

THE SCIENC
An EMPRESS
Five cents



STER

25¢.



Published weekly at
86-10 117th Street,
Richmond Hill, N.Y.

Volume III, Number 18. Whole Number 70. March 25th, 1939.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTOR

Nell's Grab-Bag, which will operate spasmodically henceforth-- whenever we or the readers feel in an expansive mood--is indebted to Elmer Perdue for the two candid camera shots enclosed with this issue of The News Letter. "One of these," says Elmer, "is from 'The Man Who Could Work Miracles', showing the god. Power (?) sitting in space and looking at the Earth; the other is from 'King Kong', showing Kong as he was chained in the New York theater, looking down at Fay Wray at his feet.

"You'll find a program for 'The Theater of the Soul', by the Russian with the unpronounceable name, enclosed." (Our thanks for the souvenir. We find that the play--see NL #64--is called "A Monodrama in One Act by Nicolai Nikolayevich Yevreinov"...) "Come to think of it, the first play listed, 'Progress'" (by St

John Ervine), "is still as well. Professor Corrie has invented a bomb that would make Fu Manchu happier than . It is incredibly explosive--a thousand-pounder would wipe out everything within a four-mile radius--and moreover, the gases given off by its explosion are unbelievably deadly. Just an innocent plaything for the children of the Katzenjammers.

"The action of the play occurs on Decoration Day, or some such holiday. The Professor's sister has lost a son in the war--a shell fell on him and 'obliterated' him. She comes to her brother for sympathy--and the quarterwit tells her all about the new device to make war so horrible that nobody will want to play. They argue a while--then she pushes over his lab. desk and starts to tear up his notes. He bawls hell out of her, says that she hasn't done any good, because it is still locked up in his head. And she replies, in a powerfully underwritten line, 'Yes. It's all locked up--in your head.' And she picks up a revolver and shoots him. The lights in the auditorium fade up as her sobbing dims out. We gave it in radio form--over the P. A. system, with the curtains closed and a single 2000-watt spot in the house, focused on a radio placed in the center of the stage apron....

"Favorite films? For the best five (not necessarily in order): 'The Mysterious Island', 'Just Imagine', 'Bride of Frankenstein', 'The Mummy' (which was an all-talking picture starring Al Jolson, as I recall), and 'She'. Sixth place, to keep peace in the family, goes to 'Things to Come'." (We strongly suspect that E. F. injected "The Mummy" merely to get off his sour pun. He'll be back next week with a resume of the powerful fantastic play, "Skyfodder".)

OSCAR, THE S F CHECK-LIST

R. D. Swisher writes on the scope of The S F Check-List, which he and Mrs Swisher are distributing thru the Fantasy Amateur Press Association: "We have decided that to try to include all professional fantasy would be carrying things a little too far (also), especially inasmuch as we have complete files only of the straight science-fiction and would have to depend on outside help for half of the dope. We'll be glad to supply information on any of the pro SF magazines to anyone interested in putting out a pro check-list. Farsaci seems to

be doing a good job continuing Schwartz' Service Department, so we're out of that field too. I would like to see someone collect all the scattered Service Dept. stuff into one place, though. We probably will try to include a section on amateur pamphlets, though, chiefly because it's hard to draw the line between a periodical and a pamphlet; we've already included some that are really pamphlets, I guess. Since I didn't index pamphlets when going through the fan-magazines (I indexed all magazine titles mentioned, so the Check-List is no great trouble in compiling--just copying the stuff from index-card references), and since I have no stomach for going through everything again hunting for them, we're looking for lots of aid regarding actual and proposed pamphlets. (Hereafter termed P's, or Jerry.) We have hopes of, around 1940 or 1941, finding some enterprising publisher like yourself who'd be interested in putting out a sort of cumulative volume of the Check-List (hereafter referred to as CL) for general sale to the public; profits, unless enormous, to go to the publisher, if any (profits, I mean) (or publisher too, I guess). Preferably mimeographed, to take care of the enormous demand, and to contain presumably all publications up to say the end of 1940."

FAN-(X)-MAG DEP'T

Fantasy, Spring, V1#1. Edited by Jim Avery, of 50 Middle St, Skowhegan, Me; published by Harry (Spaceways) Warner in Md. For 10 "scents" you receive 18 pages of alleged humoroustf, much of which is funny. Burlesque in fantasy, we find, is like the little girl with the curl: when it is good it is very, very good, and when it is bad it is horrid--the horrid is a mild word. Recommended: Phantasy Phiz-Quiz, Editorial, Richard G. Kerlin's WS reprint, Walter Sullivan's piece. Fantasy is neat, excellently mimeographed, large size.

Fantasy Digest, Mar, V1#3

Fantasy-News, Mar 12, V2#12

Le Vombiteur, Mar 18 & 25, V2#s6&7

Science Fiction Collector, Sep-Oct-Nov 38, V4#4

&:

Monogram Pictures will screen "Rip Van Winkle", one of the first suspended animation stories, next season...Frank Morgan is likely to replace Lionel Barrymore as Gramp in "On Borrowed Time" ... Sax Rohmer's "The Drums of Fu Manchu" begins in Collier's April 1... Wonder Comics #1 is upon us, dated May. A monthly, it features 14 pages of explicit of "The Wonder Man", by Erwin Willis, and a direct steal from Action Comics' "Superman". In addition, Arthur Dean draws a 6-page near-zombie story, "Dr Fung"...The Goose Creek (Tex.) Sun is publishing a series of dispatches by its mythical war correspondent, Wilbur Dodgebullet, who interviews Hitler, Franco, Miss Peace. (Unrelated)...Wally Marconette: "Golden Fleece - The latest (Apr) issue of this magazine contains a time-traveling story by Vincent Cornier titled 'Octave Seventy Five'. This number also boasts a cover by Brundage (no nudes--actually!); and--most amazing--interior illustrations by the same artist. Fans are urged to keep a close watch on this magazine for it prints fantastic yarns regularly. And need I mention that its format and fiction are much above the usual run of pulp magazines?"...Don Ford: "FLASH! SCOOP! NEWS! In the April The Funnies comic magazine is starting a picture-serial entitled 'John Carter of Mars'! We can now see all the monstrosities that are described in Burroughs' famous stories."

Dick Wilson