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THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

No. 17

$$(\lambda^i)_S = (\lambda^i)_R - \left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{du}\right)_R \Delta u + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{du^2}\right)_R (\Delta u)^2 + \dots,$$

$$(\bar{\lambda}^i)_P = (\lambda^i)_S - \left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{dv}\right)_S \Delta v + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{dv^2}\right)_S (\Delta v)^2 + \dots,$$

where the terms not written are of the third and higher orders, and the quantities such as $\left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{dv}\right)_Q$, $\left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{dv^2}\right)_Q$ are given by (22.1) and the equations resulting from the differentiation of this equation. If all of the above equations be added, we have

$$\Delta(\lambda^i)_P = (\bar{\lambda}^i)_P - (\lambda^i)_P = \Delta u \left[\left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{du}\right)_P - \left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{du}\right)_R \right] + \Delta v \left[\left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{dv}\right)_Q - \left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{dv}\right)_S \right]$$

$$(22.2)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (\Delta u)^2 \left[\left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{du^2}\right)_P + \left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{du^2}\right)_R \right] + \frac{1}{2} (\Delta v)^2 \left[\left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{dv^2}\right)_Q + \left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{dv^2}\right)_S \right] + \dots$$

If we assume that the x 's are geodesic with P as origin, so that $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\}_P = 0$, we have from (22.1), in which the Christoffel symbols are evaluated by means of their expansions about P ,

$$\left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{du}\right)_P = 0, \quad \left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{dv}\right)_Q = - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial u} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial v} \lambda^k \right)_P \Delta u + \dots,$$

$$\left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{du}\right)_R = - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial u} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial u} \lambda^k \right)_P \Delta u$$

$$- \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial v} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial u} \lambda^k \right)_P \Delta v + \dots,$$

$$\left(\frac{d\lambda^i}{dv}\right)_S = - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial v} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial v} \lambda^k \right)_P \Delta v + \dots,$$

$$\left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{du^2}\right)_P + \left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{du^2}\right)_R = -2 \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial u} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial u} \lambda^k \right)_P + \dots,$$

$$\left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{dv^2}\right)_Q + \left(\frac{d^2\lambda^i}{dv^2}\right)_S = -2 \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial v} \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial v} \lambda^k \right)_P + \dots$$

When these expressions are substituted in (22.2), we obtain

$$\Delta(\lambda^i)_P = \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ jk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} i \\ mk \end{smallmatrix} \right\} \right) \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial u} \frac{\partial x^m}{\partial v} \lambda^k \right)_P \Delta u \Delta v + \dots$$

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the

FORTEAN SOCIETY

Box 192 Grand Central Annex

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FIRST PRIZE

The membership is becoming so alert,
so sharp, so firmly packed and all that
handing out the quarterly orchid becomes
more difficult quarterly. The best Your
Secretary could produce on his own be-
half was the marriage of Named Fellow
John Dewey at 87, and a "cosmic ray
counter, which resembles an oblong layer
cake." We fancy that this confection,
which was whipped up by Dr. W.F.G.
Swann of the Bartol Foundation, has
about the same usefulness to its creators
and the men who will slice it, as any
other cake or piece of baloney. That is
to say, it will feed them. N. Y. *Sun*,
12-10-46 old style: "It will be used to
count rays on an (Antarctic) expedition
under the command of Finn Ronne, former
United States Navy Commander." Apparently
this is not the Byrd expedition,
mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

Founder Sussman easily topped that
with a page from *Time*, 12-2-46 old
style. In the jocosely carefree style which
Time employs to dispose of the petty
concerns of the millions, a "death ray" is
introduced which is said to have "cooked
a canary (in Spain) at 30 feet." Dr. Albert
F. Murray is shown grinning broadly at
the prospect ahead, for you and you and
you, and perhaps for himself on his Federal
income as examiner of all such devices.
In conclusion, *Time* takes quite for granted
that men will all be suckers again,
saying gaily: "If a method is developed
to concentrate nuclear radiations into a
narrow beam, death rays may be available
to enliven World War III." . . . Pretty?

Yes, but not pretty enough, nor were
two gems from H.F.S. Russell. The first
of these is from the *Boote Times* which
quotes the *Schoolmaster* which quotes a
British Official Directive. (Apparently

England is now ruled by Directives in-
stead of laws, just as is the U.S.) The
document reads: "Additional Grant shall
be payable to an Authority only if their
Main Grant is less than the excess of the
net recognisable expenditure over the
product of 54-penny rate for year ending
with the 31st March, 1947; and if the
total amount which would, but for this
proviso, be payable to an Authority in
Main Grant and Additional Grant would
result in the Authority receiving more
than the said excess of more than 75 per
cent of their net recognisable expenditure,
whichever is the lower, the Additional
Grant shall be reduced as to obviate
the result."

The second Russell piece is too long to
reprint, unfortunately, running for more
than half a jumbo column in the London
Times of 10-17-46 old style. The head-
line is HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE/
CHANCERY DIVISION/ REGISTRA-
TION OF "OOMPHIES" AS/ A TRADE
MARK, and the story concerns a seriously
debated issue heard before His Lordship
Mr.-Justice Evershed, *an appeal*, testing
whether or not the Hollywood manufac-
turers of "Oomphies" should be permitted
to use that trade-name on a certain style
of footwear for women. The defense at-
torney—who, incidentally, finally got the
name approved—said that, "it was al-
most intolerable that it should be said
that the mark (Oomphies) had a signifi-
cance which could be said to be con-
trary to public morality and should not
be used in connection with the articles
in question."

Elsender also had two runners-up. The
one—200,000 tins of evaporated milk
"brought from America . . . roughly (sic)
two years ago" which had been stored
and not looked at in all that time, were
found unfit for human consumption.

The other: a rocket—mind you, not a
monster—over Loch Ness! *News-Chron-
icle*, 9-26-46 old style.

Another member in the Mother Coun-
try, I. O. Evans, made his first bid with
the story of cattle dying in West Suffolk
two weeks after they had been struck by
lightning. The same datum was among
Russell's contributions too. The "delayed
action" was puzzling the "experts". One
vet said: "The beasts were affected
through the hoof, and so it looks as if
the effect of the lightning is not down-
ward, but up from the ground."

If wit alone were to take the prize,
this one must go to MFS Savage. He
sent in that notice out of Kirksville, Mo.,
of the osteopath who "removed 13 or
14 headless pins imbedded in a leg of
Mary Serena Beach, 16-year-old high
school junior of Sigourney, Ia." Our
correspondent writes: . . .

"The Problem:
"When is a headless pin any different
from an eyeless needle. And where do
you get 'em? Out of High School girls'
legs, it seems." *Cr* also McMahon. (In
this connection, Russell also had a pin
story: death of Fred Buckley, a York-
shireman, *ae* 32, who had been "mysteri-
ously" ill for seven months. His pin was
in his liver, and, presumably, had a head.)

MFS Kerr, who has had these honors
before, did well with a Polio Pyrotic.
Kenneth Wettenger, 24, was seriously
burned in an "iron lung" at the Univer-
sity of Kansas Hospital, 9-1-46 old style.
From "a cigarette", no doubt.

And, in vein, MFS Herbert has a polio
victim "unable to use one leg" who dis-
appeared (with a fever of 104) from her
room in Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet, Ill.,
10-14-46 old style. Name, Mrs. Mary
Anderson, *ae* 40. Police, sheriffs and
school boys looked 13 hours without
finding her.

Also from Herbert comes a "black"
rain, or "chemistry rain", at Struthers,
near Youngstown, Ohio. One hundred
ten homes were affected by the downpour
which took the paint off. Reported
10-4-46 old style: probably occurred the
day before.

MFS Wakefield, a member with a
rare, fine touch, sends the Oakland
Tribune account of Nicholas V. Mayall's
speech to the visiting astronomers at
Mt. Hamilton. The headline is "Scientist
Proves False Idea True", which is pre-
cisely what Scientists are hired for. The
false idea which Mayall uncovered, as
nearly as one may interpret it from
the gibberish of the press, is that certain
globular star clusters used as mile-posts
for astronomical measurements and es-
timates of speed are fixed. As now ap-
pears, they move. Dr. Mayall's feat of
jugglery was to "prove" that it doesn't
matter. The distances and speeds esti-
mated by reference to objects thought to
be stationary are to remain the same
regardless of the "discovery" that the
mile-posts themselves "rotate".

The same story, weirdly garbled was
printed two days later in the N. Y.
Daily News, where the well known Dr.
Mayall is called "Mayali" throughout,
and the professed object of communicat-
ing information is defeated by the inter-
position of the United Press, even more
thoroughly than in the Oakland account.
Cr McMahon.

Another Old Faithful, MFS Hoernlein,
comes up with a nine-inch bullhead atop
a thirty-foot telegraph pole. The fish was
causing a short-circuit in "western Mon-
tana". That is an undated UP despatch
printed in the *Seattle Star* 8-26-46 old
style.

For a time it looked as if a newcomer,
David T. Burbank would take all honors.
He sent one harmless-appearing page from
the October *Mechanix Illustrated*. The
story is headed RADAR SPOOK, and the
wordy workout beneath seeks to main-
tain all the prestige "radar" has achieved
by four or five years of fairy-tale-telling,
at the same time that it admits the almost
complete unreliability of "radar" for de-
tecting anything whatever. This stunt has
become so commonplace of late that one
wonders if Science has any other purpose
than that of providing baseless nine-day-
wonders as subject matter for embryo
Kaempfferts to practice their freshman
semantics upon.

Entering the homestretch, a dark-horse
took the lead, one MFS Willett, with a
feature piece cut from the *Catholic Uni-*

verse *Bulletin*, Cleveland, 4-12-46 old style. The title is "Wrong-way Skull Rocks Idols of Evolution", and Joseph A. Breig is the author. The Catholic Action, taking advantage of T. D. Stewart's reconstruction of "the Melbourne (Fla.) skull" really goes to town, laughing raucously at anthropology in general, at Darwin in particular, and rippling a juicy raspberry over the remains of Piltown, Neanderthal and the Java-man.

Little as we like the Catholic company, we must join them in this laugh. Not even the theory of immaculate conception is more fanciful than a "prehistoric" skull reconstructed from a splinter, and Writer Breig has been to the trouble of getting a confession from Dr. Hans Weidenreich of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, called "the world's No. 1 anthropologist". The quote: "The Piltown man is an artificial creation. He has a modern head and a prehistoric jaw. He never existed."

Highly illuminating is to read the pussy-footing accounts of this same "news" as printed in non-Catholic papers. MFS Reagan supplied two versions of Dr. Stewart's improvement over the work of Ales Hrdlicka on the Melbourne skull. Both make it seem that the theory of evolution has been strengthened by the change.

But—even as Willetts drew away from the field—Kerr joined him, going fast. The entry, a piece by Howard W. Blakelee, Associated Press Science Reporter. Under a Princeton date-line, 9-24-46 old style, he refers to a "theoretical bomb-shell" tossed by an English mathematician. P.A.M. Dirac. The bomb: "... that the three primary particles out of which all matter is formed (sic)—electrons, protons and neutrons—are mere points with no size ... The idea seems incomprehensible. But coming from Prof Dirac it has authority ... the three primary particles which have no size possess mass (sic) and electrical charges ... Friends of Prof. Albert Einstein quoted him as saying about Prof. Dirac's solution: *I did not think it would be possible. I thought a new theory would be needed.*" ... Me too, Al!

And now—the photo-finish and the winner. It is MFS Bonavia, of whom you have heard much before. Like most of the runners-up, she had two fine data: one, a reprint of an ad run in the *Wall Street Journal*, 10-15-46 old style, ostensibly paid for by the National Economic Council, Inc. The illustration shows Stalin as an octopus, with his slimy tentacles strangling the so-called Goddess of Liberty, and the biggest beef in the copy is against Communism—why?—because "Under atheistic Communism—THERE IS NO GOD!" ... Your Secretary is almost ready to believe that the Communist Party paid for the ad, because it makes the signers of the copy look like such horse's katoos.

But—the winner! ... That Mr. Kiyochi Mastuzaki, using an abacus, trimmed the pants off Pvt. Thomas N. Wood using the most modern type cal-

culating machine, in a speed contest held in Tokyo, 12-9-16 FS. That is Simon-pure Forteanism, and—more than likely—the cause of the most recent earthquake in the land of those dirty, barbaric yellow-bellies.

The results of that contest make the U of Pennsylvania's "Electronic Brain" look a little sick. Oddly, we have no data from American sources on this miracle of ingenuity, but only relayed dope which Viscount Mountbatten of Burma disclosed at the 21st anniversary dinner of the British Institution of Radio Engineers in London, 11-1-46 old style. Elsander and Russell send the cuttings from *Newcastle and Liverpool* ... Your Secretary does not know how this gigantic apparatus differs from the Harvard "Mechanical Brain", but the statement is that the Penny article is absolutely unique. It can remember, it can play chess; now, all they have to teach it is how to use an abacus.

NEW MOTTO

We were delighted by the phrasing of a question asked by MFS Reade not long ago. He wrote: "Is the Fortean Society still alive and kicking?" In fact, we like the connotation so well that the phrase is offered for comment as a Fortean signet or device. "Still alive and kicking!" ... What do you say?

SIZZLING ZINNER

The build-up for the display of the Giacobini-Zinner comet tail began 9-23-46 old style in the U. S., and on 9-30-46 in England. Cr McMahon and Russell ... Charles P. "Comes-to-Jesus" Olivier told AP that the comet could not be seen without a telescope ... On 9-27-46 old style, H.M. Jeffers of Lick (at Mt. Hamilton) photographed the comet, exposing his film 18 minutes. For some reason not known to us, this photo was not released until AP put it on the Wirephoto 10-10-46 old style: Cr Reagan.

From October 7, old style, the fury of the campaign increased in England and U. S. The British press, however warned its readers that the full moon might dim the show. Both sides took the opportunity to whoop it up for radar. If the sky was cloudy, radar would count the meteors through the clouds.

All went well in the U. S. On the night of 10-8-46 old style, the National Bureau of Standards Ionospheric Station in Fairfax County, Va., counted one pip a minute through rain clouds. More were promised on the night of the 9th. Meanwhile, astronomers had been whittling the figures of their estimates of the comet's distance from Earth. At first, it was 30,000,000 miles; then 25,000,000, then 24,000,000, and finally, on the morning of the 9th, Gordon A. Atwater, Hayden Planetarium, had it refined down to 23,790,000 miles.

At Harvard, on the night of the 8th, only six meteors were seen, and in England the whole show was a bust, even on the 9th. The *Daily Telegraph* reported only 10 meteors an hour, "rather less than usual", until some three hours after the time of greatest predicted display,

when the count crept up to 30 or 35 an hour. The *Evening Chronicle* got quite waspish about it, saying: "The meteors had more publicity than a solar eclipse, but those responsible for directing our gaze to the heavens covered themselves with two safeguards. If the moon was out it would be too bright, and if the clouds were there it would be too dull. The result was we got both, minus the meteors."

"It was nice to be told that scientists were sitting equipped with costly radar apparatus, fluorescent screens and mighty cameras, but it was wasted on the lone watcher at the back door who saw nothing more exciting than a few stars, or, at closer range, the luminous eyes of a nocturnal cat."

The Eastern seaboard fared no better than England on the night of nights, and only fifty radar pips were counted in the fullest hour. Chicago's Schlesinger claimed to have seen three a minute at the peak, but the real fireworks, almost up to predictions, were reserved for the West Coast, especially Seattle.

An amusing sidelight on the varieties of American journalism faced with such an impending crisis lies in the contrast between the Los Angeles *Daily News* statement that: "These tiny particles of matter, ranging in size from a pinhead to a marble, are invisible until they come within earth's atmosphere, when they start to burn and flare up brightly for a few seconds." (A flare of pinhead size observable sixty miles away is implicit.) "Another astronomer, Dr. John A. Russell, U of Southern California, said there is no cause for alarm ... It is very unusual that meteoric particles come within 35 miles of the earth's surface ... No meteorite has ever been recovered from such a shower." Cr Bowring.

To which please compare a photo in Washington, D.C., *Times-Herald*, of a 15-ton meteorite "found in 1902 near Oregon City, Ore." Cr Reagan.

Hoernlein, in Seattle, had a grandstand seat. He saw skiesful all evening, in every direction. One Seattle man counted 117 meteors in one minute. New Mexico U men flying at 20,000 feet said the rate varied from 50 to 1000 per minute up there. And the *Post-Intelligencer* closes its story: "Although Gordon A. Atwater, chairman of New York's Hayden Planetarium, earlier said that many of the meteors were expected to reach earth (sic), no reports of such occurrences were received."

A photo in the Los Angeles *Daily News*, exposed at Griffith Observatory for fifteen minutes, shows more than 25 brilliant streaks. The negative may contain double that number.

Probably the busiest observer of all that night, was MFS Layne of San Diego, publisher of the spiritualist paper, *Round Robin*, but he was not watching meteors. Beginning at 7:45 that evening, *Round Robin* subscribers began seeing a "spaceship" silhouetted against the moon. Thirteen eye-witnesses are named. All in San Diego. Each describes the object differently. One man, called a psychic sen-

sitive (which is current lingo for what we used to mean by "medium" in the days of Anna Eva Fay), gave Layne a message, purporting to have been received "clairaudiently", in which the object was identified as "a mechanical bird called Careeta". It came from a planet a considerable way off and the folks in it were afraid to land . . . If you want any more of that, send 35 cents to *Round Robin*, 3615 Alexia Place, San Diego, Calif. The story is given in detail in issue No. 10 of Volume 2.

MFS Hehr (who knows people from Venus) told Layne his space-ship was a condor, and broke up a beautiful friendship.

Not to be outdone by the radar boys who see the meteors in light pips on their instrument, four Stanford U electrical engineering faculty members listened to them by short-wave.

At Lick they watched again on the night of the 10th, but the show was over. Cr Bowring, Wakefield, Willetts and many others.

LIGHTS ON LUNA

The editor of *Organic Gardening* gave Fort a send-off in his publication for December, 1945 old style, and from the same hand we have undated tear-sheets from "a recent number" of *American Scientist*. The portion torn out is the department, "Marginalia", by G. Evelyn Hutchinson, Yale, and the interest is in appearances of light on the dark of the moon. This is pertinent: ". . . we find at least three cases of transitory bright objects appearing in the dark part of the moon, recorded between the end of the 16th and end of the 18th centuries. One of these, in Harrison's *Chronologie* relating to an appearance in March, 1587, remained in manuscript. The second record occurs in Josselyn's *An Account of Two Voyages to New-England* (London, 1675) and was discussed briefly by no less a personage than Cotton Mather, F.R.S., in a letter published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. The third occurrence, lasting about five minutes, was apparently observed independently from both Norwich and London on 7th March, 1794, and was communicated to the same journal by the then Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne, D.D., F.R.S."

For amplification of details, mostly to bolster the theory that the lights were meteoric, see:

R. K. Marshall (Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.). The Origin of Lunar Craters (A summary). *Pop. Astron.* 51: 415-424, 1943.

W. H. Haas (Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio). Concerning possible lunar meteoric phenomena. *Pop. Astron.* 51: 397-400, 1943.

Phil. Trans. 29: 62 (or abridged version 5: 159), cf. Lowes' *The Road to Xanadu* for a full discussion of the literary interest of the matter.

Phil. Trans. 1794 (LL): 429-434 and 435-440.

SWALLOW THIS

Fed up with the nonsense about Capistrano's swallows punching the time-

clock on arrival each year, we fairly unswallowed when this crapparolla came in from MFS McMahon:

That those birds have taken off on "San Juan's day" at dawn for 167 years without fail. We don't know who chases them, but we have been there when they did not arrive on schedule. Accordingly, we asked MFS Wakefield if he could check the whole thing for us. Here is his reply:

"Am not in a position to send dates SWALLOWS OF CAPISTRANO have missed arriving on time.

"If some member in the southern part of the state will check same—you may wish to add these items which I have heard from the lips of the pious:

"Some time previous to 1930 a new hotel was opened on the West Side of the Plaza. The proprietor was smashing the mud nests with a long pole as he considered the birds a nuisance. The Father from the Mission asked where the sparrows would go and was told by the prop. that he did not care. The Father verbally invited the sparrows to the Mission and they understood for they came at once and have been there ever since.

"They migrate in Autumn at no fixed date but always return on St. Joseph's day—March 19th. When they go you are gravely told they go to Jerusalem for the winter. For the long trip over the sea they carry a twig in their beak. When fatigued they drop the twig in the water—rest and sleep on the floating twig. Travelers tell me winters in Palestine are more severe than Southern California. That must make it as uncomfortable for the golondrinas as it was for the scantily clad shepherds who heard and saw the herald angels while they (the shepherds) were out with their sheep on December 25th—the date the Messiah was born.

"P.S. It is said they never work on Sunday but stay in the mud houses all day. This should be checked."

PYROTICS

Besides the one in the iron lung, noted elsewhere herein, we have seven women and nine men dead of burns. Most of the fires are attributed to smoking cigarettes, in bed or in overstuffed furniture. We now learn that San Diego and Milwaukee are two towns which prohibit smoking in bed by law. Cr Bowring and Russell.

In this connection, MFS Damell writes: "Chanced on a very entertaining medical explanation of pyrotics in a volume on Medical Jurisprudence by one J. Dixon Mann entitled *Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*. On pp: 215-218 Mr. Mann discusses what he chooses to call 'prenatal combustibility' and comes to the amazing conclusion that most of the victims turn out to have been gin-sodden old ladies!"

DIRTY YELLOW BELLIES

The Education Ministry of Japan has honored Dr. Terumi Noda for "conclusively proving" that pyorrhea is caused by tooth powder. Cr Bowring

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Dr. Robert F. Heizer, of the Department of Anthropology, U of Calif., was in charge of excavating five skeletons found in a Concord, Calif., back yard, about seven feet down. When newsmen asked how old the skeletons were, Dr. Heizer refused to guess. This amazing performance automatically nominates the professor for Named Fellowship in 16 F.S. Cr Wakefeld.

Send in your further nominations promptly. The Named Fellow should be notified as soon after January 26, old style, as possible, since that is the anniversary of the founding of the Society.

Nominations already in hand, besides that of Dr. Heizer, include:

Mrs. Voilet van der Elst
(British anti-capital punishment agitator)

Commander A. B. Campbell
(Recently fired from the BBC "Brains Trust" because, when asked by Sir Malcolm Sargent: "Do you rate scientists lower than rats (anent vivisection)?" Campbell replied: "Some I do.")

John L. Lewis
(In the hope that we can persuade him to let somebody else write his speeches!)

Dictator Tito
(Because the Pope says he's going to Hell.)

Harlow Shapley
(For being held contemptuous of the Wood-Rankin Committee on Un-American Activities. Alas, Harlow's record points all-too-clearly to his innocence of the charge.)

WATTS MISSING

Indians say that thirteen white men have disappeared in the past eight years in Headless Valley, Northwest Territory. Now the total may be sixteen. An Alaskan teacher of geology, named Watts, his wife and her brother entered Headless Valley July 22 old style. They have not been heard from since, although the teacher was expected to report for duty at Yakima High School when it opened last September. Cr Reagan

LAVENDAR WRITES

"From 'The American Journal of Physics', Vol. 14, No. 4, July-August, 1946, page 277, titled "Science and Education" and another, same page, titled "Science and Human Beliefs", come to the following statements:

" . . . The bad temper which the theologian attributes to original sin, the chemist may attribute to calcium deficiency, and each be unaware that his explanation is the consequence of his specialized study . . . No single subject can therefore form an adequate basis for a philosophy or be in itself a satisfactory guide to conduct. . . . The real danger of specialization is not so much an ignorance of other branches of knowledge as a failure to be conscious of this ignorance . . . Science is today uprooting faith without planting anything more suitable in its place, though science itself is not devoid

of inspiration. Yet the urge to seek truth is what leads science forward. Those who are responsible for the examination of religious beliefs are not always sensitive to this urge. But so long as there are churches there will be creeds; and so long as their are creeds there will be obstruction. Any religious system which so binds itself by formal creeds that it cannot embrace newly discovered truths stands self condemned."

"Sounds to me like Forteans fill the bill," Lavendar adds.

SEEN A BRIDGE?

HFFS Don Bloch asks—"Where did they need a bridge?" A 32-footer was washed out by a cloudburst (8-28-46 old style) at Farthing Station, 50 miles NW of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and no trace of it has been found.

GREENLEAF WRITES

"September 6, 1946 Approx. 10:15 p.m., CDT Observed in New Orleans, La., from the corner of Mystery St. and Grand Route St. John:

"A reddish light of between second and third magnitude, first noticed near the star Fomalhaut, observed for a period of about five minutes. During this time it moved from its original position of south of Fomalhaut, in an East-northeast direction until it disappeared below the tree-tops. Rate of motion was about five degrees per minute. No sound of motor heard, and no other lights, such as would be observed upon an airplane, were seen. Color did not vary as position changed.

"The reddish tint could have been caused by atmospheric absorption, for at all times it was within fifteen or twenty degrees of the horizon.

"The night was clear with a Gibbous moon just past first quarter."

MAITLAND WRITES

"Agnes Morley Cleaveland, in her book NO LIFE FOR A LADY, states on page 323: "A half-teacupful of black obsidian arrowheads, none longer than a pin and some half that length, jewel-like little things of exquisite workmanship . . . scooped from a spring on top of Eagle Peak, New Mexico." She wonders if pygmies once lived in that part of the country.

John Hilton, in an article in the August issue of THE DESERT MAGAZINE, says that he found thousands of minnows living in a stream created by a desert well whose surface temperature is 170 degrees F. The well is not known to be connected with any other body of water. Any surface body, that is; it was drilled in 1939 by miners who abandoned it because it was too highly mineralized for their use.

Before I left Cleveland I ran across an unusual circumstance; in one day, two men walking along the street in downtown Cleveland discovered that their coats were on fire. The reporter who wrote the story said that the fires were caused by lighted pipes absent-mindedly put away by the two men. I wanted to call the two men and see what they said.

F. S. HAMMETT



FOUNDER HAMMETT

The portrait on this page is a reproduction of a painting by the late, celebrated, Richard Miller, being a veritable likeness of our newest Honorary Founder, Frederick S. Hammett. It is the last portrait Mr. Miller painted, "and is stated by his friends and enemies alike," writes Dr. Hammett, "to be the best thing he ever did and a better thing than any other portrait painter in the country could do." Even in such small space as we are forced to show it, the quality of the workmanship and the power of its execution are remarkably impressive.

Dr. Hammett is no stranger to readers of DOUBT, having been named and quoted here frequently in the past. He has been a member of the Society for ten years, and in his capacity as a practicing scientist, head of the Marine Experimental Station of the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute, editor of the magazine GROWTH, etc., etc., he has consistently maintained the Fortean attitude in his laboratories as well as in his published work. He has quoted Charles Fort in his scientific reports, and written essays for the publications of the learned expounding the Fortean viewpoint. In short, Frederick S. Hammett is that singular if not unique anomaly, a Fortean convert in the enemy camp, and as such we are immensely proud of him.

To express the Society's respect, to assure ourselves his aid in council, to proclaim the progress of Forteanism within the academic stronghold, Dr. Hammett was tendered the post of Honorary Founder in the place of the late Booth Tarkington. He accepted the appointment as an honor, and thus vindicated Fortean zeal in its missionary work among the Orthodox. Hail, Founder Hammett! Let the good work go on.

They probably would have given me the same answer, but maybe one of them didn't smoke.

TURNABOUT

On 10-26-16 FS, a request for the indictment of United States officials responsible for war crimes was cabled to Lord Justice Sir Geoffrey Lawrence, President of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Truman, Forrestal, Patterson and subordinates were named, and British, French and Dutch organizations were urged to similar action against guilty officials in their countries. The request was made by the War Resisters League, 5 Beekman Street, NYC 7. No arrests on these charges had been made as we went to press.

FISH AND SNAIL FALLS

In the parking lot back of Wormington's restaurant, sixty little fish apparently fell in a thunderstorm 9-23-46 old style. Cr Patterson, Hammett.

An envelope containing the remains of "twenty-odd wee snails" was received from non-member La Spina. The lady says they appeared to have fallen "in a series of cloud-bursts" 10-14-16 FS, near Quakertown, Penna. In their dried and flattened state they measure about a quarter of an inch in diameter.

MOODUS AND OTHERS

Credit is given to Prof. Edward L. Troxell, of Trinity College, for suggesting that the Moodus sounds are probably produced by "subterranean vibrations due to minor earth tremors".

Almost simultaneously, anonymous "scientists believe" that the roars from Rumbling Bald Mountain, at Lake Lure, North Carolina, "are caused by boulders falling from the roofs of caves deep in the mountain". Local folk in both districts scoff these explanations as absurdly inadequate. Cr "William Wilson".

MONSTRELET WRITES:

"I have forgotten to mention a marvelous comet that appeared in the year 1477, on St. Agnes' day, in the month of January—and therefore the bloody wars that took place between different princes, with the great miseries that ensued, need not be wondered at. This comet was visible at Cologne, in the opposite direction to the constellation Libra, having an immense tail, thirty degrees in length. On St. Blaise's day, the third of February, it remained stationary in the constellation of Aries, throwing its tail to the eastward, near the Pleiades. It was of different colors — sometimes white, at others all on fire, inclining to lemon color. The astrologers considered it as indicative of battle, epidemic disorders, and plagues: and in consequence, the following summer was hotter than had been remembered by any then living. In some parts, subterranean fires broke forth, from the vehemence of which may God preserve us!" *Ch. CLXXV, Chronicles of Enguerrand de Monstrelet.* The above datum was added by a continuator, since "M" himself left off 1467.

ADD BLACKEST LIST

The police department of St. Paul, Minn., administers "lie detector" tests. Members of the Society in that district are urged to protest by every possible means. Never yourself submit to such a test. Search your city ordinances for means to have the machines abolished. Urge attorneys of your acquaintance to refuse to permit their clients to submit. Write to your local papers exposing the contraption for the fraud that it is.

Mr. Justice Stable, sitting in Old Bailey, London, heard "evidence" in a murder case from Dr. John Hill of Maudsley Hospital. Dr. Hill had administered a "lie-detector" test to the accused. Hill said that "the machine revealed generalized changes of a mild sort, chiefly affecting the left side of the brain."

Whereupon the Justice said: "That conveys nothing to me."

And the defense attorney, Mr. Maude: "I agree. It is just noises." *Cr E'sender*

ADD VORTICES

To the already known and noticed slanting houses where people lean side-wise, etc., of which the one at Gold Hill, Oregon, is the best publicized, add still another. It is at Camp Burch, 30 miles from Pueblo, Colorado. *Cr Hoernlein*

OILY DOROTHY

A swan "which found its way" into Huskisson Dock, Liverpool, was "rescued" by the RSPCA. It was given medicine and had the ships' oil washed from its wings. 10-11-46 old style *Cr Elsendar.*

ANTI-DOCTOR BOOK

A companion volume to the best-selling *Your Life Is Their Toy*, which should have interested especially any victims of organized medicine, is **THESE CULTS**, by Annie Riley Hale. It is "an answer to Dr. Morris Fishbein's venomous *The Medical Follies* with iconoclastic chapters on Homeopathy, Osteopathy, Chiropractic, The Abrams Method, Vivisection,

Physical Culture, Christian Science, etc." Published in 1926 AD, it has long been out of print. The Society has a few second-hand copies—too few to last in our new book circular No. 5. While they last—\$4.00 each.

CLEAN ECLIPSE

If any irregularities occurred in the partial solar eclipse of 12-21-16 FS, the astronomers succeeded in concealing them from the journalists who helped them cover the event.

The next big event, now being circussed by the observatories is scheduled for May 20, 1947 old style, that is June 3, 17 FS. Solicit all the advance "information" you can from your local observatory or astronomy professor and send it in. Dr. Bertil Lindbald, director of the Stockholm Observatory, states that the Geodetic Survey of Sweden will send expeditions to the Gold Coast of Africa and to Brazil to view this eclipse simultaneously. *Cr McMahan*

FREE THEATRE

Members near enough to New York City to take advantage of this opportunity should attend a performance of the dramatic repertoire company which performs gratis, every night except Monday, at the Davenport Free Theatre, 138 East 27. The moving spirit is Butler Davenport, who has kept this institution active for 31 years. Your Secretary has the honor to be a Subscribing Member.

CURE FOR HICCERS

MFS Oltcher quotes no less an authority than Hippocrates for this: "Sneezing coming on, in the case of a person afflicted with hiccup, removes the hiccup." Please pass the pepper!

CURE FOR STATUES

Non-member Ebeling suggests that the Parisians could stop their statue-cancer if they coated the stone "with local mud" or buried the statues for a short period.

PROPAGANDA EXPOSED

We have a few copies of *Truth and the Public*, a reprint of the "Conway Memorial Lecture" delivered June 17, 1945 old style, by Kingsley Martin, London. Very sensible discussion—if a little mild. 56 pp. wrapps. Fifty cents each, while they last.

NEW HONORS

Following what appears to be an annual custom, at Thanksgiving, Major and Mrs. Frank Pease, in memory of their Mayflower ancestor, Francis Eaton, sent "To Tiffany Thayer, Fortean", their engraved card of thanks for "services this past year (16 FS) to that America they so love and cherish". The services named are stated to be "Publishing the best book of the century". Doubtless **THE BOOKS OF CHARLES FORT** is referred to.

BYRD OFF AGAIN

"Indefatigable" is the word for Admiral Richard E. Byrd, just as "intrepid" is the word for Off-again On-again Sir Hubert Wilkins. All through the wasting of high expositives which the daily wipers pretended to think was World War II, Byrd remained—quite sensibly, it seems

to us—in his air-conditioned Washington office. Now, however, fired by his inner craving for knowledge, which consumes him like a flame, he's off to Antarctica again, at our expense. If any enlisted man cares to tell us how much champagne went into the fleet's stores, DOUBT will take the greatest delight in relaying the information to the American taxpayers.

THAT SNOWMAN

MFS Brady writes: "Re the Abominable Snowmen" of the Himalayas. I don't know what the pulps have published about them but I came across the following in *Altai-Himalaya* by Nicholas Roerich, a travel diary published in 1929.

"India 1924; It all began with the unknown traces found by the Everest Expedition. Then in the Statesman, an English Major related how during one of the expeditions into the region of the Himalayas, he encountered a strange mountain inhabitant. At sunrise, amidst the frosty snows, the Major walked away from the camp and climbed the neighboring rocks. Glancing up, the Major to his astonishment beheld a tall man almost naked, standing, leaning on a high bow. The mountain inhabitant did not look at the Major, his attention being completely attracted by something unseen behind the curve of the slope. Suddenly the man bent, strained himself and by madly dangerous leaps rushed from the rocks and disappeared. When the Major told his people about the meeting they smiled and said: "Sahib has seen a snowman. They are watching the guarded places."

Also in the same book an account of a strange fire that broke out in the tent. "I awoke and saw the silhouette of E. against a background of bluish flame . . . It appears that E. approached the bed and touched the blanket. The bluish flame, warm and odorless, flashed . . . The fire ceased as it began, without leaving the slightest trace on anything. Unforgettable was this leaping flame, unconsumed and vivid. The tent was entirely illumined."

Why the adjective "abominable"? It sounds too-too moral. I can understand and appreciate—elusive snowmen, esoteric, enigmatic, unpredictable, tantalizing, dangerous snowmen—but "abominable"—it sounds like a typically English moral judgment.

CAREETA RETURNS

"A big black spot" was observed on Luna, 12-9-46, old style, in Los Angeles. People called the *News*. The *News* called Griffith Park Observatory and got George W. Bunton. Mr. Bunton did not bother to look at the moon. The people, he said, were seeing the seas. We think it was Careeta come back, and that this time her timid personnel debarked, and are moving on Washington, D.C., like a swarm of locusts. *Cr Bowring.*

ESOTERIC LARNIN

If the Post Office has not closed it up, the School of Human Regeneration, Jacksonville Beach, Florida, offers weekly lessons by "Dr." Walter Siegmeister on *the Secret Life of the Great Adept* —

Count St. Germain. It seems that Queen Elizabeth was his ma, and the Earl of Leicester his pa. His first name was Francis Bacon but he was called "Hamlet", meaning *little Bacon!* He not only wrote the canon known as Shakspeare's plays but plotted to give England a democratic government, led the German Rosicrucians feigned death as Prince Rakoczy, engineered both the French and the American revolutions, designed the American flag, and is still alive. You may address him somewhere East of Tibet, or care of "Dr." Siegmeister. The lessons cost \$3.00 per month, and considering all you get that's a bargain.

For only \$10.00 you may also receive twelve lessons about *The Creation of Life* by the same "Dr." (Just what Siegmeister is a Doctor of does not appear.) *The Creation of Life* course comes out flat-footedly in favor of having babies without sexual intercourse (instead of *vice versa*). A digest of the course states that "More than 250 theories have been propounded to explain the process of conception, and of these the presently accepted theory of the medical, concerning the dual and equal roles of ovum and spermatozoon is only one, and one of the most recent."

The point is well taken, and Your Secretary recalls hearing from the lips of Charles Fort himself, the "theory" advanced by a pregnant peasant girl of Central Europe early in the century, ascribing her interesting condition to a certain "exposure of her person to the incidence of the East wind". This, in Fort's opinion, made her condition all the more interesting, as—doubtless—"Dr." Siegmeister would find it.

PERSONALITY

As early as 1909 AD, and perhaps before, Theodore Schroeder was in the struggle for self-respect which continues with ever-increasing intensity today—and which probably will continue for all time. In that year he compiled a *Free Press Anthology*. In 16 FS (thirty-seven years later), he sends us a packet of fourteen sizzling pamphlets hot off the press, all written with the same end in view.

Rationalists, libertarians, humanists, free-thinkers have known Theodore Schroeder for years. In the year 3 FS he crossed the ken of Maynard Shipley, whom we remember kindly (in spite of his orthodoxy) as an acquaintance of Charles Fort . . . Shipley—not to be confused with Harlowe Shapley—was an old-style evolutionist who attempted to foist his conception of Darwinism upon United States public schools. He was, nevertheless, a great admirer of Fort, as correspondence in the Society archives shows, and this is what he had to say about Theodore Schroeder: "One hundred and sixty (170 before 14 FS) periodicals in six languages have published Theodore Schroeder's Psychological, Philosophical, Religious, Medical, Sociological and Legal Essays (Schroeder is a lawyer) . . . At the very least, he is one of the most interesting figures alive in America today."

Another admirer writes: . . . "the ag-

gregate volume of his published writings in defense of *unabridged* freedom of speech exceeds that of the combined similar output of all other writers in the English language."

Schroeder is hardly a Fortean, because he believes in something which he calls "Evolutionary Psychology", but he pleads for intellectual hospitality at the same time, and you will do well to make his literary acquaintance. PUT SOME MONEY in an envelope and send it to him at Cos Cob, Conn. Any sum you wish; you'll get your money's worth.

REMEMBER TECHNOCRACY?

Lots of people get the notion that when the daily wipers stop mentioning a man or an institution, he or it has folded. NOT SO . . . Technocracy is a case in point. You never read about it in the papers any more because the papers and their backers and minions want you to think Technocracy is dead. IT ISN'T. It has more members today than ever. For information, address Box 209, Kansas City 17, Kansas.

Members frequently ask us why Technocracy wouldn't work. Answer: It probably WOULD.

BALLS OF FIRE

At 7:25 p.m., 8-24-46 old style, over Wilmington, N. C., disappeared to the NE.

At 7:40 p.m., same evening, fifteen minutes later, over Durham, N.C., headed in the opposite direction. Cr Miller.

About 11 p.m., 9-6-46 old style, "a large ball of purplish fire" moved less swiftly than a meteor across the sky North of Philomath, Oregon, from West to East, and disappeared over Old Baldy, a mountain. Cr Sheeley.

In North Wales the previous evening, 9-5-46 old style, a "thunderbolt" (?lightning?) struck a chimney in Wrexham, and ripped slates off another house twenty feet away. "Eye-witnesses speak of a ball of fire and an explosion."

Same date, "during a rainstorm at Ruston-on-Trent a "blindingly brilliant" fireball fell in Waterloo Street, rocking the houses. Cr Elsander.

In Beatrice Street, Ashington, "late last night" (9-21-46 old style): sound of an explosion, "heard over a wide area": "a haze of smoke" seen "coming from a spot near . . . house". *Ibid*

Ostend, about midnight, Sept. 25-26, 46 old style: Mme. Deman saw a "ball of light approaching at terrific speed". Object fell in front of her house, giving off a cloud of smoke. Police examined "remains of a projectile". That is all. Cr Elsander, and Russell

Campan, South-West France, shortly before 10-29-46 old style (that is date of publication), "meteor-like ball of fire" plunged into mountainside with loud explosion. Cr Russell

From McPherson to Garden City, Kansas, nearly 250 miles, just before dawn 12-10-46 old style, called "a flaming meteorite (sic)", traveling so close to Earth that it left a long white smoke plume in the sky for 30 minutes. Cr Bloch and Pollard.

Over several areas of the Midwest—Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa and Nebraska—"red flashes of fire" coincide with the Kansas report just above. "Believed to be meteors." The reports range from 5:20 to 7:30 a.m. By December 12, the U of Nebraska had refined the reports to "three meteors", one of which they thought had fallen near Gee, Nebraska, 25 miles NW of Lincoln. They were looking for fragments. Cr Rayner, Squadrilli and others.

SVENSKAROCKETS

Sweden and Russia shook hands on *that* subject. Russia was not sending (despite British-American efforts to prove she was), and the Swedes called "80%" of the flashes "of celestial origin". The remainder were relegated to inflamed imaginations, with what justice, who knows?

Meanwhile, supplementing our last report (all old style dates):

6-10-46 Helsinki, Finland: a powerful light in sky ten minutes, trail of smoke: two minutes later an explosion. Cr Giles.

8-22-46 Waterford, Eire: explosion at 7 p. m. Water in harbor seethed and boiled. Cr Russell.

8-20-46 Chatillon-sur-Seine: not a flying bomb but a "whistling clothes line" acco A.P. Cr Pollard, Kerr.

8-31-46 Oslo: The Norwegian press was forbidden to mention sky-lights any more . . . "searchers with special metal detecting equipment have been unable to discover even the smallest fragment." Cr Russell.

9-6-46 Salonika and Macedonia "the past few days": were "undoubtedly ground flares or Verey lights" used by "mountain bands". Cr Elsander.

9-11-46 Srinagar, Kashmir: "luminous body resembling a squash racket", headed west, left smoke-like trail. Cr Kerr

9-15-46 Alemtejo, Portugal: at dawn, "a strange bluish ball of light" visible for over five minutes. Cr Greenleaf.

9-16-46 Tangier: between midnight and 1:00 a.m., "for three successive nights", large balls "of fire with huge green tails streaked with red." Cr Russell.

9-17-46 Fez Para, North Africa, near Casablanca: "Long, thin trails of yellow-green light followed the projectiles." Cr Kerr, Reagan, Russell.

9-24-46 "rumors" over *nine* cities in Italy in the last week—Rome, Turin, Bologna, Vercelli, Modena, Imola, Florence, Naples, Bari: over Florence at 3:15 a.m. 9-22-46, visible 90 seconds. "Precluding the possibility that it was a meteor, the rumors (sic) said, was the fact (sic) that the object made a sharp turn at Florence and headed south toward Rome." Cr Goldstein.

10-15-46: "An inquiry by the Belgian Minister of Defense shows that none of the phenomena observed gave any reason to believe that unknown contrivances have been flying over Belgium." Cr Russell.

11-16-46 Stockholm: an explosion outside the central railway station rocked the center of the city, knocking down people "at a distance of 100 yards", from what is not stated. Cr Reagan.

ADD PPP

Maintaining peace under the profits system is a very simple process. All that wants arranging is some means for spending war-like sums of taxes (and for collecting war-like sums of charity) with the war-like approval of the constituency. In other words, if Science, or Progress or any other myth can be given the aura of immediate necessity which is obtained for all spending in war time, we are, by God, in the bag. To this end, the Fortean Society proposes its PPP.

As all good members know, P P P is the Fortean Society Perpetual Peace Plan. The planks in the platform to date are:

1. A cyclotron in every high school.
2. An atom busting plant in every middlesix and village.
3. Every waiter a Ph. D.
4. Every laundress a B.A.
5. A standing army of 10,000,000 translators, to translate every book ever written in any language into every other language.

6. Subsidies for publishers to issue all these books, and for booksellers to sell them on every corner.

7. A 200-inch Palomar White-elephant telescope at every cross-roads.

To the above, we now add a dandy, sure to please the Du Ponts because it uses up explosives. Plank—

8. Completion of the sculptured heads which Gutzon Borglum began to blast out of Mt. Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and the extension of similar projects to every bald knob in all the mountain chains of the world.

By this means we could use up all the materials that go into shells and bombs, employ millions of men, including artists, and we would leave the face of Earth literally embroidered with Sphynxs and gargoyles for the insects to wonder about when they come to inherit God's foot-stool.

9. Continue, extend and expand the experiments of J.B. Rhine with cards and dice, setting up Extra-sensory Perception Laboratories in all the churches, and adding to the records all instances of prayer, whether answered or ignored, together with records of roulette-wheel runs to aid MFS Tobey in his study of the time factor in probability.

10. Supplant all "lie-detectors" in police stations and courts of law with motion picture cameras, lighting equipment and sound-recording devices, to make permanent, audible, visible records in close-up of all principles and witnesses in every trial, criminal and civil. Such an arrangement—besides using up tax dough prodigiously (that is, on a war-time scale)—would eliminate perjury, shyster legistics and sleeping judges and juries all at one stroke.

11. Institute in all grammar schools, instead of or in addition to vaccination, the racket which Dr. W. H. Sheldon has pursued for fifteen and more years. This would require three still photographs of every child, nude, one before, one behind, and one profile, which—together with other data gathered by Sheldon's system

"MOON HO!" FARNSWORTH



—may be useful in vocational guidance.

The Sheldon system for classifying the varieties of human physique and temperament comes highly recommended by Aldous Huxley, who wrote about the subject in *Harper's*, and by MFS George Faulkner who urges Sheldon's books upon us. Order them from the Society—*The Varieties of Human Physique*, \$4.50; *The Varieties of Temperament*, \$4.50. MFS Hoerlein boosts Sheldon too.

More planks will be added to our platform as they are received from the membership. Send in yours. If we cannot persuade the tax eaters who feed upon us to adopt the Perpetual Peace Plan without one more fling at the old-fashioned boondoggle called "war", then let us suggest the following improvement over the antiquated techniques of World Fraud I and World Fraud II:

Instead of sending Russian youth to the United States to wreck houses, and United States youth to Russia to do the same thing over there, let us each keep our armies, navies and flying corps at home to do our own damage. The net result is the same rubble and a rebuilding boom—so why not let our local heroes have the fun of killing their own families? The only argument the Congress can raise against it is its economy, but if we all start writing letters to our Senators NOW, urging them to adopt this method, perhaps we can prevent the income tax from reaching 100%.

Plank No. 12 could be financing MFS Farnsworth, in a race with the Army to the moon.

INTERLOCKING
(INTELLECTUAL)
DIRECTORATES

The natural affinity of Fortean's for the exploratory accounts for the closeness of our association with such institutions as the National Speleological Society and the United States Rocket Society, but it does not follow that all Fortean's will approve all the public utterances of the leaders of these other bands. Recently we threw a hat in the air because MFS Farnsworth, president of the rocketeers, had—until then—ignored the opportunity to hop on 'the atomic bandwagon, and even yet he takes this "mathematical-hazard-that-goes-off-like-a-fact" with a good-sized pinch of salt. In his article, *The Moon is My Destination*, in the *American Weekly*, he had the good judgment to say that atom-power was not necessary to send a rocket to Luna. He knows of other fuels equal to the task . . . In a letter to Senator Wayland C. Brooks, it is true that Farnsworth mentions the U.S. Army's projected atom-powered Lunar rocket with a perfectly straight face, but probably that was because one must lisp in the baby-talk of the daily wipers when soliciting patronage from a Senator. The same logic has prompted him to accept "atomic energy" as a "present reality", a "tool of American Armed Forces", in his talk, *The Golden Moon*, addressed to business men; to whom he wishes to sell Lunar flight as a business proposition. We wish that this compromise with the Great Atom Fraud were not necessary, but if Farn-

worth wants \$350,000 to build his rocket he must assassinate his conscience to get it.

On a clipping about him from the Buffalo *Courier-Express*, which calls Farnsworth a "Scientist", and quotes his ambition to put America in control of interplanetary commerce, MFS Goldstein writes: "Did it ever occur to Mr. F., that someone else may be there *already*?"

At the other, or speleological, extreme, we observe the cave-crawlers secretary getting his name in the papers by the same unsavory methods. J.S. Petrie told (7-16-46 old style) reporters in Chillicothe, Ohio, that "underground cavities such as the Seven Caves near Chillicothe will be the country's main hope in case of an all-out atomic war . . . might be the only means of preserving human life against the effects of atomic bombs". *Cr* Wakefield.

To Your Secretary, the merits of preserving human life are highly dubious after intelligence has fled.

July 17, 1946 old style, in the Honolulu *Advertiser*, Donald Billam-Walker, "manager of the Better Business Bureau and authority on the lava (tube) caves", echoed Petrie's sentiment. "In Waianae range, on Oahu, scientists have estimated that there are a quarter of a million such tubes. The (lava) flows have piled on top of each other during centuries . . . so that large caves now honeycomb the mountains." *Cr* Atwater.

Three Oakland (Calif.) gold miners exploded "six delayed dynamite charges" (5-31-46 old style). Next morning they went to look, and found they had opened a vast series of caverns hitherto unknown. They are in Tuolumne County. *Cr* Wakefield.

MENCKEN'S GODS

Although now a man grown, Your Secretary is embarrassed, nay, palsied by dread of the task of "reviewing" the new, revised edition of H. L. Mencken's *Treatise on the Gods*. How does it befall that one who wrote for upwards of twenty years with no higher hope than to elicit a single truncated syllable of praise from the Zoilus of Baltimore is, now, after thirty-seven years of trying, asked to judge that judge?

I?—turn a thumb, or up or down—with that gladiator in the arena? . . . I? This is not meet. I would sooner kick my old grandfather in the groin. But Knopf has sent me this book for review—and I think you will enjoy it. The price is \$3.50, and the Society can supply the work. Order many copies and hand them out to your religious friends.

Reading this new version of the near-classic informs the attentive plainly why H. L. Mencken refused to accept Fellowship with the Fortean when he was Named many years ago. It is his prejudice that ideas partake of that quality of coins which limits them to but two faces. All that fall non-heads must be tails. What is not true must be false. What is not black is white: whereas Fort's essence is twilight and dawn-stuff, the quasi, the eternal "cocked-dice".

To write this engaging treatise on the

gods, Mencken must, and does without cavil or so much as a second thought, accept and swallow whole as incontrovertible *a priori*, the twin illusions of "Evolution" and "Progress", neither of which theories is either proved or provable. Faced with the illogic of spontaneous generation at the hands of Yaweh, Mencken's black-or-white blindness has forced him to conclude long before this book was begun, that then, of course, species evolved. No *third* possibility seems to have occurred to him, nor even the chance that a third explanation was possible.

This somewhat basic objection is almost the only complaint one can bring against the book. Since the author proceeds in sublime self-confidence from highly dubious premises, naturally the flaw of certitude repeats itself frequently.

"The historicity of Jesus is no longer questioned seriously by anyone, whether Christian or unbeliever." Well, well, well . . . Apparently Mencken doesn't read any of the atheist papers—for they all question the historicity of Jesus quite seriously, and sometimes with splendid logic disavow it.

"Today every such (civilized) man knows that the laws which prevail in the universe, whatever their origin in some remote and incomprehensible First Purpose, manifest themselves in complete impersonality, and that no representation to any superhuman Power, however imagined, can change their operation in the slightest." Here Mr. Mencken's own piety is impressive, and after pausing to genuflect before his Capitalized First Purpose (which is as nonsensical a phrase as any in the Book of Revelations), let us not too rudely suggest that "the laws which prevail in the universe" are no such things. What Mencken and his backers among statisticians miscall "laws" are no more than attempted formulations of temporary phenomena in a constantly changing and anarchistic universe, ill observed from a biased perspective through the hole in the bottom of a flower pot. And, although it is highly probable that the manifestation of these phenomena is impersonal and not susceptible to human wishes, threats, prayers or saintly intercessions, it is by no means certain that the fall of a sparrow or the jig of a medicine-man cannot alter some, any or all the so-called "laws" Mr. Mencken may wot of, inasmuch as those "laws" do change (or cease to function entirely) for reasons (or no reasons) utterly beyond man's comprehension or experience.

Saith Mr. Mencken: "Science, we are told (by theologians), has become a religion on its own account, with a theology like any other. Its axioms are derided as mere articles of faith, and its leaders are no more than bogus John Baptists, howling in a wilderness of test-tubes." . . . Your Secretary makes no pretense of keeping abreast of Orthodox theological pronouncements, and so cannot know what sect or sects Mencken is quoting. It does not matter. Let them be Greek or Roman Catholics, Methodists from Alabama or Jehovah's Witnesses

from Oklahoma, on this one score the Fortean Society insists that the allegations are accurate, and if Mr. Mencken will take the time to test the allegations regardless of the alligator (*Cr* James Joyce), he can hardly fail to recognize the validity of the charge. In fact, he is himself a contributor to the new Faith: *viz*—"If Christian divines admit today that the world is round and revolves about the sun, it is only because they can't help themselves—because the fact has been so incontrovertibly proved that even the mob has had to accept it."

Only observe the supreme conviction with which that cardinal article of faith is expressed. The cloak of infallibility is merely transferred from pope to astronomer. The "incontrovertibility" of Holy Writ is transferred to our school books. The proofs and evidence of miracles, reported as having been observed, are replaced by the opinions of technologists and by the good works achieved by the laying on of a different set of hands. But Your Secretary submits that acceptance by "the mob", by Christian divines, and even by Mr. Mencken, does not make the currently received opinion in these matters one whit more nearly absolute or final than any of the other interpretations of these phenomena which have convinced other millions in other days. In fact, not one observable fact in defense of heliocentricity is not equally applicable in support of geocentricity. So that, in the last analysis, Mencken and his mob-persuaded believe what they believe on no fact more incontrovertible than that crude and baseless personal conviction which we hear called "horse sense": *i.e.*, unreasoned faith.

Only once in the book's entire course does Mencken doubt himself and his sources. He writes: "His (early man's) first works of art, still preserved in the caves he inhabited, are portraits of them (animals): he drew and carved them, *if the chronology of the archeologists is to be trusted*, even before he drew and carved women." The italics are ours.

Odd, too, that the above should be Mencken's only "if", because a more enlightened attitude is apropos when he writes: "On both sides of the Reformation fence the Christian church fought for its life, and, nearly everywhere it had the support of the universities, which is to say, of official learning, which is to say, of organized ignorance." . . . There, you see, we are back to Mencken's prejudice of Progress. He is keen enough to realize that the universities of 1500 AD represented "organized ignorance", but blind to the fact that today's universities represent that same body of ignorance organized along lines which differ in no essential particular.

RUSSELL GRIST

The best thing Russell has done this quarter is publish in Dagg's *Tomorrow* an article pulling the fright-wig off the "science" palmed off on us by Bertillon. Finger-prints don't even identify right from left, let alone individuals, and Russell documents that thesis in rousing style. Your Secretary, the wag, sent the article

to *Readers Digest* with the suggestion that they reprint. The rejection slip will be framed in Mother Church when that edifice is erected.

Membership rolls in Britain continue to increase, high-lighted recently by the addition of Francoise Delisle, author of *Friendship's Odyssey*, an autobiography which relates her long association with Havelock Ellis.

Of Lovancy's data, these are high spots:

Rhodomancy is the technical term for dowising or water-divining. "Today more than half of Britain's well-drilling firms employ dowisers." *Tit-Bits*, 10-18-46 old style.

In Khoman, Persia, a man killed one red snake. A multitude of them then invaded the village. One hundred a day are being killed, and still they keep coming. *Do*.

By changing its silver coins to nickel alloy, "the Government" of England made a profit (at whose expense?) of fifty million pounds Sterling. *Echo*, 9-27-46 old style.

Martin Bormann, a deputy of Hitler, reported killed in "the fall of Berlin", has broadcast three times recently acco Warsaw radio, 9-15-46 old style.

Chinese Communists accuse the U. S., of selling planes to their adversaries in the present civil war. 8-28-46 old style. (They don't catch on very fast, do they?)

Tessa Kindersley, *ae* 14, died in Dublin "two and a half hours after she had been given an injection against diphtheria."

Pauline Maud Kelly, aged eight and a half months, was vaccinated 8-7-46. The child died 9-4-46. The coroner found that the cause of death had "nothing to do with the vaccination".

Ernest Bernard Tatlock, *ae* 23, died 10-1-46 in hospital. He had been receiving treatments which involved taking arsenic. "The coroner expressed the opinion that the treatment given in no way contributed to the man's death."

Denis Arnot Schierwater, *ae* 37, died in hospital following an operation. At the inquest, "a doctor said that the operation was carried out successfully" . . . "death was due to a pulmonary adema, probably resulting from the operation." . . . "The coroner said he was satisfied that the operation was properly performed." 11-8-46 old style.

Gold injections for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis killed Mrs. Mary Matilda Kelly. The coroner adjourned the inquest. 11-13-46 old style.

John Redhead Wilkinson, *ae* 33, underwent an operation for varicose veins. Twenty-four hours later he was sent home. Five days later his wife brought him back to the hospital where he died shortly after admittance. The coroner said the widow could "rest assured that nothing that happened at the Infirmary had anything to do with the sudden death." 11-15-46 old style.

Britain is going to spend twelve million pounds to test rockets in Australia . . . The rockets will be fired from a ship in the Indian Ocean, aimed at central Australia . . . The Liverpool *Echo* quotes the Melbourne *Herald*: "Large-scale rock-

et tests in Central Australia will spell the final doom for the Australian aborigines in that region."

William K. Pai Ei, Hawaiian-Chinese fisherman, is alleged to have swum 75 miles, from Oahu Island to Kauai Island, in 53 hours and 1 minute. 8-20-46 old style.

The police of Milan are alleged to have buried "Mussolini's body" in a secret spot. 8-21-46 old style.

Besides the above, Russell and Elsander have between them, contributed no less than 32 data on the subject of food poisoning and other malaise directly attributable to the British "rationing" system. We deeply regret that space limitations prohibit us from doing justice to this subject.

ANY COMMENT?

MFS Herbert writes:

"I recently have encountered a strange rumor that I thought the Society would perhaps have some comment on.

"The rumor is that Franklin D. Roosevelt is not dead, but insane in some institution or privately run home. The reason given for this assumption was that according to soldier pall bearers the casket was inexplicably light. Also no one was supposed to have seen the body but the president's personal physician. Ordinarily a president who has died lies in state for some time to allow people to view the body. Also according to the rumor six armed soldiers are constantly on guard at the grave; also according to the rumor, presumably the Russians or others, are attempting to exhume the body to verify the death because Roosevelt is supposed to have offered the Russians more than he realized he could give them. It is obvious that an insane or expendable president would be better dead, or apparently so."

FIGHT! FIGHT!!

The Society has ring-side seats for a series of Battles of the Century. "Authorities" are going for each other like hey-go-mad.

1. (Deleted).

2. Drew Pearson vs U. S. Army. Pearson says (10-6-46 old style) U. S., has sent Britain a supply of A-bombs. British sources deny they have any, 10-8-46. Pearson says again (10-14-46) that they have. Truman, Eisenhower, Patterson and John Bull all deny it again, 12-8-46 . . . Your Secretary's dough would be on Pearson if he did not know the purpose of the publicity. *Cr* Elsander and Lodge.

3. Poison-spray makers vs bee keepers (see last issue of DOUBT for story of "starving bees, who could not get out to work in the rain.") *Echo* 8-15-46 old style: "It was believed they died of poisoning owing to the use of sprays containing arsenic to kill insects on fruit trees." *Cr* Russell.

4. Smithsonian vs the men who found Quarternary. This is an old battle resumed. Since time immemorial diggers have been turning up live frogs and toads in stone formations, and just as regularly

as they do, Science says they didn't. One side is mistaken, the strangest recurrence in the phenomenon is that the "experts", thousands of miles away from the "find", are always the ones who laugh at the eye-witnesses. Their laughs wouldn't destroy that kind of evidence in a murder trial. How much are they worth in this case?

The frog and a lizard were dug up at Artesia, N. Mex., about 10-13-16 F.S. Workmen killed the lizard. The frog lived two days, and is now in a bottle of alcohol. Charles Ashton, "a consulting petroleum geologist" estimated the frog's age as 2,000,000 years. Smithsonian's Bassler said it was "not even an ingenious fraud" (which the truth seldom is). Although nobody at Smithsonian had seen the critter—"the experts think probably (it) was a toad"! *Cr* Reagan, Kerr, Bowring, Lovas.

5. U. S. vs "Panama". A writer in *Reynolds News* (Brit.), 10-6-46 old style, digs up a small stench-new-to-Your-Secretary. As appears, no such country as "Panama" existed 40 years ago, the Isthmus lay in the state of Colombia, and Colombia did not favor U.S., canal plans. Accordingly, a "revolution" was staged, probably by the then current Office of Strategic Services, and the revolutionaries, backed by US, founded the Republic of Panama and let the canal go through . . . At the beginning of World Fraud II, US occupied 130 military bases in Panama "for the duration". In September of 16 FS, one year after "duration", US had given back only 32 of these spots and the Panama Parliament was protesting.

The same paper, 10-20-46 old style, states that the Government of Panama "has made a second emphatic request" that US move its troops and ships out of the Republic. *Cr* Russell.

The *World-Tele*, 12-27-46, chronicles the return to Washington from Panama of Michigan's Republican Congressman Engel. He had been down there on a "tour of inspection". He came back to urge "construction of a \$2,500,000,000 sea level canal across the isthmus". That is, a *new one*. Now, get this, a verbatim quote: "Mr. Engel said, however, that he would favor negotiations for other Central American sites for the proposed canal if the Republic of Panama refused to restore defense base rights to the United States." It is hardly clear whether Engel wants Panama to *return* the 32 bases we returned, or the 98 bases we have *not* returned. *Cr* Thayer.

6. Buffalo *Evening News* vs Francis A. Seyfried, superintendent or general manager of the Niagara Frontier Park Commission. On September 20, old style, the *News* printed a photo—air view—of a huge section of the brink of the American falls which had collapsed simultaneously with a reported quake, registered on a seismograph at Canisius College, Buffalo. "Captain H. A. Collins, head of the Niagara State Park Patrol, said about 25 to 30 tons of rock fell." The fallen rock is clearly visible in the photo. *Cr* Goldstein.

N. Y. Times, 9-21-46, old style: "There has been no perceptible change in the American Falls," declared Francis A. Seyfried (title above). Cr McMahon.

Buffalo News, 9-21-46: "Robert L. Rice, Sr., commission president, said from reports relayed to him by the commission's general manager, Francis A. Seyfried, there appeared to be two distinct falls of rock which, he said, created a noticeable change in the falls outline."

Dr. McTigue, the Canisius College seismologist, said there had been a "sharp but very weak" shock at 15 seconds after 10:29 a.m., on the 20th.

Enter, the Buffalo Courier-Express, 9-22-46 old style: NIAGARA FALLS TREMOR STILL A DEEP MYSTERY . . . "Francis A. Seyfried . . . said that so far as we are concerned there is no break in the American falls." Cr Goldstein.

Last word!—from the Seattle, Wash., Star, 9-30-46 old style: "Controversy over whether a rock slide occurred at the mighty American cataract . . . when (the) city was considerable shaken was ended today by official reports that a natural motion of the earth was responsible for the disturbance." Our italics. Cr Hoerlnein.

7. Spitzer of Yale vs Wexler of U.S. Weather Bureau. Dr. Lyman Spitzer, Jr., of Yale U Observatory, reported, 9-13-46 old style, at Madison, Wis., that "interactions between gases and solid grains, which have previously been neglected, will cool down the interstellar gases . . . temperatures similar to those found on the earth may be quite possible in interstellar space". Cr Reagan.

"Seventy-five miles above the earth's surface—in a region which may be traversed regularly by space ships in a few years (sic)—the average daytime temperature stands at 216 degrees (Fahrenheit) above zero, above the boiling point of water . . . This is the figure calculated by a committee of experts (sic) headed by Dr. Harry Wexler of the United States Weather Bureau." . . . Go to it, boys! Cr Bloch.

8. Basil O'Connor vs Sister Kenny. "We are using the Kenny method in treating infantile paralysis," says O'Connor . . . "You are NOT," says Sister Kenny. Cr McMahon.

9. Are these the same word?

gorgonosaurus

gorgonsaurus

gorgosauros

The writers of the wipers do not make clear whether the same beast is intended by those three versions of a word.

The controversy is over a skeleton washed up at Homer, Alaska. Scientists are now "converging" upon it to decide whether it is a tyrannosaurus, a gorgonosaurus or a whale. If it is "prehistoric", its flesh was preserved in the ice, perhaps 85,000,000 years. If it is a whale (as Prof. Ivar Skagland suspects), it is like no whale a Nantucketer ever saw: The photo printed in the Washington, D.C., Times-Herald 10-27-46 old style, bears the same resemblance to Moby Dick that Truman bears to Jefferson.

Smithsonian has the skeletal remains

of a "gorgosaurus" found in Northern Montana in the year 12 FS Cr Bowring, Wakefield, Hoernlein, Reagan.

OVER BALTIMORE

Maybe God is after Mencken. Anyway, on the first day of Fort, 16 FS, Aug. 11, old style, a "ball of fire suspended from a parachute" fell in the East Brooklyn section of the city. The next night, Fort 2, 16 FS, another descended. On Fort 6, a third came down into the harbor where "it burned furiously for several minutes as it floated on the water". Thomas Hagerty, Chief of the Fire Department Arson Squad, said he didn't know where the things came from. Cr Hoernlein.

About 2:00 a.m. 12-18-16 FS (Nov. 20, 1946 old style), three sets of people reported to the Baltimore police that a man or men (or women) had been seen by them, suspended from parachutes in the air, at height ranging from "the top of a car" to 400 feet. Red lights flashed near the floaters, and the creatures spoke, saying either "hello" or "help". No explanation is offered by AP, but the St. Paul Pioneer Press printed another despatch in the same column with the above. The reader is, perhaps, expected to infer some connection. The second despatch states that "five free balloons, each with an instructor and four students aboard (sic)" left Lakehurst, N. J., training station two days before "on a routine training mission". Whether Lakehurst (where Zeppelins burn) sent out the incendiaries in the month of Fort is not stated. Cr Summers.

PLASMA NOT SO HOT

If an injection of "blood plasma" from one of those banks or banks we heard so much about kills the person into whom it is injected, the official alibi is that the patient was allergic to mercury. Mercury is used to preserve the junk "contributed" by patriots, and after James Ragen died following one of these vicarious transfusions enough mercury was found in his system "to kill three men". Cr Kerr.

NOT THE MINES

Land subsidence at Kiblesworth, Durham, a coal mining village, threw more than 70 out of their homes in October. BUT "we are satisfied that the trouble cannot be due to this company's mining operations," saith F. M. Fletcher, agent for the owners, Charlaw and Sacristan Collieries. Cr Elsander.

The Truth About INDIA

by
Kanhayalal Gauba

(continued)

The High Courts. — Almost every State has a High Court or Chief Court mostly recruited from the friends of the Diwan and some times from the briefless at the Bar in British India. Except in a very few States, the salary of a High Court Judge does not exceed Rs. 500 per month. The High Courts are therefore not generally very "high" in morals, scruples or legal ability.

In these so-called Courts of Justice no subject may bring a charge against a State Official, either for an offence committed in the course of his Official Duties or in the course of his private life. Even the village school master and the policeman earning the magnificent salary of two or three rupees a week are State Officials and as such are immune from prosecution. These persons may commit thefts and personal assaults and no action may be taken against them without the Permission of the Prince. The permission may be refused without reason. (Ibid, p. 73.)

Where the Prince himself presides over the fountain head of justice, matters are often worse. Few Princes can afford to forego the pleasure of a trip to Europe because the number of appeals pending is large. Similarly few can postpone a shikar because an urgent judicial decision is necessary. The wheels of justice turn slowly in several quarters of the world but never so slowly as in the Native States of India. Ten years is quick work, usually a final decision may be reached in fifteen or twenty years. Often no decision is ever reached. The cases are adjourned from time to time for some reason or another: the judge may be busy, the Prince may be away, the file may be lost, the court clerk may be dead, the Viceroy may be coming, a Maharaj Kumar may have a son, the Ranies may have 'scrapped' any one of a hundred possibilities may occur. A criminal case is now pending in the Courts of one of the Punjab States which was "challenged" in 1904. The accused is supposed to have stolen a pair of shoes. The accused died in 1914 after being in the lock-up ten years for an offence for which the maximum punishment according to laws of the State is three months. Part of the file was mislaid in 1905: it is still being sought after. The Court has no information that the accused and the complainant are now both dead. The case came up for hearing in February, 1930 and the magistrate recorded: "The file must really be found. Ah!mad be warned. Case to come up for framing of the charge on 2nd Bisakh".

The Executive. — The head of the Executive is the Diwan or Chief Minister. There have been some noteworthy holders of this office conspicuous for their ability, intelligence and devotion. But as he is often an outsider who is not an inhabitant or a subject of the State he has no natural feeling for, or interest in, the welfare of the people. His principal aim frequently is to consolidate his own position. This he does by fulsome flattery of the Prince, whose vagaries he extols as virtues. He proceeds to fill up all important and influential posts with his own relatives and personal friends. Even such measures as these do not always guarantee to the Prime Minister any certainty of continuance in office. Palace intrigues may deprive him of his office. He excites the jealousy of a number of persons, and he know well how capricious is the favour of the Prince, who may at any moment remove him in favour of another man. Thus the position is in every way precarious, and the whole at-

tention of the Diwan is concentrated on making hay while his own particular sun is shining - the result is that in such circumstances he has to adopt the usual methods of a servile flatterer. He gives the Prince full power and sanction to spend vast sums of money on luxury and display, and hardly ever attempts to prevent His Highness from leading a life of unbridled vice and self-indulgence.

Few Diwans survive a successor. The new Ruler has his own favourites to reward, men who have catered to his whims and passions as an heir-apparent. So with each new ruler there is a new host of administrators. So many Diwans make the most of the time and opportunities available. The salary may be only Rs. 2000 a month, but the position is worth much more. One never is quite sure how and for what reason the order of the boot may be given. A Diwan of one of the Southern States not long ago incurred the displeasure of his Chief by declining to send his daughter to the palace. The Prince planned a revenge deeper than a mere dismissal. The police were instructed to prepare a case of embezzlement. But the head of the police was a favourite of the Diwan—the secret was out—the Diwan made good his escape to the hospitable territories of British India in the fastest car available. Such cases are not unusual. The length of service as Diwan as for other officials of the State are entirely within the purview of the Prince's caprice. A State in the Central India Agency in the course of twenty years had as many as twenty different Diwans. Few Diwans last more than a few years. But while they do, theirs is the wealth of 'Ormus and of Ind.' A Prime Minister in a Rajputana State had the rare good fortune to be Diwan for many years. While Diwan, he received a salary of Rs. 1500 a month, or Rs. 18,000 a year. In twenty-one years he received the aggregate sum of Rs. 3,78,000. His services were rewarded also with a *jaqir* aggregating in the time that he was a Diwan a sum of Rs. 2,70,000. The ostensible aggregate of income was therefore about Rs. 6,50,000 in twenty-one years. After meeting the education and marriage of three sons and two daughters declared to have cost in all Rs. 2,45,000 and expenses of his palace and estates for the twenty-one years he was reported to have had at the end of the period tangible assets amounting to over 22 lacs!

While therefore the duties of a Diwan are delicate, there is much reward, often, if he can successfully overcome the intrigues of the Princes' favourites and other difficulties of his office. The Ranis may send for him when the Prince is away, the Political Agent may want a European officer put here and there, a journal in India may hold an important document for blackmail, the dancing girls may have a grievance, bills in Calcutta may be pending. If he can steer successfully through the rocks—winning the favour of the Prince, satisfying the Ranis, pleasing the Political Agent, keeping the press in hand, sharing what the Americans

call the 'spoils of office,' with the Vakilkhana, he should find that he has one of the best jobs in the world—honours, titles, pearls of price and the apples of Eden.

(To be continued)

SEATTLE BLASTS

About 9:00 p.m. 8-25-46 old style, Seattle felt a "massive explosion" south of the city . . . "Dull thud . . . earth and air shock." No explanation. No seismograph impression.

Another, heavier, 8-28-46 (unless the usually reliable Hoernlein has fouled us up) also at 9:00 p.m.

A third, at 9:20 or 9:23 on 8-29-46.

An old, closed coal mine is in the vicinity.

Hoernlein was out of town, but MFS Stevens sent Blast Number Four, 9-12-46 old style, now in the North instead of the South "end" of Seattle.

The fifth occurred at 12:40 a.m., 9-23-46 old style, less severe than No. 4 after which "a small crater was found in the (Woodland) park."

Pranksters with dynamite are blamed—but not caught.

BALLISTICS

(74-18-46 old style?): Boy, 16, in Buffalo, at 11:40 p.m. Apparently a .32 caliber slug was removed from the knee. *Cr* Giles.

6-14-46 old style: Boy, 10, son of the first deputy fire commissioner of N.Y.C. Two shots heard at 11:15 a.m. No slug found although .22-calibre talk was indulged in. *Cr* Giles.

8-14-46 old style: Engineer on the Boston & Maine, struck in the hand by a "stray" bullet. No mention of slug found. *Cr* Kerr.

8-18-46 old style: Boxer, 27, found fatally shot in Scranton, Pa., street, Called murder. *Cr* Kerr.

8-29-46 old style: Six windows in a laundry, Washington, D.C., were broken "by .22-calibre rifle". No slugs found. Rifle talk wholly gratuitous. *Cr* Kerr.

9-10-46 old style: London man, at 6:30 a.m., in the abdomen "as he left his flat". No slug mentioned. *Cr* Russell.

9-24-46 old style: Chicago, man, *ae* 44, while walking with his bride. Fatal. Called a "stray" bullet by police. No mention of slug found. *Cr* Goldstein.

10-19-46 old style: four shots hit train entering Deal. The shots came from both sides of the track. No slugs mentioned. *Cr* Russell.

10-31-46 old style: Boy 8, Rockford, Ill., while riding his bicycle. A .22-calibre slug recovered. *Cr* Anderson.

11-29-46 old style: For several weeks before this, rocks were thrown and shots fired at trains in Berkeley, Calif. No injuries. No slugs. Detectives are riding the trains. *Cr* Wakefield.

12-4-46 old style: a cleaning woman, 29, in Brooklyn. She applied for medical aid and was refused. She died. The wound was in her back, but no slug is mentioned as recovered. *Cr* Thayer.

NO SUCH ANIMAL

Swan Lake, near South Haven, Mich., 8-15-46 old style, at dusk. Later "identified" as a swimming cow.

Off Cape San Martin, California, 11-7-46 old style, with a face like a gorilla. United Press asserts it has appeared annually for the past ten years and answers to the name of "Bobo". No such periodicity appears in the Society Archives. *Cr* Barneson, Rayner, Cosman, and non-member Magloughlin.

Lake Como, 11-19-46 old style, "rose-colored". *Cr* Wilson, Zito, Henderson, McMahon, Secor, Wakefield and others.

LAND BEASTIES

At Lebanon, Indiana: the State Entomologist, Frank Wallace, returned (8-14-46 old style) to his bugs where he should have stayed in the first place.

On September 4, old style, Harry McClain claimed that his assistant, Roy Graham had shot the "monster", a black panther, which fell into a creek and could not be recovered. *Cr* Kerr, Giles, Carlson, Sheeley, Summers and others.

No sooner was he dead than "something" turned up near Oquawka, Ill. two somethings, 9-19-46 old style. Descriptions would suit black panthers. On 9-22 one hundred fifty men and three planes hunted. Found nothing.

On 9-24 at Mokence, Ill., clear across the State from Oquawka, and much closer to Lebanon, Ind., some critter had appeared three times, clawing one dog to death . . . On 11-2-46 old style, it—or something like it—turned up at Lowell, Indiana, about 10 miles from Mokence. *Cr* Bloch, Wakefield, Kerr, Giles, Goldstein, Anderson, Reagan, Carlson.

Meantime, a "ferocious pig-dog" appeared in the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio, 9-23-46 old style. *Cr* Kerr.

Next, 10-11-46, at Evanston, Ill., where such things have happened before, something the size of a bear was rampant. *Cr* Reagan and Kerr.

Life apparently disposed of the Valais, Switzerland "monster" in its issue of October 21, 1946 old style. The answer was panthers "bombed out of Milan". *Cr* Reagan and Kerr. BUT a "serpent" began swallowing chickens near Grenoble, 8-8-46. It is "20 feet long." *Cr* Hopper.

Besides, a Tiger had killed 6 in Karwar, near Bombay, by 10-9-46 old style . . . A "lion" was eating sheep in Central France . . . Bears were active in Japan . . . A "moose" killed a horse near Otisfield, Maine, 11-4-46 old style . . . And a rat three feet long was on display in Togemba, Japan. *Cr* Wheeler, Goldstein, Elsener, Wakefield, Reagan.

WE THANK YOU

for the sunspots. Fourteen data on the subject have been added to the file, which—we promise—will make monkeys of the few physicists who remain tailless at the time of publication.

Left out, this issue, too, are numerous good ghost stories, coincidences, sleepwalkers, hail, and the death of Sir James Jeans.

Exploration of Mount Shasta by SCIENTISTS will appear next issue.

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

- 1841
Box 2 (continued)
 Sept 1 Fog and quake. On eastern slope of the Oural and other places in Russia / Russian time? / (reverse) at dawn sky reddish and sparkling - turning to an orange yellow color - this after sounds like distant thunder; said been subterranean - then the quake bet. 1 and 2 a.m. - then at dawn the sky
 1 phenomena and quake (It?) See 1805
 2 Cent. Amer. great quake (BA) '11
Box A (Resumed)
 before
 Sept 16 Chiswick, Eng. (D-168) St. In. **Box 2 (Resumed)**
 Sept 6 (See June 12) Star Vendee. See Nov. 5 / In 1880, M. Daubrie in C.R. 91-30 tells of a star that fell (reverse) at St. Christophe-la-Chartreuse, Commune de Roche-Servieres, Vendee. BA '80-52. Dr. Walter Flight says that this fall had never before been recorded.
 6 France / Vendee / Stone / BA 80-52. See Nov. 5 right date? (Fort's query. TT)
 8 Met and train. C.R. 13/637
 9 Fireball. BA '60
 10 Monmouthshire / quake "followed by a loud explosion" / Roper p. 35
 10 At Calcutta at 2 a.m. - for 10 or 12 minutes at Calcutta myriads of meteors (reverse) light from them so intense smallest print could have been read. BA 50-121
 10 Nothing in Friend of India (Calcutta)
 12 See Comrie. Jan. 8, 1840
 20 Geneva etc. bright fireball. BA '60
 21 LT p. 6. Quake. Comrie
 28 Paris. W to E Fireball. BA '60
 29 Bayonne Fireball. BA 60
 Oct 7 (D-176). "On Thursday (7th) forenoon during a heavy thunder storm, a considerable number of small fishes fell from the clouds at Town-hill, about (reverse) a mile north-east from Dunfermline. They were in general from 2 to 3½ inches in length and although they must have fallen from a considerable height many of them were alive after they fell, and jumping among the grass. LT Oct. 12
 8 Met almost size moon. BA 60/ slow
 9 40 mets. in one hour moving S.W. Huntingdon, Florida. BA 47-15
 9 At Parma a very slight shock of earthquake / 24th BA '54-313
 15 Sanguinetto (Verona Italy. Shocks or dull explosions and a "kind of hissing noise which seemed to pass rapidly through the (reverse) air" - numerous shocks like rains of meteors - other flashes like lightning / quake at 2:30 a.m., 2:45 a.m. 3:30 a.m. severest of all at 4 am. BA 54-312
 15 Bet 2:30 and 4 a.m. 4 shocks at Verona ac to M. Quetelet (reverse) each ac by subterranean sound and whistling sound in air, and by long trains of fire in sky like those of meteors. C.R. 17-623
 15 & 16 Verona (It) / Luminous streamers in air and flashes and quake detonations. See 1805
 23 Quake Comorn, Hungary. See Aug. 1. BA '11
 24 at 8 p.m. Violent quake. Had been a "hot wind all the morning." BA 54/312
 25-29 At Parma / Magnetic perturbations and meteors and on Oct. 27 and 29 substance like that of Feb. 17-19; / Bull. Acad. de Belgique. 2-371
 27 Rain mud. no more in C.R.
 29 /Sanguinetto / More shocks and wind and rain. See Oct. 15 BA '54
 Nov 5 Bourbon—Vendee France— meteorite ac to BA 60-78. See Sept. 6
 8 Parma. E to W Fireball. BA 60
 9 Hereford. Large fireball. BA '60
 10 North America. Large meteor seen many places. BA 60
 12 10 p.m. in Aosta extraordinary meteor B.G. Univ. N.J. 36-196
 12-13 From 1:30 a.m. till daybreak, one observer in South Herefordshire saw 13 mets. BA 52-186
 12-13 Many mets, some large at Asturias. BA 47-15
 12-13 No ext. mets. Paris. C.R. 13-1035
 12-13 Aurora and falling stars — CR 13-1035
 12-13 No remarkable meteors in France and Belgium. C R 15-930
 14 Volc Goentoer, Java N.M. C.R. 70-878
 15 Langensulz / Great det. BA '60
 18-19 Quake at height of "a terrible storm S.W. Coast of France. BA '54
 18 A periodic aurora Geneva C R
 13/1035
 20 Quake at Dole, Jura where q's of Dec. 2. BA 54
 Dec 1 Magnificent aurora at Seysset, one of the places affected next day's quake. BA 54
 2 At Lyons, the quake during a storm. BA 54
 2 Refs - Moniteur, Dec. 7, 8, 11 J. des Debats Dec. 7, 8
 2 Storms throughout France. BA 54
 2 Geneva. Rained all day and air charged with electricity. BA 54
 2 Ab 8 p.m. Severe shocks Rhone, Ain, Isere, Jura and (reverse) Saone et Loire in Savoy and Switz. Preceded by remarkably hot weather. Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 storm of very hot wind at Bellay.
 3 to about 8 p.m. The shocks continue. BA 54
 5 Goldberg, Silesia / det. met. BA '60
 9 Savoy. Dec. 10 Belley. Dec. 14 Savoy. Shocks. BA 54
 16 Oels / slow fireball. BA '60
 21 Met twice apparent size of moon. Scotland. BA 50/90
 29 St. Maxient, France, large fireball. BA 60
 1842
 1842 Brilliant light at Comrie, one morning before daylight / E Mec. 21/52
 Jan 1 Magnetic perturbations at Brussels and Jan. 2 at Parma / 1839 Jan. 2-3
 Milan. At Parma, Milan, Prague Jan. 2 Prague. 3 at Brussels (reverse) Bull de l'Acad. de Belgique 1843-1-9
 2 Caucasia. Great quake '11
 4 Mayfield, Ohio / Afternoon / Tornado / Finley's Report
 Jan to
 Apr Volcs Java active N.M. C.R. 70-873
 Jan 14
 to 19 Wurtemberg quakes and several with sounds like thunder. BA '54
 26 Conj Saturn and Jupiter. Observatory 24/158
 29 Eutin / Large Met / BA 69-282
 Feb 5 Sub volc? 5 a.m. Vessel at O° 57'S and 20°47' W rumbling sound and several concussions (reverse). Another vessel at O° 30'S and 21°55' W had similar experience. (reverse) There is given account by a captain of a third vessel, at the same time, off the Cape Verde Islands— sound and (reverse) his vessel

- violently shaken—again 50 minutes later and then 4 hours later and a final at noon, when position was 0.44S and 20:16E / These are W of Greenwich not Paris / This is by M. Daussy, who refers to C R 15-447. See May 19, 1806
- 7 Aargau large fireball. BA '60
- 9 7:45 p.m. at Agen meteor C R 14-282
- 9 Paris, Toulouse, Agen. Fireball. BA '60
- 17 Quake—sound. At Falimouth quake. The sound attracted attention and few persons felt vibrations / Timb's YB 1843/262 (over) 8:30 A.M. LT Feb. 22 p 5
- 19 NW of India. Great quake '11
- 24-25 Night. Red rain. R Mag 161-146 / 1841? (Fort's query. T.T.)
- 25 Band of light equal to moon's diameter claim from Moon. Seen in Derby and South Lambert. Nature 28/54
- Mar 4 6 a.m. Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Tornado / Finley's Report
- 13-24 Nothing in Sydney Herald
- 13 Quakes and dust. Colored rain fell in Greece about one hour. Same night were earthquakes. C.R. 15-583. See March 27
- 18 Parma Fireball. BA '60
- 24-25 Night: Reddish powder fell at Amphissa, Greece. CR 14/617 (Verified). Throughout Greece. C.R. 15-580
- 24-25 Red rain Amphissa, Greece. C.R. 14/617. 15/580—brick-red
- 30 1:30 a.m. / Caulondu Vaud, Switz. Quake and loud sound BA '54
- Apr 11 Charka, India. Met train in Scorpio ab 4 a.m. 10 or 20 degrees long. BA 50-122
- 11 Meteoric cloud 10 or 12 degrees long—visible 20 minutes/ Chusta, India / B Assoc 1852-238 (reverse) in Scorpio
Box A (Resumed)
- 21-22 Rain one place / 21st about 10:30 p.m. M. Bodson, at Noisfontaine, drops of water falling with force. He learned that (reverse) they had been falling for several hours from a cloudless sky / On 22nd he there again and the water still falling. / C R 14-664
Box 2 (Resumed)
- 26 Milena, Warasdin, Croatia, Hungary / meteorite / F
- 26 Hungary / near Agram 3 p.m. 3 p.m. / Stone LT June 23 p 10
- May 7 5:20 p.m. / quake / LT July 2, p 6, For two weeks had been a "particularly lurid tinge of the sky before night. 23, p 8, 5 minutes later sea rose 5 or 6 feet. To the S.E. sky intensely black "clouds of smoke rolled over head." / had been unusual drought (reverse) Hayti. Then on 7th the quake—town of Cape Hayti was destroyed.
- 7 Destructive quake Hayti. BA 1911-54
- 7 Quake. St. Domingo preceded by great heat and heavy clouds. (Reverse) Niles Nat. Reg June 4, 1842
- 8 Quake - phe / 5:15 p.m. / LT July 1, p. 6. West Indies near St. Nicholas Mole - ship felt sharp shock - Capt saw clouds of dust arising from the land (reverse) At 6:30 p.m. a dense cloud of black smoke rising from the sea in the horizon as if from a volcano.
- 11 Geneva - C.R. 15/290 / Ac Dr. Wartman at 10:30 a.m. - not a cloud in the sky - no wind - for about 6 minutes fell (reverse) vertically large drops of warm water / at 3 p.m. under the same conditions again warm water in large drops about 3/4 minutes - stopped 1/2 minute - fell abundantly one minute - stopped few seconds then again.
- 11 Whirl. In Liverpool "not a breath of air" clotheslines a common-thing were (reverse) seized upward. Smoke from chimneys indicated that above the surface there was a southward wind - the clothes were carried northward (reverse) and "have never since been heard of at least by the owner". This within 50 days of each other. Annals of Electricity
- 11 Liverpool / whirl and clotheslines / Annals of Electricity 6/499 (Reverse) See May 11, 1848.
- 11 Cupar Levitation. See Apr 25 or 18, 1869
- 11 Cupar Whirl and explosion. See Apr 1918
- 11 Cupar. See May 11, 1847
- 17 & 18 Odorous dry fog at Paris. C. R. 14-840 N.M.
- June 1 About Sweet stuff in hailstones / Nimes /France / D-63
- June 3 Detonations. Montpellier and Toulouse fireball size of sun N.E. to S.W. BA '60
- 3 Detonating meteor, 9 p.m. at Mende (Lozere) CR 14-918
- 3 Montpellier and Toulouse 9:15 p.m. Met size of sun detonation. BA 60-80
- 4 Aumières (dela Lozere) meteorite. BA 60
- 3 & 4 Shocks Berne / 3rd Meteor Parma and S of France. 4 magnetic perturbations (reverse) at Brussels on 4th & 5th at Munich & Prague. BA '54
- 12 Met. det. Toulon. BA '60
Box A (Resumed)
- 17 LT p 6. Singular discovery
Box 2 (Resumed)
- 21 Quake and sky / Quake at Cartmel, Eng / dark red clouds in sky "rumbling sound underground." bet 10 & 11 p.m. LT
- June 29, p5
- 30 See June 12, 1919
- 30 Cupar (reverse: and the following is typewritten by Fort, as if cut out of a page of MSS) LT July 5, 1842; the town of Cupar—the common: a public place, upon which women were hanging their wash out on lines conspicuousness—parallel white lines against a green background. It is said that the day was very clear; that there was not a cloud in the sky. A loud and sharp report was heard overhead. Whether something exploded up there or not, whether something like an enormous vacuum-cleaner was suddenly opened or not, it is said that this report was so loud that cattle in the fields ran about and for some time cowered in terror. Something pounced and snatched clothes from clotheslines. Some fell to the ground, but others went up and disappeared. The "preposterous" circumstance that at first evaded us become more and more definite, giving us more and more of the appearance of positiveness; that is seizure that had so little radius of disturbance that it seems unthinkable as a wind of any kind. It is said that a woman, holding a blanket, felt the blanket shooting upward; that so powerful was the force that, in fear of being carried (Here the page is cut. TT)
- July Box A (Resumed)
Decomposed half devoured body found in woods - no one missing in the neighborhood. Times July 6 1842/9
- July Box 2 (Resumed)
Logrono, Spain 7 lb stone fell / Phil Mag 4/8/460
- July Lyston Hall, Suffolk. In Symon's 21/123. Cor writes of (1842 or 1843) shower of (reverse) frogs in enormous numbers - gardeners swept up and carried away in wheelbarrows.
- July 8 Eclipse of sun. Bib Univ. N.S. 35-160
- 8 Marseilles / Lights on moon during eclipse of sun. Loomis Treatise on Astr. p. 174
- 10 About noon. Dunblane 18 miles from Comrie quake LT July 13. p10
- 11 9:10 p.m. Fireball. Paris. BA '60
- 12 4:20 p.m. / Calamalla Spaita, Greece quake "Preceded by a loud aerial noise". BA '54 -323
- 21 Birkenhead op from Liverpool / Whirl An Regist 2/126 (Reverse) /LT July 26
- July 1842 or 43 Frogs / Lyston Hall, Suffolk / Sym Met Mag 21/123
- July 29 Essex Eng / Whirl rather like

- Cupar.
- 31 Fireball. Hamburg. BA '60
- Aug 5 See Sept 5 Harrogate. Yorkshire / stone fall recorded as "very doubtful". B Assoc 1860/80
- 5 Fireball. Silesia. 8:20 p.m. N.W. to S.E. BA 60
- 9-10 Perseids. Parma - Myriads. Great numbers Germany and Belgium (reverse) In several parts of France not remarkable; in other parts, many. BA 47-15
- 10 Armagh. Meteor. Proc. Reg Irish Acad 2/332
- 12 9 p.m. Aosta. Meteor motionless "dizaine" seconds (reverse) R. B. Univ. N.S. 42-396
- 12 Great meteor at Sraud Temps (Isere) C.R. 15-451. 9 p.m.
- 19 bet 7 & 9 p.m. / Pitlochny. 3 shocks and sounds LT Sept. 1 p 3
- 22 bet 6 & 7 / Bangor, N. Wales, etc. booming sound & quake LT Aug 25 p 3.
- 27 S. Herefordshire. Man saw glass near a hedge - thought it reflection from some meteor BA 52/187
- Sept 3 Parma Fireball. BA '60
- 5 See Aug 5 Harrogate / huge stone - 1/2 ton in the storm Mechanics Mag 37/272
- 6 LT p 7. Waterspout
- 9 Quake. Gross-Kanischka/ (Hung) / BA '11
- Box A (Resumed)
- 22 LT p 5. Strange if true
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- 24 5:35 a.m. & ab 7 p.m. / Shocks Comrie LT Oct 10
- 25 (Pax Ext. magnetic disturbance noted at Greenside Co. Annals of Electricity 6/112
- 25 Evening St. Louis brilliant meteor detonating like discharges of artillery. Niles Nat Reg. 63-96
- 30 Parma. Fireball. BA 60
- Oct 2 Bet. 6 & 7 p.m. At Dinau in Depart. Calvados. Shock (reverse) and sound like thunder clap, but it came distinctly from the ground. BA 54
- 4 Flashes reported by Mr. (?) of the Cambridge (?) (both the name of the man and the news-cut off TT) A bright streak of light in Orion and a center about bright as Jupiter, a center from which were coming quick, flickering waves of light (reverse) lasting 10 seconds. The waving ceased and there was a bright star in the center. It faded and in 2 minutes disappeared. Timb's Year Book 1843 / 279
- 4 Cambridge Fireball. BA '60
- 6-7 Night / Shock / Dinau (Calvados) BA '54-324. "Accompanied by a hollow sound, which some (reverse) persons took for a clap of thunder, but the sky was perfectly free of clouds and the noise came distinctly from beneath upwards."
- 12 Meteor Isere / 13th on Rhine gave loud noise. BA 54/324
- 18 Hamburg Fireball. BA '60
- 23 Det met hear all over Silesia. BA 60-80
- 25 Spout Scotland. LT Nov. 24 p 4
- 28 7 p.m. Comet in Draco. A. J. Sci. 44 211
- Nov 4 12:30 p.m. Shock around mouth of Ohio. Two hours later (reverse) another with sound like thunder. Niles Nat. Register Nov. 26.
- 8 or 9 No fall of black matter in Canada recorded but see 9th in Italy
- 8 or 9 Montreal etc. "Terrible shocks and explosions like salvos of artillery (reverse) In Rept BA 1845 (Trans) p. 29 date given as 9th
- 8 Evening. Montreal, Canada, etc. quake "accompanied by explosions like salvos of artillery" (reverse) according to Audley Account was on the 9th. / BA '54/324
- 9 10:15 a.m. Distinct shock on southern side of Etna "The next day (reverse) a kind of volcanic dust covered the roofs, plants, etc., in Naples, Pozzuoli, Ischia and all the southwestern part of the Kingdom. BA 1854
- 9 Quake. Canada / Montreal, etc. BA 45/21
- 9 Quake Canada this day. Etna. Nothing said in Le Moniteur Univ which is Gaz (reverse) de France. Min Nat. & Com. France of fall of dust before Nov. 27
- Box A (Resumed)
- 9 See Nov. 17
- Nov 10
- 18
- 18 Mysterious fires. Montierendier & Boulancourt
- Dec 1 about
- 8
- 9
- Nov 10 An de Chim 3/7254 etc. See 1840 Myst. fires of Montierendier - Letter from the Justice of Peace of M. to M. Arago. Myst fires inexplicable after investigations by the authorities - Nov 18 the first - young girl saw a strong light pass and strike the window glass - the next day this house on fire (reverse) On 10th a great flame from the roof of a barn - on the 12th this barn on fire. Dec. 5 bet. 5 & 6 a.m. a luminous globe in the sky. On 8th of Feb. (?) 1843 globe of fire seen go out from a chimney - on 9th a barn on fire. Also, each in Dec. globe of fire. C.R. 16/206
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- 11 Quake Calcutta. A writer says he felt electrified 15 minutes after. LT 1843 Jan. 12 p. 3
- 13 Nantes (Fr) quake and explosions. BA '54
- Box A (Resumed)
- 18 etc. Flames fires (reverse) - the bal-
- ance is typewritten by Fort, a fragment as if cut from a MSS. TT) In the Annales de Chimie, 3-7-254, is published a letter from the Magistrate of Montierender, to M. Arago - fires that had broken out in Montierender and Boulancourt, towns about six miles apart. The Magistrate writes that, upon November 18, 1842, a young girl had entered her room, and had seen a bright light strike the window pane. The next day, the lofts of this house and four neighboring houses were found burning. At Coulancourt, November 10th, a great flame was seen near the roof of a barn. Two days later this barn was burned. At Montierender, early in December, luminous things were seen in the sky: they are described as if they were meteors. Upon the 8th of December, another luminosity was seen. It was thought to have issued from a chimney. The thing went to a cemetery, or it passed over a cemetery, where it divided into three parts, one of which fell into the cemetery, or seemed to, nothing of it (2nd page) having been found there. Upon the 9th of December, about a mile west of Montierender, a fire broke out in a barn. The Magistrate writes that the utmost endeavors of the police had been fruitless, and he appeals to M. Arago for the help of Science. ("Cemetery" is spelled so on the note. The "2nd page" bears the numerals "184" at the top, obviously a cut from a book MSS. TT)
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- 17 (F) Etna LT Dec. 26, p. 2 writing on Dec. 11th cor says that as long before as the 17th of Nov Etna exhibited extraordinary symptoms. The (reverse) smoke became denser and proceeded farther. No eruption noted till 27th.
- 27 etc. Etna Noted for Dec. 9. BA 54
- 27 11 p.m. eruption of Etna ac to Le Moniteur Universel Dec. 17.
- 27 11 p.m. Etna. Athenaeum. 1842-1116
- 30 Eden N.P.I. 47-55. Near Ahmedabad stone like Feb. 15, 1848. "This fragment presented so exactly the appearance of the foregoing aerolite from (reverse) Dharwar that it might have been taken for a portion of it; presenting the same dark vitrified surface, the grayish-white silicious interior, with the brilliant metallic particles diffused through it.
- Dec 2-11 Etna active C.R. 16-93
- 4 Algiers. Light quake. BA '11



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