

SCIENCE-FANTASY

REVIEW

No. 3.

1½d

"Science-Fiction: Seeker of a Better To-morrow"

June 12th 1939

GILLINGS REVEALS PLANS

A FRANK acknowledgement of the help he has received from famous American authors in establishing science fiction in England through TALES OF WONDER will be made by Walter H. Gillings, Editor in issue No. 7 due June 27th.

The editorial will maintain that whereas British authors were known only in America, the magazine has afforded them opportunity to gain recognition here, in addition to encouraging several new writers into the field and that had not some of American s.f.'s most brilliant exponents come to his rescue when he was short of material, TALES OF WONDER would never have continued as a quarterly publication.

A large number of stories already published in America, many of which have been requested by readers, have been secured for publication in conjunction with original British material. Noted Americans who will appear in subsequent issues are Harl Vincent, Jack Williamson, Walter Kately, M.J. Breuer, E.E. Repp, L.F. Stone, I.R. Nathanson and C.A. Smith.

Further stories by Verrill, Hamilton, Coblenz, Flagg, Meek etc. will be published while British
(see pages)

"FANTASY" GOES QUARTERLY

THE MOST EXCITING event of the year for s.f. enthusiasts is the news that FANTASY now definitely announces regular publication. From the next issue (July 28th) FANTASY will go quarterly.

Science fiction is definitely on the up grade in England when the second tentative effort at pro-s.f. mags. is able to announce regular publication. We can only hope FANTASY will keep up the excellent standard it has already attained, and that the illustrating will be as lavish as in the last issue.

Details of contents of No. 3 are not yet available but we hope to reveal them as they become available.

The best of luck to FANTASY.

IMPORTANT NOTE

All communications and subscriptions now to:

14, Henley Avenue,
Litherland,
Liverpool 21.

FACT BEHIND MERRITT'S MOON POOL

Perhaps the most popular story every written in science-fiction is A. Merritt's very famous yarn 'THE MOON POOL'. Published as a serial in Amazing Stories in 1927 this story is written around the isle and city Metalimen in the Caroline Island area.

Metalimen did actually exist, but has now sunk beneath the sea. Lying sixteen fathoms beneath the waves it can be actually seen in ordinary daylight. Rumour and heresay has it that wonderful stone pillars and arches, gigantic monoliths and carved stone arches have been observed. We say rumour advisedly because the Japanese who own the Carolines will allow no men or ships other than their own in the neighbourhood and in addition maintain great secrecy about the sunken city, hence all the information available available is secondhand.

It is believed that the relics of a mighty empire are hidden in the ruins, but what these are has not yet been admitted. A 'House of the Dead' has apparently been discovered. This, believe it or not, is reported as containing 100,000 bodies in platinum coffins.

When at last the jealousies of nations are ended and the scientists of the world are allowed access to Metalimen, perhaps the truth that will be revealed will put even Merritt's marvellous fantasy into the shade.

THE DEMIGODS

This novel by Gordon Bennett deals with a race of gigantic ants, who know no human emotions. As in all good s-f stories, they are highly intelligent, have conquered Venus, found the secret of atomic power, live in underground cities and communicate by telepathy. Ruled by a master mind, they plan to wipe out the human race, which ant-like they despise. You can guess who succeeds in the long run.

FOOD OF THE GODS may be filmed. Story reported bought by British film company.

GOLDEN FLEECE.

This historical adventure magazine features among its authors several old hands from the science fiction field. Since it appeared in October 1938 it has had its very interesting pages such names as Ralph Milne Farley, Robert E. Howard, E. Hoffman Price etc., and the April issue contains a novellette by Murray Leinster entitled 'Swords and Mongols.' We advise those readers who have a flair for this class of fiction to read this magazine. From our experience they will not be disappointed.

AMAZING STORIES, July 1939.

In a good average issue the best story is 'When time stood still' by Edwin K. Sloat embodying a good idea. Next we rate 'The Trial of Adam Link, Robot' which is 'I, Robot' by Eando Binder continued. Other stories By R.M. Williams, R.M. Farley, E.E. Repp (a scientific detective yarn this) and Don Wilcox. Illustrating is up to the usual standard while the back cover depicting a space devastator reminds us of 'The Power Planet' by Murray Leinster in the old Amazing. Newcomer D.V. Reed was voted first in May issue with 'Where is Roger Davis'.

NEW SCIENCE-FICTION MAGAZINE IN ENGLAND?

May issue of Armchair Science had letter praising stories of George Griffiths one of the first s-f authors. Editor in sub note asked if readers generally would like s-f including in Armchair Science. Those of us who desire our fiction in this go-ahead periodical should write to the editor at Long Acre, London W.C.2.

S-F.R. is in communication with the editorial department and hopes to be able to reveal any news which may be available.

ARGOSY: Weekly magazine has scheduled A. Merritt's 'Seven Footprints to Satan' for early publication. Editor is considering readers requests for 'The Snake Mother' by the same author. Bung yours in now.

1940 LIVERPOOL'S TURN?

Liverpool was the best represented provincial branch at the Convention, no less than six members making the journey to the metropolis. This show very strongly supports our claim to run the next Convention, and if we do achieve that honour all in our power will be done to make it the best ever.

Merseyside possesses much fine talent, the cream of which we hope to rope in for the fans entertainment.

SCIENCE OR WAR?

Recent press reports reveal claim of two Australian engineers to have invented a new bomb which follows a moving target. Called an aerial torpedo it is said to be able to pursue its objective no matter what course the latter follows. As great secrecy is being observed and the Australian Defence Department is interested, perhaps there is something in the report.

Joke is (if we can joke about such a subject) that it is supposed to be mainly for defence. If we go on inventing defensive weapons of this type, how are we going to test them unless we have some one to defend ourselves from. Seems like somebody will have to invent an enemy so that we can start taking advantage of our new defence 'science'.

NEW MAGS JUST OUT!

Look out for the July issue of FANTASTIC ADVENTURES. The cover is reminiscent of the old large size Amazing and is enough to gladden the heart of all real s-f.fans UNKNOWN July seems weirder than ever with main story 'Slaves of Sleep' by Ron.L. Hubbard, while ASTOUNDING June features return of Earl Vincent also 'Hermit of Mars' by Clifford D. Simak.

Remainders are Startling Stories March and Amazing same month. We hope to include reviews of all of these next issue. Post that sub now and make sure of S-F.R.

SCIENCE CAN END AIR MENACE!

BRAINS TRUST DEMANDED

Scientists in England are confident that the problem of defence against aerial attack can be permanently solved if science is given opportunity and funds to get on with job. Suggestions are deep air-raid shelters, improved balloon barrages, development of aerial mines and new high precision ground defence instruments. By these means they state, bombers can be stopped and civilians made safe at only a proportion of present costs being involved.

It is proposed a brains trust of leading scientists for this purpose alone should be set up and given two years for intensive investigation to solve problems involved. Cost would be no more than £250,000 for investigations against many millions for a single battleship. Backing idea are Professor J.D. Bernal, Doc. C.P. Snow. Editor of 'DISCOVERY' which is giving scheme prominence and others.

As science is being prostituted for war purposes on all sides it is only right that it should be allowed to undo some of the damage, and we understand that eight eminent scientists have been appointed to advise Anderson on ARF but we wonder if they will be allowed to proceed on the lines indicated. Seems to us that those who rule us are interested in science only when it is destructive and not when it is purely constructive viz the Thetis disaster. This submarine was latest in war weapons but not in safety for those who had to work in her.

Reason? Plenty of profits in armaments and nothing must be allowed to touch those not even our safety.

CAN YOU WRITE?

Where are the letters in this issue? Yes, where? You ought to know. Too many of you who dive for the post every morning to see if S.F.R. has arrived don't bother to write. How about it? O.K.?

ATOMIC POWER ?

It appears that yet another of our science-fiction concepts, that of atomic power, may be realised within the near future.

Research is being carried on in a number of laboratories into a new type of nuclear reaction. It has only recently been discovered that when a heavy atomic nucleus takes up a neutron, it splits into two roughly equal nuclei, very much as a drop of water breaks into two when its size is large and its surface tension low. For instance an atom of uranium may split into a nucleus of barium and one of krypton, releasing in the process about 200 million electron volts of energy, or about 40 to 50 times as much as was released in the Rutherford method of bombardment with protons. This however is not the end of the matter. From the barium and krypton nuclei, more neutrons "evaporate", with enough energy to attack further atoms of uranium, and so on. As it is estimated that, on an average, 3.5 secondary neutrons are produced for each primary which is absorbed, it seems theoretically possible to establish a reaction "chain" which is self-perpetuating, and which will continue until all the uranium is consumed. The present method of control depends upon the producing of an equilibrium of temperature by the introducing of a proportion of cadmium to the reaction mixture.

It is still too early to forecast how this discovery may be put to practical use, but the realisation of atomic power appears to be within reach. It may be found that all the energy freed cannot be usefully applied.

E.G.D.

KEY-NOTES, 3. EXPLOITATION.

Under this title let us deal with the allotment of the 2nd 70 marks of the KEY-critique.

When you have perceived the central idea of the story or the article read, and have decided whether you consider it worthwhile or not, you can then go on to ask if the author has made good or adequate USE of it. One great advantage which you will derive from this part of the critique is that your own imagination is stimulated to creative activity. To take a recent example, "Giants from Eternity" in STARTLING, July. Granted that you have already given your marks for the idea of bringing dead scientists into a fight for humanity, do you think Wellman made a good selection? Could you improve on it? Do you think the author's own company were well employed? Or from your own judgment of their several capacities and characters, would they have acted differently or more effectively? Remember, you are not NOW considering the literary qualities of the yarn, that aspect comes into the next purview. This time you might allot marks for scientific accuracy, for plausible explanation of method, and consistency - bearing in mind the ends aimed at or reached.

Personally, I award 40 marks for the Idea of that story, as thus 10, 15, 15. For Exploitation of the idea I give 45; 15, 15, 15. How do these marks compare with your own? When you have given your marks, you might try to do some creative work, write his story as you would prefer it!

BETWEEN THE COVERS

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Startling Stories June 1939.

Giants from Eternity by Manly Wade Wellman - feature 80-page novel. Scientist conceives method of resuscitating 5 great scientists of past to combat mysterious earth-blight which threatens to engulf world. Difficult subject, delicately handled. Hokum - but good hokum at that. Life Battery by Eando Binder. Oh Death where is thy sting. World without name by E.K. Sloat, reprint from 1931 Wonder but Very Good. also Robot Al a good robot yarn presented in novel fashion.

Good issue, not upto standard of No. 1 or 3, but we cannot expect plums every time.

THRILLING WONDER Feb 1939. (remdr)

Fine cover illustrating inter-planetary liner in transit from Saturn, from Flight of the Star-Shell by G.A. Giles the best story in the issue. Seven other yarns of which outstanding are Telepathic Tomb by Kummer, Discarded Veil by A.J. Burks and World without Chance by Polton Cross. Usual departments. Special note for would-be writers. First stories chosen in Amateur Authors contest announced and details of its continuance. Here's a chance for you budding Fearn's.

ASTOUNDING March 1939 (Remainder).

Cloak of Aesir features struggle of Earthmen led by Aesir against conquering Sarn ruled by Sarn Mother 6000 years old. By D.A. Stuart, nuff said. Also Children of the Betsy B by Malcolm Jameson very good. Simak's serial Cosmic Engineers is continued. Gold, Casey, James and Burk also in.

CAMPBELL ENTERS FANTASY FIELD

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For some time J.W. Campbell, Editor ASTOUNDING S-F, has been favouring and has now put into the field a new magazine devoted entirely to this class of fiction. UNKNOWN first number March 1939 now remainder is excellent fare with Sinister Barrier by Eric Frank Russell splendid story based upon actual facts and all the more fascinating because of that. 50,000 words. Who wants power? by Mona Farnsworth good, Dark Vision F.B. Long, average others quite interesting.

This new venture should go well if this standard is maintained but later current issues tend to the macabre rather than fantasy which to our mind is unusual events with probable intriguing explanation.

S.-F. IN THE AIR

Latest American Air Stories (remainder) Spring 1939 features s.f. novel 'The War to end the World'. Cover by George Gross is excellent. Look out for it.

WORLD IN DARKNESS

Is the title of an amazing story in which disaster in form of a strange black fog befalls the Earth and mans efforts to overcome the menace. Starting in MODERN WONDER June 10th.

STARS THAT EXPLODE

Article in June Armchair Science contrasts with 'Birth of the Earth' in May issue. April had article Scientist visits the Moon, excellent s.f. type, also Willy Ley's effort featured in ASTOUNDING March issue mentioned opposite.

Armchair Science good publication for science fans. Easily understood

SCIENCE-FANTASY REVIEW

: Twice a month :

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Editorial

The reception of Science-Fantasy Review has not only been gratifying it has proved that such a publication has long been desired by Science and Fantasy fiction enthusiasts.

With this encouragement S-F.R. is going ahead. In future, the second issue each month will contain a magazine supplement FREE. This additional attraction featuring special articles of real interest and tip-top short stories is just the sort of entertainment you have been looking for.

If you want to be abreast of all that is happening in the s.f. field and at the same time have first-rate entertainment you must subscribe to S-F.R. And remember the rates are still only 1d per copy or 9 issues for 1/-. Make sure of securing this treat regularly by sending in those stamps right now.

Letters and contributions to our pages are heartily welcomed, especially those commenting upon mags, stories and books. Anything of interest to s.f. readers will be given space. Bung in those efforts

TALES OF WONDER (cont from 1)

authors such as J.F. Fearn, John Beynon (Harris), Benson Herbert and Festus Pragnell will also be represented among reprinted yarns.

We understand that sufficient material is now in hand to allow publication monthly but owing to various factors the publishers are not yet able to take this step. It is hoped as conditions improve and circulation grows that monthly appearances will follow.

Artist 'Nick' responsible for the first two TOW covers does that for No.7, depicting the landing of a space-ship on Venus from Venus Adventure by John Beynon considered by many to be his best story and much requested. Only other reprint in issue will be Keller's The Yeast Men first published 1928

Most important story in issue according to Editor Gillings' plan of gradual development is one dealing with thought travel to Great Nebula in Andromeda, Across the Abyss by Geo.C. Wallis. This he hopes will satisfy those who have demanded more ambitious efforts.

Other tales, as stated in our last issue, are City of Machines by F.A. Arnold of London SFA, Creature of Eternity by M.G. Hugli and Coutts Brisbane's Big Cloud, also novel article by A.C. Clarke of BIS, We can Rocket to the Moon - Now.

John Beynon, Dr. Keller and M. G. Hugli contribute to Author's Corner with this issue and the guinea letter-prize will be awarded to Osmond Robb, Edinburgh for the longest and one of the most interest Reader's Reactions TOW has yet printed.

LOOK OUT for the first magazine supplement. Tell your pen-friends about it and get them to subscribe