

When but a child I feared the dark...
amusing, now, it seems to mark

The Difference.

When from dusk to dawn the bright
light-dripping flares illuminate
a Dantean sky of lurid pseudo-night,
I am afraid of Light, and trembling, 'wait
the swirling shriek of steel-clad hell.
Harsh multitone roar heralds a spate
of fire-bombs, whose infernal glare
and drenching light bring forth the hate
of ground defences. Menacing, there
above crimsoning clouds, the Hun rides still...
Oh, God, two hours to dawn!

esn

REVIEW

June '41- - - - -ASF

UNUSUAL issue this -- no serial novel, and no article! Cover novelette is a very logical Rocklyne tale of six people stranded on a planet way back at the begining of time, with a ring, knowing that back in their own time is a skeleton wearing that ring - showing them that "Time Wants a Skeleton"! Sturgeon is back also, with "Artisan Process" - that process, for refining U-235, which monopolised two worlds, and it was so very simple! Wat Schachner, greatly improved, presents "Old Fireball", apparently the first of a series that JWC forecast a few months back, concerning the adventures of a space-lawyer. The fourth, and least outstanding 'let, "A Matter of Speed", is from Harry Bates is not to be compared with "Farewell to the Master" - a story of a dictator and his henchmen, who were not invisible, but just couldn't be seen - a problem in time-speeds, reminiscent of DAW's "Planet that Time Forgot". Malcolm Jameson renders another episode in life aboard the "Pollux", "Devil's Powder", concerning a drug that was being smuggled aboard the ship, a drug which made the men do most peculiar things - such as cooking boiled boot for supper! Robert Moore Williams is another old classic author who returns this month, and this time he has written a short very much after his memorable style for tales such as "Robot's Return" -- "To Fight Another Day". A new author, E. Waldo Hunter supplies the remaining short - "The Purple Light" - three page tale with a slick ending - how to treat trouble from the inside, successfully, without knowing it! Editorial - "Interpreters May Still Be Needed". Illustration for "Purple Light" by Roy Isip; Schneeman has all the remaining illus., and is especially good for the Sturgeon and Schachner yarns. Heinlein is forecast for July issue, with "Jethuselah's Children".

Pseudonyms.... "Sturgeon is a mystery, too; but we think he previously used Stuart for a pseudonym. The stories by Sturgeon are all good, they all conform to the policy announced by Campbell. The variations in subject matter and style indicate that they are in the nature of trial balloons; and Campbell has been known to write trial stories before" We wonder.....

THEY were Masters of the Cosmos. These super-beings had explored every known Universe, had fathomed the ultimate mysteries of the Microcosm, had reached the last remote secrets of the Macrocosm. They had conquered the riddle of Time; super-intelligences, they had subdued and subjugated the mighty, blind, unreasoning forces of Nature herself to their puissant command. Under their benign and supremely sympathetic guidance, all the diversified millions of races borne in their trackless domains lived, prospered and flourished happily -- gradually climbing the time-runged ladder of evolution, until they too should join with the Masters in the last great, ethereal communion of domination. The Masters were of pure thought, pillars of free energy, formless, ever-changing patterns of light, capable of assuming any material shape which they chose. They had seen many Universes die the Heat Death -- many born. The inexorable, wasting march of Entropy had no terrors for them, it bowed to their will. They had, patiently and with that austere but warm wisdom only they could find, raised nation and race and specie into a fuller comprehending of the mighty Ultimate Purpose. With abstract thought they created the slightest whim of their vast imaginations, always good and clean and bright. It was significant that of the uncountable milliards of forms and means of life open to them, that of all the methods of existence at their regal disposal, they chose most a form of protoplasmic, carbon-chain based animal life - two armed and legged, upright, but still plainly showing the signs of his recent painful rise from brute cloddishness to the beginnings of a great and golden future, writ large in many ways upon his body. In their awe-inspiring night, secure in their empyrean heights of intelligent life, glorious, shining, the quintessence of our ultimate mortal goal -- they were proud to be called.... "Earthmen".

*

*

RAMBLING takes a crack at Bob Heinlein.... Dennis Tucker opens up the discussion - "...If This Goes On...": I certainly don't think that tale deserves the Nova award. We can read enough about tank battles and attacks on cities, without turning to Stf; and, furthermore, I would only call it a common "future-adventure" type story. But I suppose the Nova is awarded for a new idea behind a tale, not for the actual merits of same, and I can't deny that Heinlein's tale incorporated a few new ideas." And John Morgan, on "Logic of Empire". "It was one of those stories which, at the end, left you as wise as ever, with the words, "So What?" forming on your lips". Did someone say that Erik Needham was hard to please? "Universe" is another of those maddeningly popular "who cares? so what?" yarns. After ploughing through page after page of "Universe" I felt as if I had been led up the garden path by Heinlein. Where was the point behind all of it? And the other story, "Solution Unsatisfactory" (by Anson Lee Donald) is rather an uncomfortable one, but again, leaving out the fact that there is an alarming possibility of this being more than just fiction, and damned close to being actual fact, what is there back of the story but just a problem and a heck of a lot of padding? Nothing! Heinlein seems to have an annoying habit of writing pointless stories. Anyway, I regard them as pointless, mainly because they do not hold my interest." Someone to support Mr. Heinlein, and his stories, please??? You, maybe??

THE footnote over the page we must own to having pinched from Donn Burton's article "Musings on the Pres", published in ECLIPSE no.2; we had it via EMZ Digest 3. /Surely you know the morbid details of this shoot?7