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Edited and stencilled by Dennis Tucker at "Vicklow", 87 Oakridge Road, HIGH VYCOMBE, Bucks. -- JMR duplicates, for which praise be!

"THAT MAN HOIMES !! "

Edwin MacDonald says his bit:

I object to this danned nonsense put out by Holmes and fans like him; they know damned well that the average fan's intelligence is on a level very much higher indeed than that of the average Britisher, or of the average man of the world. And the British fan is much more intelligent than the American fan. Also, not only the average, but the collective intelligence of the fans is tremendously greater than the collective intelligence of the British Isles, or of the world. -- I am going to start a Society for the Inflating of Fans' Egos. Any intelligent fan, i.e. every fan except Holmes and those like him, who has no false modesty and will affirm that s-f fans are the cream of the intelligence, the superior of the intellectuals, or, as Hichael so aptly puts it, "The mental and moral elite of Hankind", is eligible for membership.

Holmes says: "The low level of the collective intelligence of the British Isles is obvious... rabble... slaughter... at the behest of a few moguls." Thy pick on the British Isles? He should say the world. Also says s-f is producing many Socialists, Atheists, Pacifists and cynics; does he not think then, that a body of, or composed largely of, Socialists, Atheists, Pacifists and Cynics is more intelligent than the body of the British people? Fans like Holmes are insincere. Lastly, why apply the word 'escapism' to science-fiction more

than to any other kind of fiction ?

Zditorial aside to Americans: we take no responsibility for the views expressed in articles contributed to this sheet. Do any of you care to take up the cudgel in defence of American fans ??

Here are a few more words about Radcliffe, from Roy Rowland Johnson:-"So most people agree that s-f is escape literature, do they?

Well, if by 'most people' Mr. Radcliffe means the ordinary common manin-the-street, -- the sort of normal person one might find in an office or before a lathe, or in any bus -- then, from some experience of same, I would say that his opinion (the man's-in-the-street, not that of Mr. Radcliffe) is worth exactly nothing. For the most part, he is uneducated, unimaginative, apathetic, easily led by clever propaganda, and notoriously unthinking. So his opinion can be discarded at once.

"And s-f fans are 'misfits' are they ? Well, Mr. Radcliffe, a definition of a misfit would perhaps help. My own would be 'A misfit is a person who, on account of some abnormality and difference from his fellows, is unable to live in complete harmony in the social structure formed by these same people.' (Incidentally, note that an abnormality is not necessarily a subnormality.) In that science-fiction fans have, generally, very active imaginations, dislike for purely commonplace, mundane matters and a passion for discussing with others of their kind, who can appreciate what they have to say about abstract things and meas, and that they therefore differ from their fellows, -they are 'minfits'. But in that respect the term ceases to be a derogatory one.

"IIr. Radcliffe's next paragraph is not worthy of attention

"D.T.'s".

here. H.G.Wells, who is not an s-f fan, seems to be able also to find many things wrong with this world -- and that is not because he 'roams and creates his little Paradises, with the dread of reality lurking ever near.' He and his followers would most certainly do a great deal to help make this world more perfect, if they were allowed to by those in power, who prefer to keep it as it is because they themselves are in a good position. Host fans are Wellsites, Mr. Radcliffe. They would willingly help -- if they were allowed.

"But I resent the remark about 'crazy morons' making up the majority of fans, and same human beings being in a definite minority.

"Everything seems to point to the fact that s-f fans are considerably above normal intelligence; most of them have had good educations; and most of them <u>desire to learn</u>. I would safely wager that the average I.Q. for fans would be at least 15% above the average I.Q. for non-fans, in the whole country - though, unfortunately this can be neither proved nor disproved.

"Ir. Radcliffe, you say that the world can get along quite well without our attempts to 'save' it. You think so ? I suppose you would call the present war, the half dozen major wars which have occurred since the beginning of the century, the slums, the tyranical Capitalism, as 'getting along quite well' ? If you think so, it is you who are looking at life 'through rose-coloured glasses'; it is you who will go back to your opium, to kid yourself that everything is all right.

"No, Hr. Radcliffe, your arguments are not in the least impressive. And why should you attempt to disparage people for reading and enjoying a type of literature which you, and most other people, do not seem to have intellect enough to appreciate ? Go back to your opium and your 'world which is getting along quite well'; we science-fiction fans, having found a means of escape from that fine world, do not intend to be dragged back again...."

DIMIALS DUPT: Isn't it a wonderful thing that whenever, a new name

pops up in fandom, some bright lads come along and, with wisdom and gravity of the highest class, state: "I think (so-and-so) is just a pseudonym for (so-and-so)." This Radcliffe business, for just Three fans, to whit Jack Gibson, Roy Johnson and 'Renny' ohe example. think I might be Radcliffe, while Edwin HacDonald thinks 'Renny' is!! I would just like to make it clear that I am NOT David Radcliffe. -- He is a very much alive person and, in passing, I might say that he hopes to let us have an article for the next issue. Thank you, gentlemen(?). First British fan to be represented in this unique PROBABILITY department of Campbell's, is Ted Carnell, who appears in ZERO: the August issue of ASF with "Time Harches On", - quite a screwy little piece. Good luck, Ted, and may there be more contributions from this side Host of the other tales presented in this department have been mediocre, so far, but better things may come. There need be little hesitation in deciding on the best amateur effort so far, - in my opinion, "The Qwerty of Hrothgar" by D. Creighton Buck, in the July issue, thoughnthis author did have one short tale published professionally in the June 1941 UNENOWN, if I remember rightly.... Meanwhile, ASF continues along the road of deterioration, through no fault of Campbell's, while ANAZING starts presenting some good, readable stuff.