainly inspired by *An Adventure*. The same icons, props and motifs are employed, and the author admits to having read the Moberly-Jourdain opus.

We can't supply any of these books but if you wish to look it up, see page 226 of *Without Knowing Mr. Walkley*, by Edith Olivier, Faber & Faber, London, 1938.

This Brother Sassoon is the same who asked about irradiation of the brain with microwaves, and our Worshipful Brother Wing Anderson supplies the following data. The telegraphic phrases below are taken from a letter written to Wing by a correspondent in Mexico.

"The important book I told you about—*New Worlds Beyond the Atom*, by Langston Day with George De la Warr, of Oxford, published by Vincent Stuart, 55 Welbeck St., London W-1. Price 25 shillings or about \$4.50 . . . about the things a De la Warr camera and other instruments will do . . . photograph the radiations from water (for dowsing etc) blood specimens, people . . . not radioactive radiation at all . . . random foto of a daisy showed the pattern of its elements, but not as atoms . . . photograph of a foetus will show the fully developed organism, which naturally is somewhere within the foetus . . . another De la Warr invention is an instrument for diagnosing disease . . . a number of plates show radiations from objects where physicists say there shouldn't be any . . . here was something which happened which shouldn't have happened. How often haven't we heard this before!"

Wing is himself pushing research into the effect upon milk production of playing music to the cows. He has dairies cooperating all over the world, and if any of you lads want to help, we have some circulars for you.

At the same time, word comes from New Zealand via Bob Steinberg, that cows need not be milked at regular intervals, as the myth hath it. Experiments there have proved that you can milk at eight in the morning and four in the afternoon without changing quality or quantity of milk production. *N. Y. Times* 7-8-56.

And speaking of milk—Don Morrison of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, 3-18-57, quotes Dr. Laurence M. Gould, president of Carleton College, who has been associated with Antarctic expeditions since 1928, when he was Byrd's second-in-command. Dr. Gould asserts that the powdered milk buried in food caches down there at that time is now the only "pre-atomic" milk in the world. "Since bomb-test radio-activity has spread all over the globe, it is presumed the milk of every cow on earth must contain some strontium 90 . . . Strontium has caused great concern among scientists because it is long-lived and because it is easily absorbed by the human body and deposited like calcium in the bones."

The Atomic Energy Commission has asked the boys to dig up some of that milk and send it back to Washington for experimentation. *Cr Mealy*.

Caesium has been added to Strontium 90 in our milk since hydrogen bomb tests began, acro Prof. J. Rotblatt, executive vice-president of the (British) Atomic Scientists Association. A long series of tests on his own body showed the Prof that his radioactivity had "reached a significant peak. He attributed the presence of radio caesium to milk in his diet from cows that had eaten contaminated grass. Radio caesium was one of the problems studied by a special committee of the Medical Research Council which reported to Parliament recently that radioactivity due to hydrogen bombs had not yet reached a dangerous level." *Daily Telegraph*, 1-4-56(?) Although MFS Essenhigh has

written "56" on this piece, I think that was a slip of his pen such as many of us make at the turn of the year. Should it not be "57"?

Essenhigh also supplies several accounts of the hunger-strike lasting 19 days, undertaken by Alfred Nahon, president of the Anti-Atomic League, in protest against further bomb tests. Prof. Nahon is also the publisher of *Le Courier Interplanetaire* mentioned here before. He began eating again 1-13-57.

MORE LOSSES

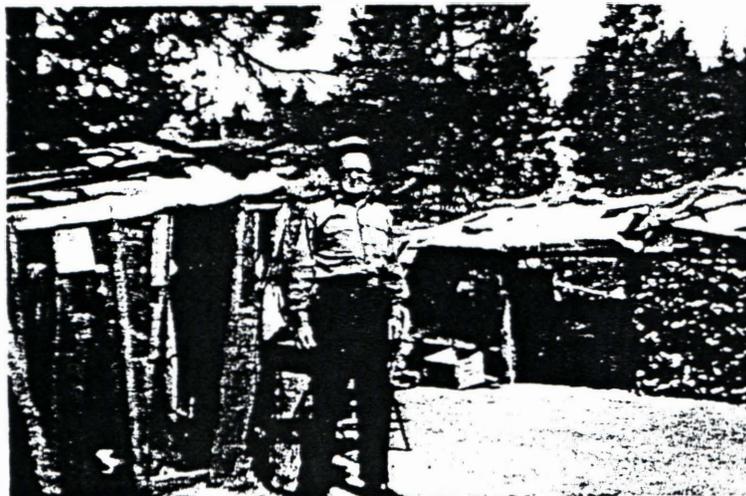
Even before we could find a suitable successor to Honorary Founder Carlson, the sad necessity to replace Burton Rascoe occurred 3-19-57. Burton was on the staff of the *Tribune* in Chicago at the same time that Ben Hecht was on the *News* and YS on the *Examiner*. Later we worked together for the Literary Guild, and for Nelson Doubleday.

When the Society was founded he was one of the most enthusiastic of Fort's rooters. In more recent years personal tragedy and ill health curtailed his activities but we shall miss Burton very much.

We have good hope of persuading Kenneth Roberts to serve as Honorary Founder in Burton's place.

On March 10, a Fortean even more closely associated with ourself succumbed after long illness and drastic surgery, George Faulkner, the well known radio and TV writer, who used to honor Charles Fort's birthday on his programs.

Pictured here is the third Fortean for whom we mourn this session, C. F. Wakefield. We have no details of his passing and no means to acquire them, for these reasons. After a long and active membership, in and around San Francisco, Wakefield retired from the world to a mountain top, where this snapshot was taken. In February, 23 FS, he wrote:



"Friend Thayer:

/ "This is in answer to your letter dated 2-7-23 FS regarding my notice to sever connections with the Fortean Society. As I stated in my letter I have no dissatisfaction with the Society—am not leaving in a huff.

"The reason for my action is that last year I took a bold step—I have entirely withdrawn from the civilized? world and live in solitude in the High Sierras. As I am no longer bending the knees to a master I now have no regular salary. This leaves me in a precarious position about finances. There are several years to pass before I am entitled to old age benefits.

"I have discontinued many other expenses and activities other than the Fortean—it is necessary to use what money I have very frugally for food—clothing and a shelter of sorts.

"I have never regretted my plunge—living apart from humans in freedom—tranquility and peace. Sorry I did not leave 'this best possible of worlds' long ago. Friends told me I would soon be back living a 'normal' life—but I like it better and better as the months pass.

"Among the few books I brought were THE BOOKS. For the first time I have had ample time to read them and digest the contents.

"Would not feel right about receiving the benefits of the Society without being active and paying my dues. I insist on having my name scratched from your little book till further notice.

"Wonder if I am the only existing Fortean hermit?"
"Visualizing you running around in the squirrel cage—I am / Regretfully"

On a separate slip of paper he typed: "Red Sky in the Morning Sailor take Warning."

In defiance of his own wishes we kept Wakefield on the list, and heard from him from time to time. Now the Post Office has returned his latest copy of DOUBT bearing the rubber stamp—"DECEASED"

And Annie Barley is gone too, the widow of Alfred who was so long so sharp a thorn in the side of those British astronomers who hoped to make Drayson respectable by getting themselves endowed.

QUAKES AND SUCH

Old Earth has been trembling and bursting boils of lava at a great rate through the past quarter, but if the Fortean element has been present in any of the phenomena, it has been ignored or minimized in the reports reaching us.

The San Francisco shake of 3-22-57 was called the most severe since 1906, but the only Fortean discernible were the coincidences that it followed so soon after the Aleutian quakes and subsequent tidal wave only ten or twelve days before, and the story of Don Livingston's heart. Don is only 19, and he was hitched up to an electrocardiograph for a heart test at the time. The test was showing a normal heart, "putting out contented signals" says the *Oakland Tribune*, until just 30 seconds before the quake was felt. For that half minute the instrument went crazy.

A touch of Fortean humor attended the tidal wave, in its continental aspects. It wasn't very

funny in Hawaii where it actually hit, but the warnings by the tin-hat Civil Defenders around the Bay area sent thousands inland to the hills in false alarm, creating miles of the worst traffic jamming within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

Then, on April 20, the seismic fell out. Both reports come from Jesuits, who have a corner on this particular "science". The Rev at Boston College, Weston, Mass., got his message at 6:39:16 a.m., and said it came from "several hundred miles Southwest of California". The Rev at John Carroll U, Cleveland, got the throb at 6:38:39, and "placed it in the Gulf of Alaska near the Aleutian Island of Kodiak". Cr Borden, Goldstein, Olcher and many others who neglect to put their names on their data.



FROGS AND SUCH

Not said to fall, but, in a pond on a farm near Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, "after one of the most severe winters in Manitoba history. Small fish and frogs measuring up to six inches have been swimming in an open pool—" *N. Y. Times*, 3-28-56, cr Mitchell.

Ibid, *Newsday*, 6-22-56, "Thousands" of tiny toads invaded the home of Jerry Bruckner, 264 Mallard Rd., Carle Place, Long Island, N. Y.

In Alor Star, North Malaya, "One thousand frogs today fought a life and death battle in a small pond . . . The fight lasted 30 minutes. When it was over, the little pond was littered with dead and wounded frogs . . . At times their war-croaks could be heard a mile away." *Daily Express*, 12-12-56, cr Essenhigh.



FALLS

Who shall say how this happens to fall under our hand now? It is a page from *Magazine Digest*, Dec. 1950, sent in by E. S. Anderson. Somebody probably was paid fifty dollars for writing it, somewhere along the way, but who shall say when or where?

"By Eric Hutton/ ever been hit by a flying turtle?/ Condensed from *The Standard* (What Standard and where and when?) Copyright, 1950, by Canada Wide Feature Service Limited".

The only dated phenom is the first one, mud fell at Danville, Va., March 29—presumably 1950. From there on we read about "Dr. Otto Geist, a New York anthropologist" who explains away falls of frozen fish on St. Lawrence Island, Bering Sea, about Dr. Sunday Lal Hora, "director of India's zoological survey" who remembers falls of fish on the parade ground (when and where?) and the fall of hard-shelled turtles in Gallipoli (when?).

"Rains of blood are sometimes reported in Italy (sic), but they always prove to be metal oxides dissolved in rain water. In Djebel-Sekra, Morocco, however, there occurred a strange shower which was investigated by Prof. J. Brun of Geneva University. (Lifted bodily from Fort) . . . chemical analysis showed the substance to be blood." And the author finishes off with a paragraph about manna, also from Fort.

Suck on!—you starveling Huttons—Fort's breast is full enough to feed you all for centuries.

More recently:

"Two big jagged pieces of hot aluminium which fell from the sky at Little Oakley, Essex, remained a mystery to police and the R.A.F." *Daily Telegraph*, 12-14-56. Cr Essenhigh.

Almost as garbled and obfuscatory as the *Magazine Digest* piece is one in the *N. Y. Times*, 4-8-57. Reconstructed in the calmest manner possible, three boys of Nutley, N. J., reported seeing something like a "fireball" fall into the backyard at 82 Race Street, night of 4-6-57. Acto the householder, Vincent Guarino Jr., he had dumped "slag fill" into his yard "last year". Apparently the boys were of a character to merit some confidence in their report, because Prof. John Rosengren, an astronomy teacher, and Raymond J. Stein, supervisor of the Newark Museum Planetarium were called in. "Both said a meteor would be heavier and leave a large hole."

That is all. One wonders what the boys saw fall.

Something very like occurred in San Gabriel, Calif., three days later at 5:00 a.m. If everyone is to be believed, Pat Murphy, *us* 10, heard a "thump" in the backyard at 8831 Greenwich Avenue. Later his father, Oscar, found a hole "about six inches in diameter" and two feet deep. The sheriff at Temple City was called in, and that office called Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squad at Fort Mac Arthur. Capt. R. B. Jackson said the hole was similar to those made by small dud bombs—"also possible—could be a meteor, something dropped from a civil aircraft, or one of those confounded flying saucers." Air Force denied any missing missiles. "Five unofficial Air Force observers came from Norton Air Force Base to the Murphy backyard, but had no comment."

The Army dug up the yard, "10 feet wide and 10 feet deep—shored with heavy timbers" found an old baby buggy, went down to 20 feet and gave up on 4-12-57. *L. A. Examiner*, *N. Y. Post* and various other papers.

"A live eel, 20 inches long, fell from the sky at Dovercourt, Essex, yesterday. A gull is believed

to have dropped it. A man took it home for supper." *Daily Express*, 10-6-56, cr Essenhigh.

A front page photo, three columns wide, of a pretty girl with a small turtle in her palm, was printed by the Houston (Texas) *Chronicle*, 2-9-57. The caption asserts that Miss Becky Adamson "found this sea-goin' type turtle in her yard after a recent rain."

Local member Cohen phoned Dr. Davies of the Biology Department, Rice Institute, asking him to join in an identification expedition. Davies declined because turtle type could not be determined absolutely until the beast was 25 years old, so Cohen went alone. He learned that Miss Adamson had not found the turtle, her biology teacher had, but not in a yard, in a fresh water lake. MFS Cohen takes a dim view of this kind of journalism, but pretty girls have been known to kiss reporters who got their pitcher in the paypa.

"Dead" starlings fell on citizens of McKeesport, Pa., 2-13-57, "from an eight-story downtown building . . . Francis Kostelac, foreman for a roofing and heating firm, explained that a bird repellent was placed on part of the building . . . non-poisonous chemical just paralyses their wings . . . they must have been killed in the fall." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, cr Oltcher.

A pound of frozen hamburger "came hurtling through" the apartment window of Mrs. Christine Cox, Syracuse, N. Y. "recently". *L. A. Times*, 2-24-57. Cr Barneson.

W. B. Brown was leaving his office in Charlotte, N. C., with his wife about 9 p.m. 3-20-57. They saw five strange objects floating in the air, "foam-like but clear . . . one of them veered away from the other four and hit the ground about 60 feet away. It looked like ice breaking up but was liquid—slimy to the touch and cooling or numbing his fingertips . . . smelled like burned matches . . . The Weather Bureau said there were no other reports of aerial phenomena." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 3-21-57, cr Zrust.



JERSEY BANG

A "blast-like roar" followed by shaking houses, broken windows, cracked sidewalks and swimming pools, was heard and felt at 10:15 a.m., 4-2-57, in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. No planes capable of breaking sound barrier in the vicinity. Use of the word "earthquake" in this part of the world is always avoided, but the earth "vibrated", and the Jesuit seismos at Fordham admitted that they had a record of a "slight" quake in that area of Jersey on 3-23-57, which was 9 days before the bang.

QUEEN MARY ROCKS

"For no apparent reason" the Cunard liner Queen Mary, in mid Atlantic, "normal" seas, "began to heave and lurch" 12-19-56. Some passengers thought she had struck something, but the captain said no. Cr Borden.

DUSTY SEA

Paul Reeder, pilot, who has been flying to Hawaii for 15 years ran into dust clouds for the first time, 50 miles from Honolulu and 6,000 feet up. "Could not have come from Hawaii—wind in wrong direction." Cr Jacobs.

AREND-ROWLAND

MFS Frank McMahon, driving to the North of NYC far enough to be clear of the city's thick, bumpy atmosphere and glare, reports an awesome view of the Arend-Rowland comet. It was seen early on the evening of May 1, low in the N. W. sky, and Frank calls it the most impressive spectacle he has ever observed aloft. The tail was especially remarkable for size and brilliance, beyond anything he had been led to expect.

It must have been more spectacular than the Halley object of 1910, because YS saw that without turning a hair. It took our whole family three nights to find it at all, and—found—it was definitely not worth the trouble.

MEALY'S GRIST

Besides the numerous other contributions noticed throughout this issue, MFS Mealy has kept us abreast of the censorship fight in Minnesota—which has been won for the freer press—as well as the local struggle to preserve the State separate from religion. The Minneapolis dailies are more outspoken and harder-hitting on the right side of these topics than those of almost any other city. They have also taken an extraordinary interest in school desegregation, sending their own reporters South of the Mason-Dixon Line like foreign correspondents instead of relying on the news services.

It was through Mealy that we learned of Mr. Muhammad, who writes a column in the Pittsburgh Courier, a Negro weekly. Mr. Muhammad also operates in N.Y.C., and his aim is to win Negro converts to Islam. He's doing it too, right and left.

Some highlights from Mealy:

A Rockford (Ill.) church has discontinued weekly bingo games. "The reason, according to the pastor, is the church lost \$200 in two weeks." *Awake*, 4-8-57.

Whether tektites originate on Earth or in Heaven was the subject of a paper by Messrs Pinson, Herzog and Cormier, all of M.I.T., who have analyzed tektites from the Philippines "by the mass spectrometer to try to determine their age. They said the age determined runs more than 700 million years." *St. Paul Dispatch*, 11-2-56.

A companion to that is a tombstone ad of the Delano Granite Works. In the copy they boast their memorials will stand "as an eternal symbol", and at the bottom of the ad—"guaranteed forever".

Mealy asks: "Will the granite works be around to make good?"

He also sends the following contribution to our new department:

THE NAME'S THE SAME

He who replies to words of Doubt
Doth put the Light of Knowledge out.

—William Blake.

And from Agnes G. Ritchie:
Ever insurgent let me be,
Make me more daring than devout,
From sleek contentment keep me free
And fill me with buoyant doubt.

—H. D. Thoreau.

Mrs. Ritchie has sent others which will appear later.

CREDITS

The UFO data numbered 105 this quarter, including publications. For those items, and other matter, credit is due to P. B. Godfrey-Bartram, Jacobs, Mealy, Parr, Steinberg, Zrust, Barneson, Bennett, Layne, Hehr, Barlow, England, Itcher, Bonavia, Clayton, Weidemann, Borden, Farnham, Coffman.

GOOD BOY

On one of the shows toward the end of the series in which young Robert Strom won so much money, he had to supply the names of several mathematicians, physicists and so on, credited with certain formulas and feats. In answering that question his choice of words struck this Fortean ear with a pleasant jolt of surprise. Out of all that orthodoxy learned by rote, came this sweet treble: "These laws were invented by—"

Not "discovered" by, you understand, but "invented". You can't beat youngsters for frankness, can you?

CLIMAX

Something mighty exciting is happening in New Orleans. It's a solid magazine, more than 88 pages, \$1.00 an issue and worth it. It's called Climax/ a creative review in the jazz spirit. Send your \$3.00 to Climax, 329 Royal Street, New Orleans 16, La.

Another good investment is the single dollar you may send to Flashlight, published by the Palo Alto Peace Club, P O Box 205, Palo Alto, Calif.

METEORIC FIRE

Contributed by MFS Caron.

It has repeatedly been reported that masses of iron, stones, dust, membranous matter has fallen at various spots on the face of the earth. More surprising are the reports of the fall of luminous snow, hail or rain. Humboldt broached the subject when he wrote as follows:

"Occasionally (as is proved by the recent observation of Nicholson and Beccaria, of this phenomenon), isolated clouds standing high above the horizon, continue to emit a luminous radiance from their interior and from their margin . . . In some cases, hailstones, drops of rain and flakes or snow have been seen to fall in a luminous condition . . ."

Probably the earliest case reported is the one related in the Bible, Exodus, Chapter IX, v.v. 23-24:—"The Lord sent thunder and hail upon the ground—so there was fire mingled with rain."

The characteristics of this extraordinary fire are luminosity absence of the sensation of heat, smoke, smell, crackling sounds associated with the discharge of atmospheric electricity, short duration. As the Geiger counter had not yet been developed, no mention is made of the presence of radio-activity.

In the last few years, intense radio-activity of short duration is often noticed in rain or snow. Should this activity last over a long period, it could properly be called a form of fire, the same as the emanations from radium or those from intense X-Ray streams.

Professor Leon Katz, of the University of Saskatchewan, recognized an earthly origin for the radio-activity in snow and rain, in the following quotation, "The dominant mode of obtaining natural activity in the atmosphere comes about through the escape through space of radio-active radon gas from the earth's crust. This decays in the atmosphere, giving rise to various radio-active products, of which a number of them have a half life of thirty minutes."

If the following cases were properly recorded, we are apparently in presence of some form of products of nuclear fission, either of terrene or meteoric origin.

The reports of the fall of meteoric fire were numerous enough to induce Arago to write as follows in his treatise, *Astronomie Populaire*:

"Some physicists having denied the reality of the phenomenon, I thought wise to search diligently into the subject. A list will permit anyone to form a personal reasoned opinion."

1731

June 5th—Dom Hallai, prior of the Benedictines of Lessay wrote: . . . during the night amidst thunders, there fell every-where droplets of molten metal, all aglow . . . (Arago)

1761

Bergman writing to the Royal Society, London: "I have observed twice during the night, without thunder, a rain such that everything it touched, scintillated and the earth seemed covered with inflamed waves." Bergman had observed the same phenomenon in snow.

1773

September 22nd . . . at Skara, Sweden . . . the rain started again at six o'clock . . . each drop threw fire on reaching the ground. (Arago)

1774

September 23rd . . . at Skow, East Gothland—the next day another storm with wind . . . the fall of what could properly be called an electric rain because every droplet threw fire upon reaching the ground. *Annual Register*, London, p. 71.

1767

September 4/5—During a violent storm, the farmer at a pond near Ourentraï, France, saw it covered over its extent by a flame so dense that he could not see the surface of the water. (Arago)

1796

No date . . . a terrible and strange storm with hail . . . at Norwich . . . during a heavy rain, the earth seemed impregnated with fire . . . *Annual Register*, London, p. 40.

1799

November 19th . . . at six o'clock in the morning, the inhabitants of Hamcoates, in Lincolnshire, were alarmed . . . the earth seemed illuminated by a succession of fixed lights during the space of thirty seconds . . . *Gentleman Magazine*, London, p. 987.

1809

The meteorologist Howard reports having distinctly seen that the rain that fell became luminous when it came in contact with the ground. (Arago)

1822

January 22nd—The meteorological station at Freybourgh reports the fall of luminous sleet. (Arago).

1825

March . . . on a lake near Lochawas in Argyle-shire . . . fearing a storm, they rowed toward the shore . . . they were overtaken by the snow . . . immediately after, the lake that had been very calm before became like the boat . . . their vestments and everything about them a fiery surface. The parts of their body that were exposed to the air were not excepted. They all seemed on fire although they were not the seat of any sensation of heat or warmth . . . the snow retained this property for at least twelve to fifteen minutes. . . . *Revue Britannique*, Paris, p. 378.

1870

September 2nd—In the early morning . . . reported by Captain Howe, of the Southern Cross . . . 58° latitude South, by 70° longitude . . . at large of Cape Horn . . . the heavens were an opaque black . . . little by little this obscurity was succeeded by a vivid fire, projecting on everything the glare of conflagration without smoke. The ocean was like a sea of vermillion, whipped by the hurricane. The sails, the masts, the riggings were tinted a flaming and blood red color. The waves and the foam that washed the bridge threw a veritable rain of fire. The furious discharges of hail, snow and sleet passed over us in red showers. . . . *Magazin Pittoresque*, Paris, p. 28. (1871)

1871

April 25th—at 3:00 A.M. . . . a third storm occurred with extremely low clouds . . . the sparks succeeding one another under the form of luminous trains running along the meadows. Seen at Pourency, at the foot of the Jura Mountains. *Magazin Pittoresque*, Paris, p. 131.

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.

1869

Mox 3 (Continued)

- Oct 19 Tiverton Times of / In commenting upon fall at Carlisle (in another column) says that "a similar visitation was noticed at Kendal, but no explanation has as yet been offered for the strange phenomenon". Kendal is 35 miles from Carlisle.
- Sec Oct Nov 19, 1869, E Mec of. That the town of S. Moulton, N. Devon, had been visited by cobwebs. "They were perfectly white, in long shreds, some many yards in length, quite tough, extremely coarse. Insects were not entangled in them, but in a few instances spiders were seen attached to them. The microscope revealed them to be composed of striated fibre distinctly separated at distances nucleated.
- Oct 15 Writer says that in Barnstaple 12 miles to the W. N. W. they had not appeared.
- 15 Point is I have looked in Barnstaple and Bideford Times and other papers (reverse) Seems that this great fall that was seen, so far as I can find out only at (indecipherable word) did come down. Not at Tiv., either. / Tiverton 18 miles SE (indecipherable word)
- Aug L B det / droppings on—a cloud of them taking the form of Westminster Abbey—dark cloud precipitating enormous crystal / am suspicious that (indecipherable word) has form only on (indecipherable word) underlying pattern.
- (That is the end of the wire clip but the bundle within the string continues. No notes from Box A will be printed until we reach the end of Fort's string. T.T.)
- Summer All the invasions at or near the Coast
- Oct Early in / Cor to The Field, Nov 27. writes that of Locusts had been captured at Burton-on-Trent. Says that not the locust that had frequently before been seen in England but was the locust of Northern Africa and Asia. So far as he was aware, the insect had never before visited Europe.
- Oct The Burton locust. It was exhibited at the Meeting of the Entomological Society, Nov. 15, 1869—"It appeared to be identical with a species from Northern Bengal. It was found in a yard of a brewery and one of the entomologists suggested it came from N. Bengal in an empty returned ale cask. This would have it only (indecipherable word) with the locusts of Plymouth etc.
- Oct 8-9 Locusts Writer in the Journal of the Plymouth Institute 4-15 says that he believes there is no record of a previous visit to England by these locusts (*acridium peregrinum*) "The heat in the shade on the 8th and 9th was 74 degrees and 76 degrees Fahr. May not the temperature have influenced the migration?" / My own notion is that volume of heated air and the locusts from the same place.
- Oct Entomol. Mag. and yet a cor writes that ac to his experience and reading, insects had been UNUSUALLY scarce summer of 1869 / Editor writes that especially white butterflies had been UNUSUALLY scarce. / In Jan 1870 some one else writes upon the subject, especially the scarcity of butterflies. / Feb 1870, p. 218 another writes and mentions "the unfavorable season" of 1869
- Oct Locusts / In Ent Mo Mag 7-1, said these locusts were new to European fauna. Said mentioned in no work upon European *Orthoptera*. Said at Plymouth many taken; so large that one of them was thought to be an escaped canary. The

- writer says that he had investigated. Had a query published in a French entomological publication, but no news reached him that they been seen by any part of Europe. He says that if had come from Africa, scarcely likely that the passage would have escaped notice in Italy, France or Spain / Here said was an African locust but in the Entomologist said appeared to be identical with a species from Bengal. / Here mention 5 countries in which been seen.
- Cor Field Aug 28, says of those that visited Shropshire, were yellow of a species he had no recollection of having ever seen before. In a leader the Editor writes that in opinion of Mr Jenner Weir they were different from ordinary English specimens. "The red is paler, and there are divers slight differences that rather indicate a foreign origin."
- Aug 13 L Bs / Nothing in Bibliotheque Universelle nor Revue des Couzr Scientifiques.
- July Cor to Sci Op., 3-261, saw white objects on leaves, oblong ab 1/3 inch long, and found them to be cotton-like secretions of a new insect for which he proposed the name *coccus flocciferus*.
- Aug 13 In Galagnani's Messenger (Aug 22) (Paris) the invasion of England by the L bs is told of, but no mention in any issue of this newspaper of L bs seen in or going from France. / Also told of 25th and Sept 4.
- Scarcity Field Sept 4 Cor writes that in more than 6 weeks at Axminster he had seen exactly 4 houseflies
- Aug 27 Bo / p 193 / This is Sci Op. 2-292 / Thrips
- 12 L B Sea Aug., 1807
- Sept 8 Myriads of L bs near the Humber Zoologist 1869-1922
- Bo / L Bs / first ap at Ramsette on 9th Land & Water Aug 21 / L.W.
- Sept 4 Amusing description of 5 cats attracted to a lawn, gazing with amazement at the multitudes on the lawn, gazing as intently as if hypnotized / Det glitter in sunlight
- 5 Bo / ac to C Inverness Courier, Sept. 9— that suburbs of Burnisland infested with swarms of the fly known as the "spinning jenny". "They literally covered the Links and road east of the town, and clustered in the doorways and window sills of the houses."
- Bo / Locusts peculiarity is that though a (indecipherable word) swarm in Oct others earlier one Sept 14th, and one in August in Gloucestershire Field Oct 23
- Aug 28 Gardener's Magazine of — p. 100 — discussion of the subject said that in 1868 the caterpillar of the smaller white butterfly had been common, so how account for the rarity in 1869?
- Aug 28 &
- Sept 4 Ayrshire Express of—several notices of humming birds that had been seen in different places in Scotland. The Editor writes that they must have been humming bird moths.
- Aug 13 Bo / Showered down at Shoeburyness, that men interfered with in work in the brick fields. Standard 20th writer says that at St Leonard's-on Sea, all insects except lady birds and black ants were "few and far between."
- 24 At Long Benton appeared immense number of *Pieris capae* so scarce everywhere else. Ent. Mo. Mag., Dec. 1869. Swarms falling every garden. Thousands were killed by the gardeners.
- 18 Aberdeen Free Press Aug 20 For two hours Inverness invaded by midges. "At some points the cloud was so dense that people had to hold their breath and run through. The midges told of in Inverness Courier of 1919 and said that been unusual number of aphides.
- Aug 14 Standard of Extraordinary abundance in Donegal Bay, of salmon mackerel, herrings and other species.
- Sept 18 Gardeners' Chronicle of / For several days early in Sept—"air full and earth covered with yet another swarm of insects. This at Beccles for several days—gnats "nothing like such an infestation had ever been seen by the oldest inhabitant!
- Aug 28 Land & Water Cor writes that with them were some with colors reversed: black bodies and red spots / Sept 4—In Land & W. description of the invasion of 15th watched as a dark cloud coming in from the sea
- Bo / fire flies had been so numerous that they had been "denounced as a nuisance."
- Sept 4 Bo / L. & W.—description of cloud of beetles (*aphodius contaminatus*) though to have been last of August, at Ullewater. An army that flew in regiments occupying 1/2 hour in passing.
- Aug 25 Bo / Dover Telegraph Shower of frogs at Henwick, near Worcester
- Aug 21 Field of / Insects Cor writes that one afternoon last week (so about middle of August) there was a swarm of midges or "thunder bugs" between Wingham and Adisham. Seems not of local origin. Cors clothes covered. So other persons who said "that they had never previously been so assailed."
- Aug At Long Benton Immense swarm of small black Thrip swarmed into houses and were swept from the walls and floors like dust; doorsteps black with thousands of them. Ent. Mo. Mag. 1869-171

- Aug 25 Scarborough / sudden appearance of myriads of a minute winged insect of a species of Thrip / There had been similar swarms in the summer of 1859 Sci Op 2-292
- Oct 8 Spiders / The account is in Daily News 14-6-1 Sabe account
- July 24 Dead Lady birds on Norfolk Coast Syrphidae with them / See Aug trans Norfolk
- July 24 Off coast of Norfolk a mass of dead lady birds ab. 10 feet broad and ten or more miles long. At same time immense swarm of Syrphidae. Ab 9 miles from Coast Si Sos 1869-231
- Sept 12 Boro' Bridge unknown little moth caught. The wings were composed of feathers. Nothing like it described in Newman's British Moths and similar works. Sci Op 2-359
- Oct 8 Bo / 2 p.m. / Large white flakes of web fell at Cowes L & Water Oct 23. And an "immense quantity of flakes" at Andover, Sept 29 ac to F. Buckland. According to my records these 6 falls in period of 2 weeks more than equalled all other such falls in England since the year 1800.
- Aug 25 Field of Aug 28. Margate. "overwhelmed" by a new invasion. A wasplike fly—two species. Tremendous numbers. "They are slow, stupid and hungry, and quite harmless". Another cor—"On Wednesday (25th) I went to Ramsgate by steamboat and as we approached within five or six miles of Margate, complaints of wasps began to be heard. I soon ascertained that they were no wasps but a bee-like fly. As we neared Margate they increased to millions, and at Margate pier they were almost unendurable." He sent some specimens to the Editor who identified 2 species of Syrphus. Some one else wrote that a swarm had appeared before this swarm at Forest Hill. The Editor identified specimens as of one of the (indecipherable) and also of a (?) species of Syrphus.
- 24 At Long Benton "Immense swarms of small, white Pieris rapae Ent Mo Mag 1869-171 Thousands were killed by the gardeners / This is the butterfly that had been so scarce. In Ent pubs number of comments upon the scarcity of small white butterfly Pieris rapae. In the Entomologist 1869-301 Edward Newman writes that up to July 12 he had seen only 3 specimens. pp. 313-315 half a dozen cors confirm this.
- 21 Times of / Writer mentions scarcity of white butterflies and wonders how to account for it.
- Aug Thrip / Long Benton 3 miles from Newcastle 8 miles E of Canterbury ab 6 miles from coast less than 10 from Ramsgate / Winghart in E Kent
- Aug 24 Walton-on-the-Naze—"a countless swarm of Syrphi 7 species Entomologist 5-15
- Summer Can't say all cases invasions (indecipherable) flies may been prevalence
- May 2 uncommon bats killed near Torquay of different species—one across wings 13½ inches Zoologist 1869-1768
- June 1 At Windsor Great Park, cor to the Field, June 5, came upon a bird of "huge dimensions" unknown to him: legs and beak black; rest white; Cor asks if could have been a stork. Editor says most likely was a stork.
- July 24 Ab. 13 miles off the Lincolnshire coast, belts of water some a few yards, some hundreds of yards wide, a "thick pea-soup appearance" with Aphides. Zoologist 1869 p. 1839.
- June 15 Minley in Hampshire / Found on a dusty road a Rhytichophorous beetle of species and genus new to listed British beetles. Ent. Mo. Mag. 1869-86
- June 15 Insects / Cor to The Naturalist; Notebook 1869-318 Caught at Norwich an unknown moth—"quite different to any figured or described in Mr. Newman's History of the British Moths." forewings 1¼ inches from tip to tip—prevailing color orange—whitish lines.
- June Aberdeenshire / a beetle new to British lists of Coleoptera. Said be rather common in Lapland, the Alps, the caucasus. Ent. Mo. Mag. Feb., 1870.
- July 31 and Aug 14 Field of / Scarcity of white butterflies commented upon by 2 cors.
- July Scarcity of white butterflies noted in The Field.
- Autumn Butterfly rare in England Deiopeia pulchella 3 captured in England recorded—quite rare for instance for years 1887-1891 inclusive no known capture The Entomologist 25/152
- Aug 13 See 1807
- 13-17 Lady birds first reported in Times of Aug 19, from Ramsgate and other places on coast—covering people's clothes—men engaged to shovel them into sewers. On 15th in London—Westminster Abbey covered—came from the east on Channel—children in London filling bags with them. 14th, 15th, 16th—multitudes on coasts of Kent—Surrey—point is feeble flight never have crossed the Channel writer says—but as if from Calais—piers covered—red (indecipherable) in water—high up looking like flakes of snow. Writer asks for insertion of his letter—if were seen to leave France—L T Sept 1 That on 30th docks of Bristol and Bath covered. See Aug., 1847 Ill. London News, Aug. 21 Daily News 20th

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