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DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE
Vol. II Whole Number 53



SCIENCE
BRINGING ITS OWN
GUIDING SPIRIT
TO ALL MANKIND

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

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DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the
FORTEAN SOCIETY

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FIRST PRIZE

Bob Steinberg has done it again. The Chicago Tribune Press Service told the Buffalo *Courier Express*, 6-14-56, that "the Internal Revenue Service is drafting a special income tax return to be used in case of an H-bomb attack on the United States."

E. M. G. Hibbert of Tasmania, Australia, found this in the Hobart *Mercury*, 2-18-56. A two-year-old bull was slaughtered at Kumara by Frederick Richards. Other witnesses are mentioned but not named. Richards de-horned the bull and claims to have found an animal an inch and a half long in the brain cavity. The headline asserts the animal was a rat, but later on we read—"The creature will be flown to the Agriculture Department laboratories at Wallaceville for identification."

Also: "Richards . . . claimed the animal was embryo of a calf (but) Dr. M. J. McLean, pathologist at the Greymouth Hospital, said there was no placenta or umbilical cord . . . Moreover the animal did not have cloven feet . . . The inspector of stock, Mr. J. Fleming, said he thought (it) was a rat, but he could not explain how it could have got inside the brain cavity."

MFS Powell of Dunedin, N. Z., supplements the above with the version printed by the Auckland *Star*, 2-17-56. The names of two witnesses to the finding of the "rat" are W. Stewart and J. Leonard, "both experienced slaughtermen".

Somebody held this one out on us since 1941. It's from the October issue of *Sky*, in a column signed "R. K. M."

"In a letter I received from Dr. Shapley recently he said, 'Our experience is that a comet makes an image which is a mere speck of smudge; if the image is equipped with head and tail, if in short it is the spit and image of a comet, we are sure it is a defect.'"

Essenhugh of Sevenoaks came up with some sweet-hearts. "Scientists from the North Kiangsu medical college" studied three bodies called 400 years old, and announced that "under microscopic examination the cartilage cells appeared to be alive . . . London University professors Walker Yettes . . . and Thomas Baillie Johnston dismissed the report as impossible." London *Sunday Express*, 5-20-56.

Acto the *Sunday Dispatch*, 5-6-56, Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding told a gathering of spiritualists at Canterbury, "I have a friend at Colchester who can see fairies and converse with them freely. I have often been there when she has been talking to them. I have never seen them, but I believe implicitly in their existence."

In Browning Street, Walworth, lives William Lucas, a bookmaker, his wife and a daughter *ae* 8. His flat is up two flights of stairs and at the end of a row of (how many?) doors.

At 2 a.m. Feb. 17, a thumping at the door caused them to open it. They found an Irish youth, about 16, stripped to his shirt and drawers, tied to the door in such a way that if the door had been opened suddenly, he would have been strangled.

The youth said four men had done it but he would not describe them or give his name. Whether Lucas gave him pants or not, the youth was sent

FIGARO REFORMERS

The high-caste barbers of New Delhi, India, gave free hair-cut and shaves for a week to "untouchables", and appealed to all barbers in India to drop their "age-old traditions" of caste discrimination. Liverpool *Echo*, 3-12-56. Cr. Russell.

In Rome the union barbers pulled down girlie calendars, threw away girlie magazines and decided to "guard their conversations so that they won't contribute to juvenile delinquency". N. Y. *Post*, 10-31-56. Cr. Steinberg.

Another cute couplet on the advance of automorality comes from the Hunniston (Calif.) *Standard*, 2-26-56 and 4-1-56. A magistrate in Union, S. C., told a man charged with a minor crime to come to his office at a certain hour, but the judge was late for the appointment. He found a note from the man, "Gone to the gang." Upon checking the county road gang, Magistrate J. Lee Gregory was told by the supervisor that the man has appeared and said, "I come to make 10 days."

The companion piece is from Farmington, N. M., where a prisoner on a drunk and disorderly charge faced a former employer who had come to pay his fine. The would-be benefactor owns a sheep ranch, and the prisoner is quoted as saying he would rather stay in jail than herd sheep.



RUSSELL'S BEST

Britain's Astronomer Royal, presumably the fairly new one named Richard van der Riet Woolley, is quoted in the (London) *Observer*, 3-18-56: "Looking through a telescope is one of the most unrewarding pastimes there is."

The same chap also characterized interplanetary travel as, "utter bilge". *Time*, 1-16-56. Cr. Pierce.

The floor of a house in Islington, Liverpool, had been torn up six times between 2-2-56 and 7-21-56 to find out why pools of water form there. Sometimes the water is an inch and a half deep. No explanation yet, but a Corporation health department official is quoted: "We are keeping an open mind about the whole thing."

Storks generally split their year between Africa and Europe. They "winter" in Africa but go north—as far as Norway and Russia—to breed. In 1956, South African birdwatchers reported that "the majority" of the storks stayed around down there—but did not breed. Liverpool *Echo*, 8-20-56.

away, and in an hour he was back, tied up in a similar way.

The following Thursday, Feb. 23, more thumping and calls for help. This time the victim was an Indian cook named Abdooraman Mader. He described four men as responsible and told of being transported to the Lucas door from a bar in a van, threatened by a knife.

Lucas can't guess who is doing it, but he took out a gun license and bought a double-barrelled shotgun. That is all.

Essenhugh sends the first account from "Missile Mile" containing any such detail as this: "(Herbert Alfred Healey) saw a man raise a gun to his shoulder, and point it at his lorry . . . There was a sound like the ricochet of a bullet and something hit my eye . . . The man made a dive for a fence, and as he went over it, I clearly saw he had a rifle with a long barrel. I couldn't see where he went because my eye was streaming."

That was on the night of 1-18-56, "near the Astolat Nurseries, about a mile south of Esher and within a few hundred yards of where three car windscreens have been shattered in the past seven days." *Daily Express*. The total of windscreens smashed at that time, on that road, acto the *Express* was 83 in the past six years, but no other account reaching us mentions any man or gun being seen. "Sir Maxwell Fyfe . . . said in the House of Commons that the Commissioner of Police had no reason to believe that the damage was attributable to malicious mischief."

On 3-11-56, *Empire News* states that "victims top 100. There were three more last week." The finger of suspicion is pointed at a "red-brick mansion" called mysterious. "It is believed to be a secret research establishment where ultrasonic experts create concentrated pressure waves."

Nothing is said about Healey's testimony regarding the man with the rifle, in fact, "The police have ruled out the theory that a marauder is shooting at cars with a high-powered rifle."

On 3-23-56, the *Times* makes the score 124 incidents *since January* 17, 1954. Still "The police had found no evidence that the damage was due to malicious action." Cr. Gee.

At the same time, auto glass keeps on shattering elsewhere. A bus window "exploded" near Ilford, Essex, 4-14-56. The rear window of a car in Lorain, Ohio, 7-17-56. Cr. Carlos.

CARCASS

At Dry Harbor, Alaska, a thing washed up on the beach. "More than 100 feet long and 15 feet wide . . . reddish brown hair about two inches long . . . syrupy blood flows from puffy parts of the flesh when it is poked . . . no blubber or fat can be seen . . . crimson flesh is decomposing rapidly."

Discovered two months before 7-22-56, by Earl Flemming. Other witnesses, Dan and Clint Mortensen and Bob Kedrick, staff writer on the Juneau *Daily Empire*. "At Seattle, Trevor Kincaid, retired U of Washington zoologist, said the description fits that of no known creature." Nonetheless, *Life Magazine*, 8-6-56, says, "possibly rare, beak-nosed Baird's whale". Cr. Bennett, Barneson, Taylor and others.

Concrete buildings in Yokohama, Japan, erected in the past 30 years, have sunk more than 10 inches. Every building in the city is being inspected for subsidence or leaning, which appears to be prevalent all over town. *Liverpool Echo*, 3-16-56.

A tomcat in Harrismith, Orange Free State, gave birth to four kittens. A veterinary confirmed the cat's bi-sexuality. *Liverpool Echo*, 2-15-56.

Percy Drake of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., presented a promissory note for collection from the State of Massachusetts. The note for £10 was 176 years old, "issued at a rate of 6 per cent interest as an enlistment bounty during the revolutionary wars". It would have been worth over a million dollars, but the State of Massachusetts refused to pay it. *Manchester Guardian*, 7-9-56.

The number of bees in Denmark has been cut in half by the use of insecticides, acts a survey by the State Bee-keeping Research Station near Copenhagen. *Liverpool Echo*, 11-8-56.

In Taniwha Springs, Rotorua, N. Z., has lived a trout, "normally he was reddish-brown from the mouth to the dorsal fin, where he abruptly changed colour to lemon-green. When fed or upset (those) colours reversed." The fish, called Harvey, has been on exhibition nearly 6 years, insured by Lloyds. Now he is dead—and presumably Lloyds has paid. *Liverpool Echo*, 3-6-56.

The storms of 3-26 and 3-27-56 were full of fire. A house in Worksop was struck by "a ball of light", power lines were struck near Spordon, grass fires were reported in Derby, Yorkshire, Cheshire. At Radcliffe, Lancs, "a deafening bang and a blue flash" did considerable damage to house and garage. "The force of the blast led people to think it was a meteorite. Police found nothing." *Manchester Guardian and Daily Express*, 3-28-56.

CHINA IN ESSEX

The southern part of England had a violent thunderstorm with gales that flattened "caravans, chimney stacks and telegraph poles" as well as a plum tree in the yard of MFS Atkins, Colchester, Essex, 7-28 to 7-30-56. Atkins is the MFS who observed black moons in the Sudan. He writes: "Yesterday, during the gale, I found the enclosed object lying on a bed of lettuces just outside my backdoor. I have never seen it before yet it was lying on the surface of the plot. I have dug and forked and weeded this particular patch frequently, so it could not possibly have been in the soil before. The aforementioned plum tree fell a few yards away from the plot. Where did these birds come from? I think it unlikely that anyone started throwing bits of china into my garden in the midst of a storm. I dare say all kinds of objects do tend to collect at the top of plum trees, but even so china birds are not likely to be among them."

The object is a piece of white ceramic material modeled to represent a pair of birds perched on a bough. One bird—presumably the male—is crested like a cockateel. The piece is two inches high by an inch and five eighths in width, obviously broken off a larger work of art, probably mundane.

In this connection we have a note here about Jane, *ae* 9, daughter of the vicar of Shoreham,

Sussex, who dug up a carving of Buddha in the vicarage garden. "Experts say it is 1,700 years old." *News Chronicle*, 9-7-55. *Cr.* Simpson.

FBI NAMES WANTED

Will all members of the Society who also draw salary from the FBI please send your names to YS together with your permission for us to forward this information to J. Edgar Hoover? He has written us a personal letter asking us to name you, but of course we wouldn't do that without your permission.

THE REAPER REAPS

Death has hit the Society severely in 26 FS, beginning with Tom Elsander of Newcastle, England, who had been on the rolls almost from our beginnings.

It is hardly necessary to comment on the quality of the data Tom supplied so consistently, for most of you have read his large contributions to almost every issue of DOUBT. What you will not have known is that the Fortean actually printed was less than a tenth part of all he sent us. He was a serious student of astrology and weather, and was forever seeking correlations in those phenomena. He had a wry, dry sense of humor which made his correspondence a delight, hardly to be replaced in kind.

From his fellow townsman, MFS Simpson, we have a warmly sympathetic letter addressed to Russell, giving a few personal details. Tom was 53, very tall, with a mop of silver hair, who liked his drop of gin at the Black Horse pub, but always refused to consult a doctor. In his last illness, when a medico was finally called in, Tom was hurried to a hospital where he died of pneumonia.

As Russell points out, in his reply to Simpson, "Tom, of his own accord, stepped into the breach when I was away 4½ years serving in the R.A.F. While I was away he corresponded understandingly and sympathetically with my wife, did his best to help her out with the Fortean matters she'd been left to handle as best she could. I shall always be grateful to him for that."

Tom was unmarried. A brother survives in Scotland.

Then we lost our newest Honorary Founder, the celebrated "Ajax" Carlson of Chicago. It would be quite useless for us to recap the career of Dr. Carlson. The Scientific press has done that ad nauseum. For a few of his honors see DOUBT #41. Unfortunately Dr. Carlson did not live up to our expectations of him after accepting the post of Honorary Founder but we lack the space to go into detail. Our problem now is to find a successor operating within the Sacred Circles of Science. Suggestions are solicited and our progress will be reported.

MFS Gordon Hollyer was another loss we must lament but can't repair. He died in Buffalo, N. Y., *ae* 57. He had been a newspaperman for 37 years, his widow tells us, "a book collector scholar and skeptic". All our sympathy goes to her.

Out in Oceana, Calif., MFS Ella Young died at the advanced age of 88. She was a well known

Irish poet, author of several books of Irish mythology, and was named to the chair of Celtic mythology at the U of California in 1931.

Frank Long, the modern proponent of the classic "Golden Mean" represented by the number 1.618 +, mentioned so many times in DOUBT, was another sad casualty of the period.

Although Waldemar Kaempffert was not a member of the Society, he was a long-time personal friend of YS and truly a Fortean at heart. The *New York Times* is to be commiserated upon his passing.

STUDY SOCIAL CREDIT

Those of you who have grown weary of jerking like jumping-jacks whenever the Federal Reserve Board pulls the strings will do well to examine the literature of Social Credit Associates, 21 Chewing Road, Yonkers 2, New York. They issue a bi-monthly Newsletter for \$1.00 a year.

As appears, the Canadian province of Alberta has had a "Social Credit Government" since the year 23 FS, and although it must function under Dominion restrictions made in Ottawa, it seems to have acquitted itself right well.

Will Alberta members please give us their personal reactions to Social Credit after 3 years experience?

WHO KNOWS?

A British member asks about American attempts to develop mental powers by irradiation of the brain with microwaves. What can you tell us?

We do not know if it is pertinent to his purpose, but a book is available, *Mental Power through sleep suggestion*, by Melvin Powers. It costs \$1.00 and may be had from the Brezany Company, Box 309, Glendale 5, Calif. This does not constitute a recommendation for this book by YS.

NO SUCH ORGONE

Through the years a good many members have written to ask why YS was not waving the Fortean flag for Wilhelm Reich, M.D., and a few have got downright nasty about it. In self-defense we have called your attention to his work from time to time and told you where to obtain his literature.

There are two reasons why YS was not more enthusiastic, after studying that literature himself. First, the basic motivation appeared to be an attempt to establish a new set of therapeutic dogmas complete with a jargon nomenclature for the troubled masses to bow to, as Madame Blavatsky founded Theosophy and Mary Baker Eddy her Christian Science. It was as if Reich had said to himself, "Freud did it, why not I?"

YS does not condemn that ambition but there was not the slightest reason for being taken in by it or for assisting in its realization.

The second reason may have been poor judgment. Who is to say? Nobody has ever yet called YS a Puritan, but—if one understood what the new nomenclature intended—the methods indicated for the release of organ energy in the pre-pubertal were capable of vast abuses by prurient adult practitioners, and it was one's opinion that the majority of adult practitioners would be prurient, unfortunately.

Those were the original reason for letting Reich hoe his own row with a minimum of notice. Now that Reich and his colleague, Michael Silvert—also

an M.D.—are in the toils of the Law, we are on their side.

From a copyrighted pamphlet authored by Raymond R. Rees and Lis Wytvell, we learn that the Federal Drug Administration has decreed that there is no such thing as "orgone energy", so it can't be accumulated, so the Orgone Institute Research Laboratories, Inc., have to stop trying to accumulate it or telling about their efforts to do so.

Dr. Reich refused to enter court to defend himself, on the ground that no court is competent to pass on such a question. We are inclined to agree with him on that. There's no God either, but the Federal Drug Administration has no authority to stop the churches from selling His Blood.

No price is set on the pamphlet, perhaps because of the FDA decree, but it cost money to print it, so YS suggests a contribution if you wish to read it. Address: Raymond R. Rees, 180 Main Street, Southampton, Long Island, N. Y.

If you feel very strongly in the matter and wish to contribute to the defense fund, you may send any sum you can afford to William Steig, Box 174, Lakewood, N. J. He asks that checks be made out to "OROP Desert Ea—EPPPO Fund".

In his letter of appeal, dated October 15, 1956, he states that "accumulators have been destroyed, and several tons of the natural scientific writings of Dr. Wilhelm Reich have been put to the torch, under supervision of the FDA pill inspectors."

He goes on to suggest that "Reich's new technology of Cosmic Orgone Engineering" can alter weather, break drought, lift smog, etc., etc., etc. It pains one to observe that this smacks of opportunism, as if driven out of the health field the Doc or his backers have turned to rain-making.

Be that as it may, Reich has attracted a supporter worth having in the person of a writer named Lawrence Barth. Not for profit but because he believes what he is saying, Barth has applied Orgonomy to politics and other world affairs in a pamphlet you may have for the asking. It is called "Digging the Roots of Our Chaos" and—if one understands its essential purport—the suggestion is that we would not now be in this mess if Dr. Reich had administered his treatment to the Fat Cats pre-pubertally.

Besides that pamphlet, Lawrence Barth has written a book of 100 pages called "Universe Inside Me" which is colored by the Reich philosophy without being about the man. It is more about Barth, and what it tells you about him is admirable. In a word, if Barth is the kind of person and the quality of mentality that can be produced by Orgonomy, we can do away with the Federal Drug Administration because we won't need any more drugs.

The style is modern but completely comprehensible. The phrase-making is somewhat reminiscent of Kenneth Patchen and Dylan Thomas. One hopes that Barth is a young man because the uppermost question at the end of the book is—where will he go from here?

So—make out a check for \$2.00 payable to Lawrence Barth, and send it to Box 99, Village Station, N. Y. C.—whether you are interested in Reich or not. "Universe Inside Me" is exciting and sound.

WYKES WHACKY

In England they have a weekly called *Everybody's*, and in the issue dated June 23, 1956, appears an article by Alan Wykes. The title is, "Is the Earth Really Round?"

The question is well asked in those few words, but in the thousands that follow Brother Wykes goes off the deep end. His biggest blooper is the assertion that, "In America there is still a flourishing group of philosophers, calling themselves fort-eans, who all subscribe to the flat-earth belief."

We trust that no fewer than three-score British members of the Society have waylaid Wykes and straightened him out by this time.

Oddly, however, the main illustration for his article is captioned, "Our world, as photographed from 100 miles up by equipment in rockets fired from the White Sands proving grounds, New Mexico. The picture, a composite of 310 sectional prints, so far has provoked no comment from the flat-earth believers."

The picture so captioned shows an horizon curved in the orthodox manner.

Not as a flat-earther, but simply as an observer "provoked" by the picture to "comment", YS suggests that "310 sectional prints" of the edge of a billiard table can easily be pasted into a composite proving that the edge of the table is as round as a billiard ball. Cr. Simpson



APOLOGIES TO LEITZELL

In DOUBT #52 we printed a piece by Russell W. Gibbons giving the North Pole back to Doc Cook. In the course of the article some suggestions were made which the author had based upon erroneous premises. Mr. Ted Leitzell found them offensive and took immediate steps to set the record straight. Although DOUBT and its editor have no responsibility in the matter, we are extremely sorry the incident occurred and this is our attempt to rectify the misunderstanding.

Mr. Gibbons writes: "Upon preparation of my initial draft for the article on Dr. Cook I had been sent some information concerning Mr. Ted Leitzell's work upon Dr. Cook's behalf, which, unfortunately, I will admit to not having secured complete documentation before inserting it in my manuscript. Upon learning otherwise I requested Editor Thayer to expunge this reference, but the plates had already been set and the run made on the issue. This became known to me only days before the magazine actually appeared. I have subsequently been advised that Mr. Donald B. MacMillian has

never been connected with the Zenith Corporation, and that Mr. Leitzell accepted his position with Zenith almost seven years after he left as editor of the magazine. Mr. Leitzell has advised me of these facts and it is with deep regret that I accept the fact that aspersions were cast upon him."

Mr. Leitzell writes, in part: "Gibbons should learn his facts before writing such material about anybody. Since you obviously did not check his statements, I am giving you here the facts on this situation."

"MacMillan is not, and has never been, an officer or director of Zenith.

"The *Real America* articles Gibbons mentions were published in the issues from September, 1935 to January, 1936.

"In 1937 I brought Dr. Cook to Chicago, housed him in a good hotel at my own expense, and worked out with him his demand that the American Geographic Society investigate his polar claims. This brought Cook back into the limelight, and gave him a new lease on life.

"In 1938 I went to Alaska at my own expense to investigate his McKinley work. I did not climb Mt. McKinley, but did make an extensive study of the Ruth Glacier area, where Cook is alleged to have taken his summit photo, and demonstrated that the fake mountain top picture published by his enemies was no duplicate of his summit photo. This material, as well as long and favorable article about Cook, was published in *Adventure* in either 1938 or 1939.

"In the same years I published other material supporting Dr. Cook. A few years later a book publisher asked my opinion of Cook's manuscript, *Return From the Pole*. I strongly recommended its publication.

"I have never changed my opinion about Cook's Polar success and Peary's failure. Nor have I been muzzled on either subject . . . Only one new fact of any importance to the subject has become available for publication: Cook's description of the "glacial island" near the Pole is the first description ever given of the floating ice islands that are now identified as T-1, T-2, etc. That is a nice bit of evidence for Cook, since it places him several hundred miles closer to the Pole than his critics concede, but it is not enough to warrant a magazine article. If new, pertinent facts become available to me on the subject, I shall write about them.

"Now, about the high salaried job that stilled my vitriolic pen in 1936:

"In November, 1942, after being rejected for physical reasons when I volunteered for the army, I went to work in the Zenith factory as a screw driver mechanic at 80¢ per hour. This was nearly seven years after publication of the *Real America* series, and four years after I had run out of anything to write about Dr. Cook. That would make it the latest and leastst bribe in history."

Mr. Leitzell is now Public Relations Director for Zenith Radio Corporation.

A fuller presentation of Mr. Gibbons' thesis appeared in the December issue of FURY magazine. Copies may be obtained from the publisher, Weider Periodicals, 16 Hopkins Avenue, Jersey City, N. J. —but YS does not know the price.



FALLS

Hail—golf-ball size—at Indianapolis, Ind., midnight before 5-14-55.

Hail—the first seen there in 47 years—at Toyama, Central Japan, Sunday before 5-18-55.

Frozen "bubbles"— $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter—fell "slowly" in a small area, 5 feet by 10 feet, on a farm at Rutherford, N. C. The sky was clear and the weather "warm". Cr Wimmer.

Hail in a restricted area, 400 feet by 300 feet, just west of county line between Chautauqua and Cattaragus, N. Y. So much hail fell in 15 minutes that drifts 8 inches high were still unmelted 5 hours later, 6-10-55. Buffalo *Evening News*.

Hail—larger than baseballs—great damage—Billings, Montana, 7-6-55.

"Hail—ruined 90% of the corn crop in an area of 150 square miles around Parma, Italy, 7-27-55.

Hail—size of hen eggs—Northern Transvall, Africa, 12-1-55.

Ice—"200-pound cake"—made a hole 18 inches in diameter in roof of house and bathroom ceiling, 9113 Juniper Street, Firestone district of L. A., Calif., 3-12-56. House is under an airplane route. Sheriff is checking take-offs and landings. Cr. Moore and others.

Ice—rectangular chunk 6x6x4 inches, alleged to have weighed 6 pounds—during rain at Brampton, Ont., 7-6-56. An uninformed scribe on the Hamilton *Spectator* writes, "Meteorologists say it might be the largest hailstone on record . . . Record holder now is 4½ pound hailstone which fell 100 years ago in Spain." Cr. Williams and Caron.

Hail—thousands of tons of it, up to golf ball size—five feet deep in places, at Tunbridge Wells, Eng., 8-6-56. Cr. Borden and Campbell.

Ice—chunk 2 feet by 1 foot by 2 inches—from a clear warm sky over North Fresno, Calif., 8-7-56. "Witnesses" said it came from a jet plane. The pilot said it did not. Santa Monica *Evening Outlook*.

Hail—as large as tangerines—in the night of 8-12-13-56, around Temple, Pa. Much glass damage and human injury reported. Phila. *Bulletin*, cr Borden.

Ice—"28-pound chunk" in Bessinby Park, Ruislip, London, England, 10-2-56. Police thought from plane. Cr *Oltcher*.

Ice—chunks weighing a quarter of a pound and more—in a storm that smashed buildings and killed livestock, village of Ojo de Agua, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, 10-18-56. Cr Zubryn.

Fish—"four good-sized carp"—not seen to fall!

—caught in gutter during rainstorm in Arcadia, Calif., 11-20-55. Buffalo *Courier-Express*.

Fish—"shoals of small" ones—fell in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Attributed to two small boys who alleged to have thrown them from a window. Reville, 1-13-56. Cr Simpson.

Fish—live—dropped in the streets from "a freak, twisting wind"—alleged to have been "sucked up from the bay" a mile away, Chula Vista, Calif., 4-14-56.

Fish in gutter when water main burst, 5th Avenue and 59th Street, N. Y. C. Fireman caught a 6-inch brook trout in his hands, 4-23-56. Cr Gee, Essenhigh, Steinberg.

Fish—about 24 bullheads, 6 bluegills and "several" crabs found in an excavation ditch in Hammond, Ind., 6-13-56. Our member Lina Pekownik talked to the finder, Mrs. Julia Crowe. The water had been deeper but was practically all gone when the fish were found alive. No connection between ditch and any body of water. Mrs. Crowe does not think anybody could have dumped them in.

Fish-rain of, annually in July, at Yoro, Honduras. This is an old story, told again by *American Legion Magazine*, April, 1956. Cr E. S. Anderson.

Fish—small ones fell in a "cloudburst" at Tortosa, Spain, 8-7-56. Cr *Oltcher*.

Frogs—hundreds, small, alive—fell into the Piazza San Zeno, Verona, Italy. *Daily Telegraph*, 7-18-56. Thought picked up in Venice by whirlwind. Cr Hibbert, Essenhigh, others.

Chicks—dead—covered back yard on Clune Avenue, Venice, Calif. Mrs. Elsie Moore, the finder, thinks they fell from an airplane. Santa Monica *Outlook*, 5-1-56. Cr Hehr.

Nothing was seen to fall, and no noise reported, but at 12:30 A.M. 9-22-56, in St. Paul, Minn., residents near Mendota and Euclid were awakened by a bright light. It died out in "a few minutes" and nobody investigated until daylight. In the "blacktopping" of the street was found a hole about a foot long, two inches wide and deep. It was encrusted with a "molten white material resembling plaster of paris but heavier". St. Paul *Dispatch*, cr Harrison.

Spiderweb—so identified because it had little red spiders in it—borne by wind, settled down all over San Mateo County, Calif., 6-11-56. Cr Chapin.

In June, which is the same month, but no day noted, the Bournemouth (Australia) *Echo* recounted the drifting and fall of "millions of web-like white threads" through Melbourne's seaside suburbs. "Six scientists of the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization have studied the threads . . . not wool, not from feathers, not cotton, not wood-fibre, does not look like synthetic fibre . . . Some of them are thinking in terms of webs of spiders yet to be identified, but, as the threads have a melting quality, they are further puzzled."

"Flies are plaguing lightships along the East Coast (of Britain) . . . probably arrived with the warm air currents from the Continent." *Daily Mail*, 9-25-56. Cr Simpson.



COLORED RAINS

Black—on ten villages in Oro Valley, North-West Spain. "Only scraping with a knife took the stains away. Villagers blame atomic explosions." *London Daily Express*, 3-6-56.

Red—called "dust storm"—60-mile winds but no rain mentioned: at Onslow, Western Australia, "port nearest the Monte Bello atomic test islands . . . blinding dust . . . blew in windows . . . covered the sea with a reddish powder." *Liverpool Echo*, 3-7-56. *Cr Russell*.

Red—called "sandstorm" over most of Sicily. Similar to phenom of 1908 "before earthquake killed thousands". Scientific (sic) explanations—"might have come from a distant volcanic eruption. Others said it blew on a south wind from North Africa . . . Mt. Aetna rumbled suddenly after weeks of silence . . . strong winds colored the skies an eerie yellow-red." *A. P.* 3-23-56.

Mud—no color mentioned—Rome and elsewhere in Italy—"thin muddy rain" attributed by meteorologists to "winds of exceptional violence in North Africa." *London Times*, 4-18-56. *Cr Gee*.

Yellow rain—west coast of Sumatra—left precipitate of yellowish particles. "Government scientists soon allayed the villagers' fears. They identified them as floral pollen." *Liverpool Echo*, 7-19-56. *Cr Russell*.

Blue rain—at Yaradea, in the far north of South Australia, weekend of October 20-21. Same color repeated at Adelaide, Australia, the following Thursday. *Liverpool Echo*, 10-25-56. *Cr Russell*.

COLORED SEA

One of the most intensive pieces of Fortean investigation and reporting in recent years was done by MFS Al Howe of Laie, Oahu, Hawaii, beginning in late May and continuing to the middle of July.

As early as February 16, Brother Howe was writing hot letters to the Honolulu *Advertiser* about "flying saucers", and we shall refer to him again in that connection. The quality of his Forteanism is exemplified by this quotation from one of his letters the *Advertiser* published.

"As an ex-sceptic on flying saucers, I wish to say that I remain sceptical about some things. I do not believe, or accept 'talking buildings,' I will not believe that 'The Pentagon announced,' or 'The Pentagon revealed today' is a real phenomenon . . . If someone can produce a talking building, I will match it with a flying saucer—a talking flying saucer."

In April Howe joined the Society, and on May 23 he took some photos of the sea from his own

plane which he pilots himself. The occasion for the photos—one of which we reproduce—was evidence on the surface of the sea indicating an eruption of a submerged volcano.

"If, upon analysis, the stuff in the water turns out to be pumice, it will be evidence of the first undersea eruption in this area in history." *Advertiser*, 5-4-56.

The local pundits—Agatin T. Abbott and Doak C. Cox, geologists, and Gordon A. Macdonald, volcanologist, all displayed symptoms of preferring not to believe what the evidence indicated. "Hundreds of square miles of ocean where the underwater activity had been reported were carefully searched, but Dr. Macdonald could find nothing—not even stained water—to back up eruption reports." *Advertiser*, 5-25-56.

"Thus, in the scientific manner of scorekeeping, no eruption has been proved." *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, 5-25-56.

MFS Howe flew around leaving jugs with fishermen in likely places, and offers of \$20 for bona fide samples of what had been seen. In a letter to YS, Howe mentions the coincidence that on the day of the possible "eruption" (1) Onomea Arch fell down, (2) there was an eclipse of the moon, and (3) a quake in the Fiji Island area. Howe also talked to the editor of the *Advertiser*, suggesting that Dr. Macdonald be asked to comment on the coincidences. The ed is quoted, "You can't get a scientist to say anything."

On May 30 two Air Force pilots reported a second manifestation of very similar sea surface conditions, 215 miles NE of Honolulu.

"I don't know what it could be," said famed Dr. Macdonald. *Advertiser*, 5-31-56.

The *Star-Bulletin* of that date printed a map of the area showing the relation of four-several similar reports, 8-20-55, 9-22-55, 5-22-56, 5-30-56.

Three chunks of "fresh" lava were found by boys on the beaches of Oahu. Even Dr. Macdonald admitted it "likely" that they were connected with the event of 5-22-56. *Advertiser*, 6-1-56.

In his monthly report for May, Dr. Macdonald noted, "On the basis of statistics, Mauna Loa is past due for another eruption." The famed Dr. was "due to return to the mainland June 25." *Star-Bulletin*, 6-4-56.

Quake—"apparently" near New Zealand. *Advertiser*, 6-6-56.

June 7, 8, 9, the local papers told of the expedition by Adrian Richards of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, with Doak Cox aboard, in the submarine Bonita, submerged at the site of the Oahu phenomenon. Sounds were recorded on tape which "resemble underwater volcanic noises".

Howe writes: "Hawaii has lapsed back into its usual somnambulistic state. The machinations and utterances of our Island politicians, the comings and goings of the tourists provide the only evidence that there is life here."

Dr. Agatin Abbott was quoted on the subject of "green and yellow matter boiling on the water" in the Molokai channel "this week" (7-6-56). The samples "were nothing more than marine plant growth", that is algae. "We will need samples from the Kauai 'eruption' before we can entirely debunk the underwater volcano theory."



MEALY'S GRIST

There you have it. The sum of orthodox intention is to "debunk" whatever they prefer not to believe. The idea of arriving at the facts of the case has not occurred to them apparently.

Another prof at the U of Hawaii, Dr. Albert Bernatowicz, "explained" how ocean algae act and could cause viewers to think something was erupting from the ocean floor. "He said there was no significance to the sudden growth of algae around Hawaiian waters even though it has never been noticed here before."

MFS Howe flew around and picked up samples of the discolored water, which the Scientists were too busy to do for themselves. He left the samples with the editor of the *Star Bulletin* together with some suggested questions to ask the bigwigs. Although the ed appeared to be interested in what he called Howe's "theory", no analysis of his samples or answers to his questions appeared in the paper.

Enter Dr. Eaton.

Apparently Dr. Macdonald's successor as "famed volcanologist" is Dr. Jerry Eaton. He is quoted by the *Advertiser*, 7-9-56, "series of discolorations . . . probably are all the result of the same thing: floating plant life . . . He said there still is no definite proof of a tangible nature that none of the underwater disturbances was not volcanic."

So help me, that's what it says here.

On 7-9-56 the *Star Bulletin* observed that, "The submarine noises could have been anything—even 'the belching of whales' one scientist observed."

On 7-12-56 the *Advertiser* ran a headline—"Three More Algae Patches Sighted".

The story under that headline makes perfectly clear that no samples of the material identified thus baldly as "algae" had been examined by anybody.

MFS Howe will keep us posted.

A consistently fine performer in Minneapolis, MFS Mealy, who letters slogans on the outside of his mail to us, has outdone himself this session. In an envelope bearing the legend: "History is the propaganda of the victorious. Voltaire" these items stand out.

Two advertisements from the Pittsburgh *Courier*, 10-13-56, offering "blessings" by "Prophets", apparently competitors. Each ad presents a photograph of the advertiser, both Negroes. One is Prophet Cooper, the other, Prophet John the Conqueror. The text of Prophet Cooper's ad is not entirely legible, but we can make out—"Blessing—Blessing—Blessing/Health, Happiness to a more Successful Life Wishing Won't Get It Seeing Me Will . . . Don't miss this God Sent man . . . Telephone or telegraph or come in person. No mail received."

Prophet John the Conqueror takes larger space and you can read every word. These are some of them: "Attention . . . With God All Things Are Possible / Money? Money? Money? To all out-of-town clients / I am open all day Sundays / For sure hit success Telegraph — Phone / Do not write —positively no letters sent or received / Be a Sure Winner Today / Phone for any special guaranteed blessing / Unconditionally guaranteed for 20 days / See Jet Magazine, May 3. Read about lady who was blessed with \$12,000 after seeing Prophet John."

In Montreal, Justice Claude Prevost dismissed a damage action by Mrs. Noella Lauzon against Lucien Lemaire, ruling that appellant's testimony under oath was not acceptable because she did not believe in heaven or hell. *Minneapolis Star*, 11-10-56.

A new regulation by the air force defines BINGO as "a form of social entertainment and recreation, not gambling" and permits the game to be played in service clubs where gambling is banned. *Minneapolis Tribune*, 12-4-56.

From the same paper, 12-10-56, a piece about birth control in Red China quotes this advice by one Yeh Hsi-Chun: "Fresh tadpoles coming out in the spring should be washed clean in cold water and swallowed whole . . . If a woman swallows 14 live tadpoles on the first day and 10 more on the following day, she will not conceive for five years."

In Arizona, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish clergymen joined in organizing a drive to secure (sic) a referendum on the question of adopting a state law making blood tests mandatory before issuance of a marriage license. Minneapolis *Star*, 4-19-56.

THE SCIENCE CIRCUS

The older clowns have been pushed out of the papers by newcomers of late. We seldom read the names of Wilkinson or the Picards—and even Green-Balls La Paz seems to have lost his publicity touch.

Now it's Hurler of Basle who makes page one of the N. Y. *Times*, 3-10-56, by redating a fossil jaw found in 1872, putting his ancestors on Earth 10,000,000 years ago. *Cr Mitchell, Simpson, Olcher* and others.

Now it's Kuiper of Yerkes Observatory who says Pluto never was a planet. It's a runaway moon from Neptune's harem. AP and other papers, 2-5-56. *Cr Charpless, Markham, Essenhigh* and others.

Now it's Fritz Zwicky of California Institute of Technology, who made the Liverpool *Echo* two days running. On 3-15-56 Zwicky told a news conference that a rocket ship on the way to the moon could scoop its own fuel out of space. On 3-16-56 he is quoted as wanting "to use hydrogen bomb explosions to recast the solar system and so create new, habitable planets to absorb the world's excess population". *Cr Russell*.

Now it's M. H. Traphagen of the Lamont Observatory, New York, who recently took to Australia the "Vening Meinesz pendulum, which is so finely adjusted that it can obtain results accurate to one-part in a million."

That remarkable accuracy is going to be applied to the composition of the earth's crust aboard the submarine *Telemachus*. Liverpool *Echo*, 6-19-56. *Cr Russell*.

Now it's Frank B. Estabrook, called "an Army scientist of Pasadena, Cal., (who) thinks it is time for geologists to go down deeper" than the present record of man's penetration into the aforesaid "crust". Acto Edwin Diamond, *INS Science Writer*, 11-17-56, the deepest hole made by man went down 22,570 feet, in the Mississippi delta marshes south of New Orleans.

Now it's Dr. E. R. R. Holmberg, "chief superintendent of the (British) Army Operational Research Unit", who has advanced a "purely mathematical theory" that "the universe has always been in existence and always will be. It had no beginning and it will have no end."

Oddly enough, that's what YS has been saying this good while, in a "purely philosophical" way, of course.

Now it's Nello Pace *versus* Bill Brewster.

Pace is associate professor of physiology at Berkeley, and he told "a symposium on problems of space flight" (3-1-56) that "space travelers of

the future may come back to earth younger than the people they left behind".

That was a consoling thought while it lasted, if it's going to take a million light-years to land anywhere, let alone get back, but the notion was blasted by Dr. William R. Brewster, Jr., of Harvard Medical School, who must be known to his classes as a kill-joy. Science Service, that bastion of profiable orthodoxy, told its subscribers (11-28-56) that "Dr. Brewster also wondered what will happen to man when he gets completely away from the earth's gravitational pull. There is no way to tell, he said, for now we can only make him weightless within earth's gravity." (N.B. One asks when, if ever, even this has been accomplished. YS has no data whatever of weightlessness on Earth, and no data disassociating *weight* with the pull of so-called "gravity". If "gravity" (so-called) ever has been overcome we should like to hear of it.)

But—Science Service continues—"That is not the same kind of weightlessness he will experience in space." End article.

Dear Science Service: What other kind of weight or weightlessness is conceivable to earthlings save that comprehended by the term "gravity"? We only ask.

And now, finally, it's Dr. John L. Barnes, called "head" of Systems Laboratories Corporation, Los Angeles, "a newly-formed firm of scientists incorporated expressly to do research and development in space flight . . . A team of more than 20 specialists in problems of high altitude flight is in the group, believed to be the first of its kind." Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, 6-20-56. *Cr Olcher*.

It will not surprise any Fortean who knows his elbow from Betelgeuse if Dr. Barnes' Corporation receives a sweet, juicy, plum-like contract from the U. S. Government very shortly.

THOSE WITHOUT SIN

Beginning in May, of 25 FS, stones began falling on the farm of Bill Hack, at Mayanup, West Australia, and continued to fall at irregular intervals for at least 15 months acto the Kojonup *Courier*, 11-7-56 old style. Perhaps they are still coming down, but that is our latest report, supplied by correspondent W. H. Davies of West Kojorup, who also sent clippings from *Weekend Mail*, Perth, 6-18-55 and 7-9-55, Blackwood Warren *Sentinel*, 6-30-55 and 7-7-55, Kojonup *Courier*, 8-25-55, together with remarks culled from personal interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Hack.

The case is complicated by the presence and activities of aborigine "natives" and their witch doctors as well as by the barely educated local newsmen who either sensationalize the data or attribute the events to "magnetism".

The Hacks are literate, but the reporters can't keep them straight. In some accounts the property belongs to "Bill" or "W. Hack", in others to "Bill and Ron Hack", in still others to "Doug Hack". Bill is more largely favored, and a photo shows him with stones in his hand, talking it over with Gilbert Smith who first observed the phenomena.

These are the data gleaned: stones varying in size from match-head to egg have "rained" inside and outside of houses in the vicinity, some hot, all warm, "even on the most bitterly cold night".

The Smiths have seven children.

The usual guards and posses have hunted and watched with the usual results—*nil*.

Another account mentions the Krakouer family and attributes seven children to that household.

One paper dug up a similar case which had been reported in Queensland in 1941.

One paper mentions Charles Fort, thus:—"in one of his books touched on the subject of stone throwing in as much to say that sections of the world were formed by various gases combining together and forming into solid rock formations his reasoning is 'why can't this still be happening today?'"

You see what we are up against.

Nearer home(in Westville Gardens, N. J., acto the Philadelphia *Bulletin* of 10-22-55 and 10-23-55, stones from pebble size to "half a brick" size pelted six neighboring houses but concentrated on the home of Nazzareno Tomasetti, 45 Lehigh Avenue. A wood is nearby and the barrage started about 8 p.m. It continued sporadically until 5:30 a.m., although as many as 60 police and firemen searched for the source with powerful lights and guns which they fired.

Quiet from 5:30—when the searchers went home—until 10 a.m., when it began again in broad daylight. That evening, still more stones. *Cr Borden*.

Beginning 10-26-56, and for three nights thereafter, "heavy lumps of mortar, brick and volcanic rock" fell in Parnell, a suburb of Auckland, N. Z. Several persons were struck, including a constable, windows have been smashed and cars dented. The Dunedin *Evening Star*, 10-27-56, and the Otago *Daily Times*, 10-29-56, both mention similar phenomena in the same area the previous December, "but droves of police, residents and visitors were unable to locate the thrower." *Cr Powell*.

Most of these stone-tossing phenoms go unexplained, but YS suggests an answer in the headline above, out of Holy Writ. These dornicks are being thrown by those amongst us who are without sin, thus obviously invisible.

HOPE FOR INDIA

In India, where priests and cows are a greater burden on the people than the British ever were, a monthly publication is thriving called, *The Indian Rationalist*. As the name implies it presents the attitude of non-believers and prints the news of their progress. Send \$1.00 for twelve issues to, The Indian Rationalist, 9 Broadway, Madras—1, India.

A new and handsome bi-monthly in the free-thought field comes out of St. Louis. It is *The American Rationalist*, 2218 St. Louis Avenue, St. Louis 6, Mo. \$2.00 a year.

Our congratulations to MFS Alt and his colleagues in Philadelphia. The Friendship Liberal League has bought its own building and opened it as the Thomas Paine Center, at 5233 North 5th Street. Stop in, say hello and buy a book.

INTERPLANETAIRES CONVENE

L'Association Mondialiste Interplanetaire, with headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, announces a convention in Paris, Sept. 14, 15, 16. Our Jack

Campbell will attend and report. This organization, which has so much in common with the Fortean Society, publishes a monthly, *Le Courier Interplanetaire*, printed in French. It covers international (if not interplanetary) news on the following subjects: "Spiritualite, Action anti-atomique, Astronefs, Astronomie, Astronautique, Sciences, Philosophie, Techniques, Astrologie, Mondialisme." \$2.50 a year. Address A. Nahon, 25 ave Denantou, Lausanne, Switzerland.

STOP THE CENSOR

The right to read is being seriously menaced in a good many US communities, and by several arms of the federal government at our borders, according to the July issue of *Censorship Bulletin*, published by the American Book Publishers Council.

The feds—Post Office, Customs Bureau and Department of Justice—listened to the protests of representatives of the top book-publishing and library associations July 9, but "The hearing was indefinitely adjourned" without any tangible advance in the fight to keep official hands off books and periodicals being imported.

Local censors are busy in Peoria, Ill., all over Michigan—especially in Detroit—in Utica, and Oneida County, N. Y., and in Chicago. All Forteans in those localities are urged to combat the activities of these snoopers in every way possible. Prime offenders against the freedom to read are—National Legion of Decency and National Organization for Decent Literature, with members everywhere—also Rev. Harold Fray of the Plymouth Congregational Church, Utica, N. Y., and Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago.

Unexpected but welcome aid for the side of freedom came from a Jesuit, John Courtney Murray, of Woodstock, Maryland, and the heroine of the period was Mary Fowler of the Fargo (N. D.) High School.

STILL THERE?

In 1938 old style, the janitor of an apartment house in San Francisco fell off a ledge and died of injuries. Acto the San Francisco *Chronicle*, seven "strange" deaths had occurred in the house in less than a year. The address was 824 Laguna Street. Will local members check if the same building stands, and what has been going on since?

Will a London member check in local papers for details of the disappearance of Thomas Holland of Hanley, England. The ground is supposed to have opened beneath his feet and swallowed him up. That was Dec. 2, 1903. He was "never seen again" acto Ripley. Fort does not have a note on it.

Is George J. Knapp still alive and kicking in Pueblo, Colorado? He filed suit in April, 1943 old style, charging Roosevelt and Churchill with conspiring to start that "war".

FORTEAN ADVANCE

The Principal of Elementary Schools in Melbourne, Florida, is Wesley O. Morris, MFS. Last summer he wrote:

"I thought you would be interested in this direct quotation from a supplementary science reader for 5th and 6th grade use in the schools

of Florida. The book is *The Real Book About Space Travel*, by Hal Goodwin, published by Garden City Books, 1952. The following quotation is from pages 172, 173, 174.

"A Remarkable Man, Charles Fort, spent his life digging up such stories. — Even if we throw out 99% of Fort's facts—the remaining 1% can't be put aside.

"Fort wrote four books which have been put into one volume called *The Books of Charles Fort*. No one who wants to think for himself and to make up his own mind—can study the subject fully without reading Fort."

When YS congratulated Brother Morris on his choice of texts, the Principal replied, "We try to teach them the scientific method as distinguished from the method of scientists." That's a Fortean epigram if we ever read one.

FREEDOM OF OPINION

MFS Collander meets with a group in the Unitarian Church, Davenport, Iowa, where the topics of lectures and discussions are worth talking about. A lecture by Collander on Dissent in a Changing World, has been published under the title—FREEDOM OF OPINION, an Essay on the History of Blasphemy, Heresy and Security Laws of Other Ages in Comparison to Our Own. It shows a lot of research and presents facts you should know. 37 mimeographed pages, in book form with soft cover, from the Society \$1.00.

THE NAME'S THE SAME

Under this heading, if you will be so kind as to keep them coming, we shall print literary allusions to "doubt". For a starter, this one was sent in by MFS Maxson of Washington, D. C.

"Rather I prize DOUBT

"Low kinds exist without,

"Finished and finite clouds, untroubled by a spark."

That is from *Rabbi Ben Ezra*, by Robert Browning.

BEFORE 1800

As most of you know, Charles Fort made no effort to assemble data in his fields of inquiry antedating 1800, but the Society welcomes any you may encounter in your reading. MFS Caron sends the following:

History of Rome; by Titus Livius.

Book XXIV, Chap. 10. Year 538 B.C.:—Numerous prodigies were reported to have happened this year; . . . That at Lanuvium crows had built their nest in the inside of the temple of Juno Sospita; in Apulia, a green Palm tree took fire, at Mantua, a stagnating piece of water caused by the overflowing of the river Minucius, appeared as of blood; At Cales, a shower of chalk; and, in the cattle-market at Rome, one of blood fell in the Istrian street; a fountain under ground burst out in such an impetuous stream, as to roll and carry off jars and casks which were in the place, like a violent flood; Lightning fell on the public court-house, in the Capitol, the temple of Vulcan in the field of Mars, a nut tree in the country of the Sabines and a public road, a wall and a gate at Gabii. . . . that the spear of Mars at Praeneste

moved forward of its own accord; That an ox spoke in Sicily; That an infant in the mother's womb, in the country of the Maricinians, had called out "Io, Triumphe"; at Spoletum a woman was transferred into a man and at Adria an altar was seen in the sky. . . .

Book XXIV, Chap. 44. Year 539 B.C.:—Besides which several deceptions prodigies which had been reported as facts: That the figures of ships of war had appeared in the river at Tarracini, where no ships were; That in the temple of Jupiter, at Vicilium in the district of Compsa, a clashing of arms, and that the river at Amitemum flowed in streams of blood.

Book XXVII, Chap. 4. Year 542 B.C.:—During the summer, many prodigies were reported from the neighboring cities and countries: . . . that the temple of Jupiter was struck on the roof by lightning and almost stripped of its covering; that at Anagnia, about the same time, the ground before one of the gates was fired, and without the aid of any combustible matter continued burning a day and a night; that at Compitum, in the district of Anagonia, the birds forsook their nests on the trees in the grove of Diana; that near the mouth of the harbour of Tarracini, snakes of wonderful size were seen in the sea and sporting like fishes; that at Tarquinii, a pig was littered which had a human face; and that, in the district of Feronia four statues sweated blood profusely for a day and a night.

Book XXVII, Chap. 37. Year 545 B.C.:—Before the consuls left home, the nine days' solemnity was performed on account of a shower of stones having fallen from the sky at Veii. . . . The people at Minturna said what was still more terrifying, that a stream of blood had flowed in at one of the gates; . . . The nine days' solemnity was afterwards performed a second time, on account of a shower of stones seen to fall. . . .

Book XXIX, Chap. 10: Reports that showers of stones are more numerous. Chap. 15: Was seen two suns in the sky; at Setia, a sudden bright light in the sky; extending from East to West.

Book XXX: Crows attacked the gold of the Capitol and even swallowed it; in a temple in Antium, rats devoured a golden crown; around Capua, the country was covered with locusts; . . . At Anagnia was first seen, in the heavens, isolated lights which soon merged into an ardent torch of an extraordinary dimension; at Frusenon, an arc described a curve around the sun later to be extended to surround completely the sun; in the district of Arpinum, the earth subsided leaving an abyss; at Cuma, the sun seemed to have been reduced in diameter while a shower of stones was noted; stones fell on Mount Palatina.

Book XXXI, Chap. 12: In Lucanta, the sky was on fire; at Privernum, the sun became red while the weather was so serene; a child was born with the organs of the two sexes.

Book XXXIV, Chap. 45: Drops of blood fell in the Forum; the head of Vulcan appeared as on fire; the waters of the River Neron, changed to milk; the Andreae district reported showers of stones.

Book XXXVI, Chap. 38: At Terracine and Amitemi, a few showers of stones.

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

Box 3 (Continued)

- Aug Insects scarce and abundant / See summer 1865
- Aug Swarms 1888
- Aug Insects see Autumn, 1872
- Aug 12 Insects See Sept 1921
- Oct Locusts and drought in England / July 6, 1921
- Aug 12 a green fly in London / Feb 21, 1921
- Aug 13 Swarms 1892
- Aug 10 Insects and drought June July, 1921 etc
- Aug 13 Locusts Ireland / London / Aug 31, 1857
- Oct Locusts and sunspots / Editorial N. Y. Times, 1879, Jan 15, p. 4
- Oct Locusts in Feb in England / 1875
- Aug Insect year 1846
- Aug 10 hosts of sand flies and ladybirds Aug 2 (or 21) 1858
- Aug Locust in winter / Feb 25, 1875
- Oct Locusts / appeared in 1846 / Field / Oct 23, 1869
- Oct Locusts Ireland / London 1857 / see I.T., Aug 31, (1869) p. 8, Sept. 1, p. 7, Sept 2, p. 7

- Aug 13 "Harpatus" near Dover / Aug 12, 1839
- Aug 13 Ants of a foreign specie / Jan (?TT) 10, 1913 (There's something else I can't read on this one too. Looks like Cd, with a circle around it. TT)
- Aug Aphides / July 24, 1839
- Summer See Summer insects etc 1892
- Aug L. B. (?ladybirds?TT) See Aug 8, 1826
- Aug 13 L. B. / See Aug 20, 1864 / See July 24, '69 / Lead up to *all year*. (Fort's emphasis)
- Aug L. B's / Summer 1807 (N.B. The next five notes only were in a separate wire clip, within the one mentioned before. TT)
- Oct No locust in immature state in Britain ever recorded / Sci Gos, May, 1895, p. 83
- Oct Locust in Eng. Feb 25, 1875
- Oct Locusts England Ireland / Aug 31, 1857
- Oct Great numbers of locusts in England in 1846 / Field, Oct 3, 1857
- Oct Spiders / Just such a fall of spiders away from webs in Oct. 5, 1869 (That is the end of the clip within the clip. The other grouping continues. TT)
- Aug L.B. Aug 8, 1826 / Always about at Brighton
- Aug 31 black swan killed near Lowesloft "without the slightest traces of an escaped bird / Zoologist, 1869-1867 / See b. swan 1846
- Aug 13 Swans and insects / March 25, 1889 (That—I am happy to say—is all, TT)
- Aug Insects / See 1893 Summer

Box A (Resumed)

- Aug 13 D. News, p. 4 / Great excitement in Brussels over kidnaping of children
- Aug disap children Belfast / Sept 20, 1895
- Aug early / Myst disaps children in Cork / Rugby Gazette, Aug 28, p. 2
- Aug In a fortnight in Cork 13 children disappeared. Not in one case explained / Tiverton Times, Aug 31
- Aug Lord Chief Justice found drowned in Oct

Box 3 (Resumed)

- (Fort had these tied with string to a point marked)
- Aug 15 Science / Daily News Have Sep 15
- July- Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper Have
- Aug
- Aug 13 / Lady birds France / No mark min Petites Nouvelles Entomologique

- 13 / Nothing of I. B in Cosmos
- 13 / I. B Nothing found in Jour des Debets
- 13 / Nothing of I. birds in Reviet Mag de Zoologie 1869
- 13 / I. B No mention of lady birds in pubs of Ent Socs of France & Belg. Nothing in L'Abelle
Bo / Sunny In Battersea Park (London) clouds of insects, hovering over trees in such smoke-like volume that people thought trees been set afire. Field June 4, 1870, p. 474
Insect famine might mean mysterious awareness other parts of this earth / But the foreign I. bs clearly (?) not of this earth—not of England not from France
- 13 Ramsgate etc / Vast swarms lady birds L. T Index See Aug 13 1847
- Aug 13 / The I. bs described in The Field of Aug 28 "strange to say, they are all, with a very few exceptions, yellow." Cor writes that never before had he, so far as he could remember, seen yellow lady birds of this species (the seven-spotted) the yellow ones in his experience have been the 22-spotted.
- 14 L. b. Dover "covered with them" "in some exceptional instances being accompanied by number of wasps" Sci. Op. 2-26
- 13 / In the Thames Advertiser (Ramsgate and Margate News) The enormous numbers told of and it is said that there could be no doubt that they had come from the continent.
- 14 Ramsgate / bathers with a rash of them eczema of them
- 13 I. bs / The slaughter enormous. Whenever passed over water it caught many. D News Aug 23—cor tells of skimming hundreds from a cistern
- 13 In Land and Water, quoted I. T Aug 21, description of them pointing out their "feeble flight". Spoken of as coming "in clouds from foreign shores"—What foreign shores?
- 13 Aug 21 Rugby Gazette said that latter part of the week of 7-14th the I. bs had covered the cliffs at Walton-on-the-Naze (Essex) having come from inland—and on 15th were flying back. Nothing said that were seen coming from inland, simply that they appeared and thickly covered the ground
- 13 Editorial in the Field, Aug 28—In many parts of Kent fires lighted to burn them. In Folkstone—so recorded—drains opened and bushels of them swept in. (x) Our friend Mr. Jenner Weir, thinks these migrants slightly different from the ordinary English specimen of the same insect. The red is paler and there are divers slight differences that rather indicate a foreign origin.
- 13 Stress that a yellow flight foreign / Do red describing for 1849
- Aug Field Oct 1, 1864 Editor writes that lady birds move from plane to plane in search of aphides but otherwise are not migratory
- 13 Play Tell lady birds Syrps with them What other go back to June The mystery of cold space Answer is rising temperature with insects of October much warm air
- Aug Worcestershire visited by a plague of them Field March 12, 1870 Entomologists Annual, 1870 says was an insect-famine so that many swallows starved to death
- 18 L.B. Trans. Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Soc. 1-62 Mr T. Southwell tells of the arrival of the lady birds in Norfolk. He thinks that their onward movements in search of food would account for the appearance on the shore that led to the idea they had come from the Continent, unable to accept that their powers of flight could have carried them over the sea. He says that upon July 24th off Hunstanton was seen a mass of dead lady birds, in a stripe ten feet broad and two or three miles long. These lady birds he thinks had left the Norfolk shore alighting on sand then drowned in a rising tide. At this place was a tremendous swarm of Syrphidae, that it seems had accompanied the lady birds and were saved by their superior power of flight. He thinks that those of August could never have come from the Continent, but unobserved had gone out from the Norfolk coast and had been blown back.
- 13 In the Times, Aug 28 cor describes the cloud that came in an East wind as if from Calais. Asks that naturalists in France find where the origin.
- 15 L.Bs. London account in Zoologist 2/4/ 1840 and 1922
- Aug L.Bs. They made trees look fruitful and eccentric ac to size of the cluster strawberry on elm trees oak trees with tomatoes etc
- 13 Times / Reached London on 15th / Children scooping them up and filling paper bags with them. Some one explains that so abundant because state of the climate favorable this year (but see other notes on unfav.) Such explanation ignore that the I. bs were seen to arrive in England. Spread not only to London. Times 28th that on 14th, 15th and 16th "countless multitudes" appeared upon the coast of Kent and Sussex / On 15th at

- Dover another "enormous multitude of these insects, like a cloud, coming over the sea as if from Calais. Said that earlier this day had been a similar occurrence when they had rattled against east windows like colored hail. This writer can't think that swarm after swarm had been blown from English shore and then blown back. He has to think they came from France and hopes observers there can explain.
- Aug 14-15 Ramsgate L.bs. / "languid and weak, either from long flight or absence of food". "The majority were of a large size and of a dull, yellow hue". The Student 4-160
- 18 Standard of — Cor writes that Lady birds had appeared upon the coast of Essex covering the cliffs of Walton-on-the-Naze. So incredible the notion that they had flown from France that this writer—like other—says that a wind blowing from England appeared to have taken them East to sea—wind veering—carrying them back. Standard Aug 19—at Hastings—impossible to take a step without crushing some. 2 letters upon vast swarms in London on 14th and 15th. Standard, Aug. 20—swarms in St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Southend, Essex and Bedford. Cor. from St. Leo. says "They all seem to be much larger than the common ladybird, of a paler color, with more spots." Standard 21st at Woodbridge—"myriads".
- 14 Acto cor to Times of 21st or 28th. On 15th a cloud of I. bs at Dover as if coming from Calais.
- 13 Bug—evidence / All flights ab Aug 13 / Not another here since 1869 / Notes upon U. S. phe especially abundant between 1880 and 1895 but not one. / See 1902 instance—cosmic (indecipherable word) / But aphides of this earth do migrate / There no flight of terrestrial lady birds / Then we conceive of an impulse somewhere else ab. Aug. 13 / Then arriving in a well aggregated column and vigorous they did not come far.
- (At this point, but still within his string, Fort had a group of notes within a wire clip. The end of that group will be noticed here.)
- Oct 3(?) Spiders Kendal Mercury 9-4-3 That soon after the people became conscious of an UNUSUAL presence in the air. Said they were spiders—air alive with them myriads of small brown insects upon long streamers. Said covered the town and neighborhood. Said that they came in with more genial weather.
- Oct 4 Spiders / Carlisle / Carlisle Journal 5-2-4 A shower of spiders a dark mahogany color and came down in countless numbers. Acto description not aeronatical spider, no mention of falling webs, but said that after landing they began to spin webs. / "small spiders, resembling ants in form, but smaller." Webs were "whiter and more visible than those of ordinary spiders."
- 12 Tiverton Times of—(same cor as of other note.) That a day or so before writing—had seen in a field and also in the streets of Tiverton a vast number of strands of spider web and spiders on wing in the air. Says that members of the British Association lived in Tiverton but that they had not explained.
- 15 Tiverton Times Oct 19—That South Molten had been visited on 15th by "a wonderful phenomenon. About noon suddenly came intense heat equal to any temperature in July, in the forenoon had been noted "cobwebs like pieces of cotton" floating in the air. They increased in numbers and continued to fall all the rest of the day "in wondrous quantities"—covering fields—houses, persons. Silk hats seem to have a special attraction for them. "They were perfectly white and in the form of immensely long shreds, at intervals on which were large flocculent masses like balls of gun cotton." "The shreds were quite tough, like hemp, and extremely coarse" but they were composed of striated fibres." It appeared remarkable that insects were not entangled by them". "Some few say that they remarked small spiders attached in rare instances." The wind was north-west by north.
- 12 Tiverton Times of / Flies / Cor writes that swarms of flies had collected against the upper windows of the Town Hall. "Myriads of the insects were there congregated and gave two or three of the windows a blackened appearance". "A short time since" He hopes that readers who had been accounting for the plague of lady birds might explain this phe. / He tells of the spider webs.
- Oct Spiders Plymouth paper Wistian Daily Mercury Nothing
- 15 Where I. & D nothing in Luton Gazette and Dunstable Courier

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