

Conducted by Ron Holmes. From 32, Rockfield Rd, Liverpool, 4, Lancs.

FILE NEWS.

At present doing the rounds of US are five new pseudo sfm films. THE CORPSE VANISHES with Bela Lugosi, Frástan Coffin and E Russell is a ripe specimen; about a chap who keeps his wife young and fair by injecting a serum made from the blood of brides kidnapped on their wedding day. MAN WITH TWO LIVES starring Edward Norris and Marlo Dwyer is one of the old plots re-hacked. THE MAD MONSTER is again hackstuff about a monster-man made by science. Cast is George Zucco, Johnny Downs and Anne Nagel. The first two were Monogram Pictures. 20th Century present THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T DIE. About a bloke who comes to life twice, detective story with Lloyd Nolan, Marjorie Weaver and Henry Wilcoxon. Best fantasy of the bunch is THE REMARKABLE ANDREW, Paramount. About a ghost who comes back to earth to get a chap out of jail who has been falsely accused. It ends with the introduction of the ghosts of G Washington, E Franklin Jesse James and others, the impersonations are good.

Quick list. Universal have on the stocks - a sequel to "The Mummy" etc entitled THE MUMMY'S TOMB; starring Leon Chaney Jnr, Dick Foran and John Hubbard. - ARABIAN NIGHTS with Sabu, Maria Montez and Jon Hall. - Charles Boyer will produce and act in FLESH AND FANTASY. MGM lineup is CABIN IN THE SKY, an all negro after the style of "Green Pastures", set in heaven. Stars are Rex Ingram and Tod Duncan. 20th Century have in view THE PORCELAIN LADY, about a nut who thinks she's made of porcelain. Also a super-monster picture starring J Carroll Naish tentatively titled BURIED ALIVE; another entitled THE UNDYING MONSTER is also planned. Columbia intend to reissue LOST HORIZON. The great Disney brain is heaving

BOOK REVIEW.

by Bert Lewis.

Our old friend, Frank Baker has given us another fantasy- remember his "The Birds" and "Miss Hargreaves" ? Well, this time it is a satire in the Wells style, savouring of "The Wonderful Visit". Of course it's up to the minute and in the inimitable Baker style. "Sweet Chariot" (Eyre and Spottiswoods 9/- ) in which the subject changes place with his guardian angel, (by agreement of course), whom he had been previously tracking down, thinking him to be some strange bird. The experiment is quite a serious affair, as distinct from his "Miss Hargreaves" satire; and even though this experiment is hardly a success it nevertheless has its romantic attractions.

A new-comer to fantasy V Sackville-West, gives us a picture of what might happen if-Hitler-wins type of near-future story; in her "Grand Canyon" (Michael Joseph 2/6 ). She gives us a vivid picture of what might be with her subtle suggestion of a world "killed" by war. The author calls it a cautionary tale, with a quite obvious warning. Hitler has conquered us and America has made some kind of peace, only to experience another treacherous attack. This new horror is seen through the eyes of a little group of people, British refugees among them, who seek safety in the depths of the grand canyon after their hotel has been destroyed. S'all for this time fans. Bert.

DRAMATIC REVIEW

by J F Burke.

It has been pointed out before that many of the most interesting dramatic experiments have been carried out by amateur groups; it has also been pointed out that amateurs are the least fitted for such bold productions. However, the recent production of James Eridias' "Iobias and the Angel" by girls of the Avery Hill Collage in Huddersfield was convincing. The fantastic element and the remoteness of the time in which the action occurred made one quite willing to accept the -Over.

additional strangeness of an all-female cast. The archangel Raphael comes down to earth and associates with Uresoporamian peasants, leading the young Tobias across the hills to collect a debt and to win a wife. There is a moral to the play, but the dramatist is more concerned with the amusing development of his plot than the pushing home of his somewhat hackneyed point about goodness. For those who, like myself, prefer their angels modern and witty, this play is a joy. If you cannot see it, read it. I might add that readers in the Huddersfield area (if any) might watch out for the forthcoming production by Huddersfield Technical Coll. of Priestley's "Time and the Conways".

PRO-MAG REVIEW.

#### Astonishing Stories.

Dec.'42.

NIGHT OF THE GODS by Paul Edmonds. A promising new author who writes in the style of Merritt. Basically it is anti-jap propoganda, but very well done. About the discovery of a fourth-dim. gateway to a place where the people of Atlantis went and how their return was stopped. Very good.

AAA THE TERRIBLE by M Jameson. Usual Jameson.

OUR DIRECTOR MEETS TROUBLE by J E HARRY. Could have been set in N.Y. but wasn't, could have been a spinach factory, but wasn't. Insipid, amusing.

ABYSS OF DARKNESS by Ross Rocklynne. Very good. Story of a creature of space who was a misfit, taken as a symily and a psychological study of a human being, it has value.

DESTINATION UNKNOWN by F E Long. A weak moral-preacher. Poor.

MIMIC by Martin Pearson. Top of the issue, about a creature with Chameleon qualities. Handling of plot and writing very good indeed. (issue Cover by Stephen Lawrence, interiors by Dalgov, Morey, and Paul. (good.

#### Famous Fantastic Mysteries.

Dec.'42.

THE GOLDEN CITY by R.M. Farley is an entertaining fantasy with plenty of adventure and a not-hard-to-guess ending. Part three of INFO THE INFINITE by A Hall continues to arouse the readers curiosity as to who is what, and why! "Atlantis" by J J Meehan and "To a Comet" by W R Lee are two good poems. Cover and interiors by Finley, except a cut for "Atlantis". Issue, recommended. This is the last issue from Munseys, publication L. will be continued by Fictioneers Inc. (and I think Miss Cnaedinger will J. remain la editor). I hear they will use first magazine rights of books.M.

#### Super Science Stories.

Nov.'42.

WE GUARD THE BLACK PLANET by H Kuttner. A fair attempt to convince us that things resembling Valkyries exist near Pluto. Above 'Marvel' standard.

SKY TEST by Dirk Wylie, A beootifull girl comes from the future and takes our hero back to save the world. Ammusing but average stuff.

HIS AUNT THALMIN by Alan Barrister. Interplanetary intregue, invisible women and a handlebar mustached detective on a space pleasure ship, combined with an ambush in space, dramatic herism and the toughest and most likeable old lady you ever knew - that's Thamin. Very good.

REVOLT OF THE MACHINE MEN by C R Fanner, more robots revolt, no new twist, writing very good.

PARROTS OF VENUS by W Kubilius, a thumb-nail short with a very good twist. THE IMAGINARY by Isaac Asimov. Super algebra by alien psychologist turns a squid into a planet destroyer; he removes it and in doing so catches out his wife who is pulling the wool over his bulging eyes. Fair.

MAN WITHOUT A PLANET by Ivar Powers, Crazy story of a man who looks so queer that he is a circus 'man from mars'; Martians visit earth and take him as a sample of earthman - fate, 'man from earth' on mars. Nerts.

BEYOND THE END OF TIME by R Cummings, time travel untill the world falls into the sun, then , , , , get out the hymn books, toys. Writing good.

Cover by Stephen Lawrence, interiors by Lok, Giunta, Knight, Lawrence, Ley, Morey and Musacchia. Issue, average. :-: Thank, Denis.