

Fortnightly

Price 6d.

ETHERLINE

THE

SCIENCE FICTION

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 19

10 - 12 - 53

HEADLINES:

REVIEW OF FILM

"THE MAZE"

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TITLES OF NEW
POCKETBOOKS

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SYDNEY NEWS

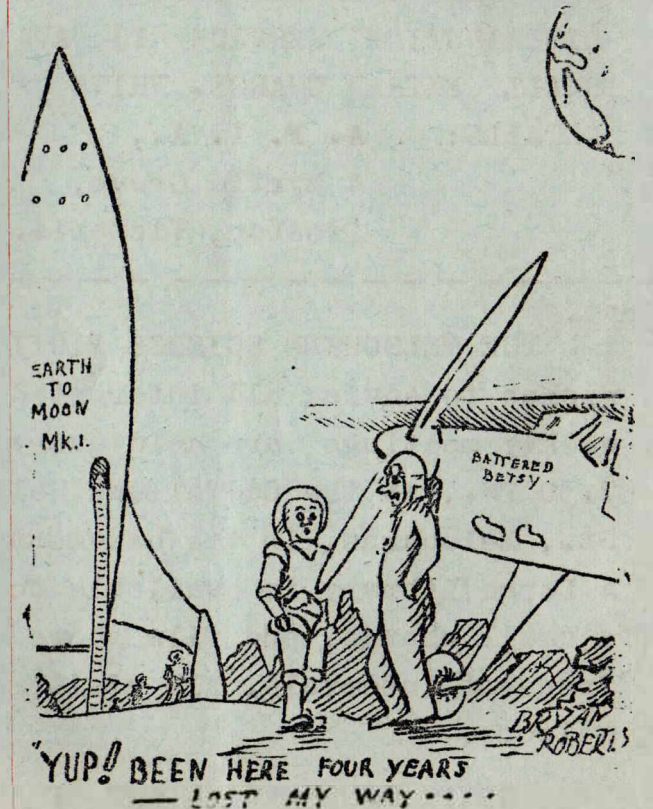
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MAG REVIEWS

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REVIEW OF "AGES
IN CHAOS"

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AFPA is a non-profit making organization devoted to the service of the science fiction fan. Kevin Wheelahan, President, Mervyn R. Binns, Secretary/Treasurer, Ian J. Crozier, Publisher. Keith McLelland, Art Director. Tony Santos, Chief Reviewer. Artwork on this issue: Bryan Roberts.

PRINTED
MATTER
ONLY

To

"ETHERLINE"

Advt.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO BRING OUT A FANZINE , CHECKLIST OR SIMILAR PUBLICATION ? IF SO, GET IN TOUCH WITH A.F.P.A FOR A REASONABLE QUOTE. WE WILL SUPPLY THE PAPER, AND TYPE THE STENCILS IF IT IS REQUIRED. GUARANTEED NUMBER OF COPIES WANTED. KEEP THE FAN BUSINESS WITHIN THE FAN ORGANIZATION. AN EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT A SMALL EXTRA CHARGE. WRITE FOR THE FULL DETAILS: A. F. P. A.,

4 Myrtle Grove,
Preston, Victoria.

Advt.

THE MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP wishes to advise all interested persons that weekly meetings are held every Thursday at 7.30 PM., at the Oddfellows Hall, Latrobe St., Melbourne, in the basement Lodge Room . A Large Library is available to members at a small charge, and film shows are held at frequent intervals. All visitors are always welcome.

KEEP THURSDAY NIGHT FREE !!!!!

VIEWPOINT

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First up, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ken Slater and wife on the birth of a daughter, Susan Lee Slater on October 24th. It appears that all are well, including the happy father.

This issue sees the introduction of a new artist in Bryan Roberts. This is his first attempt at stf illustrating, but we hope it will not be his last. In a couple of months, we will be featuring Ken McIntyre, Henry Ernst and Denness Morton, three fine artists of the Fantasy Art Society. McIntyre, of course, is the NEBULA artist.

The third issue of QUESTION MARK has been received very well by the readers of Melbourne, in that sales figures for the first week of issue was almost double the first fortnight's figures of the previous issue. We will continue to improve the magazine both in contents and looks.

It appears that the appearance of the AFPA productions have found favor with the opposition publishers, as the format of this mag has appeared on two others, while rumor has it that another mag is coming out with an art paper cover. This, of course, is a big compliment to us.

In the future, we hope to present some regular columns on Dianetics and Flying Saucers, those two very interesting subjects.

A sign of the future seems to be indicated by the announcement that the next rocket research will be on 5000 MPH high altitude rockets. Softening us up for an announcement.....?

That's about it for the time, so we'll see you in the spring.

IJC.

D O O D L I N G S

From Ken Slater.....

New pocket books to appear included the following:
 From Panther. CORRIDORS OF TIME. Deegan

BRAIN ULTIMATE Campbell

From Scion. EXIT LINE Gridban

MAN OF TWO WORLDS Statten

THE LIE DESTROYER Statten

From Curtis OVERLORD NEW YORK Elliot

WORLD OF GOL Charles

IONIC BARRIER Kellar

MAMMALIA Lane

From Gannett Press. PIRATES OF CEREBUS by Bengo Mistral, and CASTAWAY FROM SPACE by Vektis Brach. Another two Fearn Androids ?

In THE LIE DESTROYER, Scion claimed over million readers for Vargo Statten.

IF, BRE No. 1 appeared late in October, a copy of March, '53, USA, except for the letter dept., and a few oddments. BEYOND BRE due any day, and also the new FANTASTIC and AMAZING STORIES in digest size. All at 1/6 stg. THE LONG LOUD SILENCE by Wilson Tucker, is out from Bodley Head at 8/6 stg. Latest Ballentine to reach me is Bradbury's FAHRENHEIT 451, which is "The Fireman" from Galaxy, with "The Playground" and "The Rock Cried Out" thrown in to make up 199 pp.

SCIENCE FICTION PLUS, Dec, to hand, so it seems that the rumor that it was folding was a little out. THRILLING WONDER STORIES skipped the October issue, and came out as November.

The digest size ASTOUNDING SCIENCE appeared in November, with two more stories than the US edition, both from earlier issues. Bit larger than digest, priced at 1/6 stg, 2/3 Aust. Copies I had bled a bit on the cover.

Kayeffess.

M A G A Z I N E R E V I E W S

STARTLING STORIES BRE 14

The main story in this issue is OVERDRIVE, by Murray Leinster, which is good space opera and that's about all. There are four other shorts which are all worth reading, especially NO CHARGE TO MEMBERSHIP by Roger Dee, and a most unusual story by J. Lewis called WHO'S CRIBBING ? . Of the other two, the best was THREE LEGGED JOE by Jack Vance, about two prospectors and their adventures with an indestructable monster, Joe. BUTTON, BUTTON by Isaac Asimov is a humorous story about an old professor, who can bring things from the past into the future. Last but not least was an illustrated poem by Philip Jose Farmer, SETINA OF THE SPACE ROCKET, which I really enjoyed reading. The cover is a good reproduction of the original US edition. Altogether, not a bad issue.

MRB

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES BRE 22

THE HOUSE THAT HATE BUILT by Peter Dakin, A CASE FOR MEPHISTO by Frank McGivern and THE GODS OF MADNESS by Chester S. Geier. All three stories are readable, but not notable for quality.

TS

AMAZING STORIES BRE 22

Cowboys ride the range on Mars. OUTLAW IN THE SKY by Guy Archette. Chester S. Geier has a new idea in THE FLOATING LORDS but writes non the better for it. THE CURSE by Ivar Jorgensen is another poor effort. Well down to usual.

Tony Santos.

ADVT

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS FROM MCGILLS.....

183 - 5 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.....

Books to arrive recently include IMAGINATION UNLIMITED and MEN OF SPACE AND TIME, both edited by Bleiler & Dikty at 10/9 each. THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, from the same editors, should be in this week,, or next at the latest. Price will be 12/- . FOUNDATION arrived and sold out the same day, but further stocks should be here soon, so place your order now !

Another book by Kenneth Heuer, author of MEN OF OTHER PLANETS, titled THE END OF THE WORLD, priced at 14/3 and is recommended by Einstein.

New magazines include GALAXY 7 at 2/3, NEBULA 5, at 2/10, WONDERS OF THE SPACEWAYS 8 at 2/3, WORLDS OF FANTASY 11 at 2/3, STARTLING STORIES 14 at 1/3, ASTOUNDING STF. Oct, at 1/3, and DEAD KNOWLEDGE at 9d.

Pocket Books include E. R. Burrough's THE OUTLAW OF TORN and WAR LORD OF MARS at 3/- each, VOYAGE TO VENUS by C. S. Lewis at 3/- .

Bound book editions of HOUSE OF ENTROPY by Roy Sheldon and GALACTIC INTRIGUE by H. K. Bulmer, both priced at 7/6 each.

We have a complete range of all fanmags published in Melbourne, including BACCHANALIA 1 at 1/-, PERHAPS 2 at 1/- QUESTION MARK 1, 2 & 3 at 1/- each, and, of course, ETHERLINE's current number, priced at 6d.

Also available is THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER MAGAZINE , August, 1953, priced at 2/- .

That's about it till the next issue.

Yours faithfully,

MCGILLS.

FILM REVIEW

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THE MAZE. Starring Richard Carlson and Veronica Hurst in 3 Dimension. With Michael Pate.
An Allied Artist Release.

This is the first of the Richard Carlson series of stf films, and, believe me, looks it. The film is a typical American horror quickie, and the stf is noticable by its absence. Without 3-D, it would not have even made the Lyceum across the road.

Apart from a few obvious takes put in to show the full effect of 3D, the script could have been any one of a dozen horror pictures, complete with haunted castle and all the trimmings. Story is weak, and mrs thusly: Baronet of Scottish castle, born in 1750, is unfortunately (?) turned into a giant frog, and somehow manages to survive to 1953. He rules the castle and its inhabitants with an iron flipper, or other appendage. Our hero, who goes grey with the worry of it all, tells all after the monstrosity has fallen to its death, after being seen by the visitors.

"It wasn't evil", says Carlson, "just proud"

My advice: Don't waste your time or money.

IJC.

QUESTION MARK THREE IS OUT !!!!!!!!!!!

READ ALL ABOUT THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN OF THE FUTURE. HOW WILL SPACE-TRAVEL AFFECT SCIENCE FICTION ? LET US HAVE YOUR LETTERS ON THIS SUBJECT. READ ABOUT THE BABY A- BOMB TEST AT WOOMERA. QUESTION MARK . PRICE: 1/-

GLOBAL ROUND - UP

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Out in London November 16 was MAN ON THE MOON by Patrick Moore, and on November 9, THE DEMOLISHED MAN by Alfred Bester, from Sidgewick & Jackson.

TAKEOFF by Cyril Kornbluth was issued in pocket book form at 25¢, from Bantam Books.

The David Craigie juvenile, DARK ATLANTIS, is out in America from MacMillan, priced at \$ 2.00. It was supposed to come out from Heinemann's many moons ago, right after LODESTAR, but never did see the light of day.

How's this for a bargain? PRIZE SCIENCE FICTION, edited by Donald Wollheim, containing 12 stories, was issued in the States in September by McBrides, priced at \$ 3.00, which is 32/6 Aust. Issued on November 6th, in London, was PRIZE STORIES OF SPACE AND TIME, same editor, same 12 stories, from G. Weidenfeld and Nicholson, priced at 10/6 stg, which is 13/3 Aust. What a bargain.

SCIENCE FICTION HANDBOOK by L. Sprague de Camp, was issued by Random House last month, priced at \$ 3.50. This is the lowdown on how to write science-fiction.

How the round trip from Mars to Earth will be accomplished is explained in THE MARS PROJECT by Dr. Werner von Braun, issued by University of Illinois, priced at \$ 3.95.

It is estimated by American booksellers that 56,372,836 people are reading science fiction and the allied subjects in America. Not a bad audience.

THE FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED was not issued in America, but the British edition published by T. Werner Laurie was distributed by the British Book Centre, complete with full publicity blurb.

THE GREEN AND RED PLANET by Dr. Hubertus Stringhold, head of the Space Medicine Dept. of the US-AF School of Aviation Medicine, was issued by the University of New Mexico, at \$ 4.00. It deals with the possibility of life on Mars, and whether man could exist on that planet.

FLIGHT INTO SPACE by Jonathan Norton Leonard, was published by Random House in October, priced at \$ 3.50. This will be published early next year in UK by Sidgewick & Jackson.

A tour of the Universe is given in 1 - 2 - 3 - INFINITY by George Gamow, a 50 ¢ Mentor pocket book.

Ward Moore's little classic, BRING THE JUBILEE, was issued by Farrar, Strauss and Young late in September, distributed by Ballantine Books, in both \$ 2.00 and 35 ¢ editions.

A new Jerry Sohl, COSTIGAN'S NEEDLE, was out in the States on November 19th, from Rinehart, priced at \$ 2.50.

The flood of Flying Saucer books continues unabated with the announcement of the early publication of FLYING SAUCERS FROM OUTER SPACE by Donald Keyhoe, who now has the rank of Major. For seeing flying saucers?

New editions of URANIA, the Italian GALAXY, in Melbourne, include CITY by Clifford Simak, and CITY AT WORLDS END by Edmond Hamilton. Price is 3/9.

John Wyndham's novel, THE KRAKEN WAKES, was issued in the States under the title of THE DEEPS, at 35 ¢, from Ballantine Books.

Another anthology came out in the States last month under the title of STORIES FOR TOMORROW, edited by William Sloane, and containing 30+ stories. It is published by Funk & Wagnell, priced at \$ 3.95. It will undoubtedly be issued in UK in a cut condition.

B O O K R E V I E W

SPACEWAYS by Charles Eric Maine. Hodder & Stoughton ..

Subtitled "A Story of the very near Future"

SPACEWAYS is not the usual run of the mill stf story, in fact, it may not be classed as stf at all, but as science adventure.

The story is told by a US government security officer who is sent to an isolated research station where the first space rocket is being built. Unwittingly he becomes entangled in the private affairs of the scientists on the site when he learns that a certain scientist is more than friendly with another's wife. Simultaneously with the launching of the rocket, the lovers disappear. The rocket fails to reach a proper orbit, and consequently the husband is blamed for the murder of the two, apparently having placed their bodies on the rocket, causing the failure.

To prove his innocence, he volunteers to bring back the first rocket by going up in another and taking it in tow. But the fault that really caused the failure of the first rocket causes his death in the second. The irony of it all being that the missing couple are found just as the rocket blasts off.

This book is a refreshing change from the "boredom of fantasy" as a certain famous author has it, and I really enjoyed reading it. It proves how near we are to the beginning of the space age.

MRB

T H E B I N N ' S B A R B E C U E

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On Friday November 20th, a large body of fans descended on the Binns' home, carrying nourishment, solid, liquid and mental. Observed among those present

were Mr. and Mrs. McHugh (with very young daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Latimer, Mr. and Mrs. Santos, Kev Wheelahan, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Picknell, Miss Walker, Eric La Motte, Keith McLelland, Dick J-enssen, Ian Crozier, Bob McCubbin, Ken Potts, and of course, Merv Binns. Proceedings commenced with a film showing - Dan Bicknell (projector) and Eric La Motte (films) are to be congratulated for their joint effort. They showed a chess film, a Czechoslovakian cartoon on atomic power, two scientific shorts (one on the Australian aborigines, the other on fisheries research), and Charlie Chaplin's The Count. It was unfortunate that the sound equipment broke down towards the end, and defied the efforts of Dan, Eric and Kev Wheelahan to restore it. However, the involuntary respites gave opportunities for lubrication of the spectators. During the show, it was suggested that we get a surgeon to remove the record player (and Frankie Laine) from Ian's ear.

After an excellent supper, some of the company left, having taken part in an auction sale. The remainder settled down to chess. Some of the games were rather one sided (numerically speaking) - Tony Santos with the aid of seven advisers, still managed to lose. When McCubbin stepped into a game of chess, and a glass of beer simultaneously, the party broke up. (Why must fans always use the floor in preference to the furniture supplied? RMCC.) About 1 o'clock, 7 fans hilariously jammed into a taxi built for 5, and departed on an escorted tour of the metropolis in search of various homes.

I wish to thank, personally, and on behalf of the group, Mr. and Mrs. Binns for placing their home at our disposal - we nearly disposed of it, too, I'm afraid. The next one is at Ian Crozier's, 6 Bramerton Road, Caulfield, on Friday, December 18th.

We hope to see many more attend this special Christmas party.

ARMAK.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S MAILBAG.....

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"ETHERLINE has duly arrived via Space-warp, Overdrive and Her Majesty's Mail, and I am certainly going to subscribe. Hope to give your library some business, too. Can anyone tell me about "The Black Flame" by Weinbaum, always being mentioned as the standard of comparison for s-f? " Ferguson, Vic.

"The Black Flame" was published in Thrilling Wonder Stories, and, as a reprint, in Startling Stories, I think. There is a copy in the library.

Memo for Graham Stone: Did you get the photos I sent you? No acknowledgement to hand yet.

"For a leading critic in the field of space travel, McCubbin seems to have made quite a bloomer in POST 8/10/53. He puts Pluto's distance at 3,750,000,000 miles and says a radio message would take two months to get there and back. By my calculations, ten hours would be nearer the mark" Booth, Tas.

Correct, I was not responsible for POST's reportorial hyperbole or sheer ignorance. I did not see the article before it appeared in print.

"I bet you have lots of fun at your meetings and parties. I don't know of another fan in this town. I've only been interested in fans and fanzines for 6 months" Carl Dill, Ohio, USA.

Fanzines being sent, Carl, also the name of another fan in your city. Yes, we do have fun.

"Saw your article in POST. There seems to be no other fans in this part of the world. Can you help me? Hill, Kalgoorlie, WA.

Have sent your plea to Roger Dard, Perth. If he can't help you, write to me again, at 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East, Vic.

Bob McCubbin

AROUND MELBOURNE TOWN

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By The Editor.....

Among the new books seen around the city bookshops this week are THE END OF THE WORLD by Kenneth Heuer, from Gollancz, priced at 14/3; TALES TO BE TOLD IN THE DARK, edited by Basil Davenport, from Faber & Faber, priced at 18/9. This volume includes the fantasy classic by John Collier, "Thus I Refute Beelzy"; the annual Bleiler & Dikty offering, BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, 3rd Series, from Grayson & Grayson, priced at 12/-, and Isaac Asimov's FOUNDATION, from Weidenfeld & Nicholson, priced at 13/3.

GALAXY 7 has also arrived, together with NEBULA 5. The new Malian Press offering, DEAD KNOWLEDGE, has at last made it. Something should be done about the very poor distribution service offered by Gordon and Gotch, as Malian Press have released two since the aforementioned was seen in Sydney. This means we are two to three months behind on these magazines.

If you are lucky, and I can afford the time & admission fare, you will read a review of THE MAGNETIC MONSTER on the next page, which commenced its run in Melbourne on December 4th. If not, then it will be in the next issue.

PROFESSIONAL CARTOONIST EXPLAINS Frank Hellard who has been responsible for an excellent series of stf cartoons in the Melbourne SUN, informed Keith McLelland that: 1. He is not interested in stf.

2. He only draws stf cartoons because no one can criticize the backgrounds.

3. He will not draw for amateur pubs, as his freelance commitments keep him flat out.

4. He will give some originals to the Group. Thanks a million Frank, we appreciate this gesture. (ARMAK) IJC.

R E V I E W S E C T I O N

ASTOUNDING STF BRE October.

Cover by Baer, "Interplanetary Industrial Design". In the US edition, this illustrates an article on "Massachusetts Interstellar Traders" set up by M.I.T. as part of training in original thinking. Unfortunately this very interesting article has been omitted from the BRE.

"Medicine Show" by Robert Moore Williams, tells of a quack cure-all which works, greatly embarrassing the local medical association. Good.

"Multifarious" by Algis Budrys and "Lady With a Past" by Irving E. Cox Jnr., both deal with the invader of earth theme. Both are well done in different ways. Part two of Hal Clement's "Mission of Gravity" carries on well.

Tony Santos

NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION Vol. 2 No. 1.

Contains "Destiny is my Enemy" (Temple). Mechanical Brain in undersea world - good. "Sabina" (4SJ) Cornell's puns are corny - thank Ghu it's a super -- short ! "War's Great Organ" (McIntosh). Controlled warfare is peace - a screwy one. "Alphabet Scoop" by Rocklynne. Junior genius solves space-ship bugaboos. Phooey. "The Troublemaker" (Tubb) . Mars is a trap, so hero makes trouble as a means of escape, only to find that Earth is a similar trap - fair. A reasonably good issue. Cover, by a new artist, McIntyre, is quite good, although it has no relation to the contents.

ARMAK.

Editorial Note: Reading the previous page, it suddenly hit me that a review of THE MAGNETIC MONSTER, was featured in an earlier issue. On looking back, I found this was right, in No.8 in fact. Sorry. IJC.

MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION GROUP.

26/11/53.

Fourteen members were present. Bob McCubbin in the chair, and he reported on the Binn's party, then auctioned some magazines.

Geoff Bennett dropped in from Canberra, & reported on the beginning of the Futurian Society of Canberra. Merv. Binns suggested that:

A. his garage be turned into a clubroom.

B. Supper to be available.

C. Meetings to be fortnightly.

D. Library to be permanently at Binns' to allow of easier handling - Available at any time on a telephone request.

Reaction:

A. Permanent clubrooms are desirable, but the consensus of opinion is that Regent is too far out.

B. Our City meeting place is becoming well known and, once vacated, would not be available at a future date.

C. Library is central, but only available on a Thursday nights, and is growing too big for the storage space.

Read the above carefully, think it over, and be prepared for a postal ballot (metropolitan members only) on our future domicile.

Next party is at Crozier's, 6 Bramerton Road, Caulfield, on December 18th. Bring a plate of food.

3/12/53.

Ten present - Kevin Wheelahan appeared briefly. John O'Shaughnessy (Albury) made a welcome visit.

Two new members were welcomed, Eric Peat & his wife, Hazel. There will be no meetings on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Cash in hand £4-0-9 after paying £1 affiliation fee to the Film Exhibitor's Association.

ARMAK

ADVT.

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ADVT.

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4 Issues for 3/- N3F members: 6 for 3/-

Contact : John Gregor, Newhaven St.,
Everton Park, Brisbane, Queensland.

SYDNEY JOTTINGS

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Work on the new clubrooms is well under way ,
and we expect to move in within 3 weeks. I am wonder-
ing how long it will be before we have our first vi-
sits from interstate fans at the new clubroom - not
long, I hope.

A party of seventeen fans went to the Artist's
Ball at the Trocadero on Friday, Nov. 6th. Just ima-
gine nearly 2000 fancy dress costumes, avec occupants
parading around the ballroom. Just imagine a few oth-
er things, too ! The Ball was a very good show in-
deed, and next year, providing we can secure enough
tickets, we intend to go in force.

That's all at present, so till next time,
cheerio from Sydney.

Brian Finch.

ADVT.

Mr. C. E. Hurst,

of 24 Surrey Street,

East Bentleigh, Victoria,

Wishes to advise all those interested persons
that his services are available as a Profess-
ional Dianetics Auditor, and appointments can
be made by writing to the above address , or
by phoning M M 1691 , where Kevin Wheelahan
will take any messages necessary.

C. E. Hurst, 24 Surrey St., East Bentleigh.

