

BULLETIN

of

The British Interplanetary Society

President :

Professor A. M. Low

D. Sc.



Vice Presidents :

P. E. Cleator and

L. J. Johnson

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Editor : E. J. Carnell

HEADQUARTERS' ADDRESS :

92, Larkwood Road,
South Chingford,
London, E.4

EDITORIAL ADDRESS :

17, Burwash Road,
Plumstead,
London, S.E.18

SPECIAL NOTICE TO LONDON MEMBERS

Owing to the number of London members on holiday during August, there will be no August meeting of the Society. Details of September meeting will be issued in next **Bulletin**.

The Committee regret to note that during the past few months the number of members attending meetings has not been as high as expected. Possibly members have had other things to do during the summer months, or possibly lecture titles have seemed somewhat forbidding. It is hoped that all Londoners will attend the coming winter session, when a special series of lectures and debates, suitable for both technical and non-technical members, will be given. The September meeting will therefore be an Inaugural Meeting to ascertain members wishes in this respect.

NOTES AND NEWS

With this issue will be found two copies of the new Application Form. Owing to lack of information with regard to majority of members and uncertainty as to which of the new grades of membership is desired, it is requested that each member should fill in and return one form, marking top "Already Member." It is hoped that the second form will be handed to a friend who may be interested in the Society's activities.

Next design competition is for a Space Ship Launching Equipment. Entries to reach HQ no later than September 1. Research Director J. H. Edwards requests all members to submit their ideas and not to withhold them through modesty.

We have pleasure in announcing the forthcoming publication in the **Bulletin** of a series of short articles on Rocket matters by the well-known Austrian rocket pioneer Friedrich Schmiedl, of Graz. Translated from the original German by a London member. The articles have been specially written by Mr. Schmiedl for the benefit of the *public* and for display at the Paris International Exhibition of Arts and Techniques, by whose Committee he has been invited to exhibit photos, apparatus, etc. with descriptive articles concerning his inventions. Our thanks are herewith expressed to Mr. Schmiedl for giving us permission to reprint these articles, which are copyright and must not be made use of without our permission.

Vice President Phillip Cleator has just had published a short article entitled "Spaceward" illustrated with photos and drawings in the current (August) **Thrilling Wonder Stories**, an American science fiction magazine. Vice President Leslie Johnson and member Eric Russell, of Liverpool, collaborated and wrote "Seeker of Tomorrow," a Time travelling story, published in current (July) **Astounding Stories**, another science fiction magazine. **Astounding** have also published three science articles by Wiley Ley this year. "The Dawn of the Conquest of Space" (March), "Visitors from the Void," a discussion upon meteorites (May) and "Fusible Alloys" (July).

May 11 issue of **Look**, American photo magazine, contained four pages of pictures and literature devoted to "To the Moon in a Rocket." Actual photos of rocket experiments were shown, as well as 'stills' from fantasy films and drawings of the interior of a space ship.

"MANCHESTER INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY."

Subsequent to the rocket experiments at Clayton Vale on March 28 by the "Manchester Interplanetary Society" (detailed report in **Bulletin** No. 2) when two members were slightly injured, Eric Burgess, the President, was summoned before the Manchester Police Court on June 3 to answer a charge of contravening the Explosives Act. Case was adjourned until June 14, and on that date the charge was withdrawn after Mr. Burgess had been cross-examined in witness box for two hours and given an undertaking not to use potassium chlorate and sulphur in combination in any future experiments.

While the Manchester group is in no way connected with the BIS, although the names are similar, members will no doubt congratulate Mr. Burgess upon talking so scientifically to the judge and convincing him that interplanetary ideas are a serious vocation.

In the December 1936 **Practical Mechanics** the following was recommended as a rocket fuel : Saltpetre 4/5 parts, Flowers of Sulphur 1.5 parts, Powdered Charcoal 2 parts, Fine Sawdust .5 parts, Potassium Chlorate .5 parts. This is one of the worst fuels known, having a calorific value of only .13 Kcals/g and is viciously explosive if the slightest trace of water gets into the mixture.