

# SCIENCE-FANTASY

## REVIEW

No 9.

1½d

Sept. Science-Fiction; Seeker of a Better Tomorrow.

1939.

## TOW TO CONTINUE!

### NEW "SEARCH FOR IDEAS"

WALTER H. GILLINGS in a special message to SFR informs us that TOW is to carry on as a Quarterly during the war, as far as can be anticipated at present. TALES OF WONDER will feature a unique opportunity for science fiction readers to air their views upon things they love to speculate about. No 8 due out Sept. 28 will contain a fascinating article by Prof. A.M. Low, concerning 'Life on Mars', in connection with which there will be inaugurated a remarkable search for ideas, and readers will be invited to exercise their imaginations on various topics to be suggested by themselves for consideration in future issues.

Prizes will be awarded for the most imaginative and interesting ideas received and printed in each issue. Full details of the Search will be found in No. 8 in which editor Gillings directs attention to it by urging readers to 'Use Your Imagination!'

Leading story in next issue is "The Comet Doom" by Edmond Hamilton for which 'Nick' has executed the cover design. Clark Ashton Smith makes his debut with "World of Horror" and a third American Jack Williamson has his first story "The Metal Man" reprinted.

J.R. Fearn returns with "The man

### OUR FUTURE.

THE FUTURE of SFR is, like every thing else in these days uncertain, but we do hope to be able to carry on.

We ask our readers to kindly excuse any slight delay in the publication of future issues, also it may be necessary to increase the price to 2d per copy, but details of this will be issued at a later date. If we find it impossible to carry on outstanding subscriptions will be returned. The increase in price ~~is~~ due to the fact that our method of production has suffered a change for the worse and in order to produce anything like the standard we desire costs are going up.

The future of SFR depends too on the supply of s-f. At the moment little can be said about this, except for TOW. Receipt of US mags here may prove difficult. New readers, however, are welcomed, also contributions more than ever.

who stopped the dust" and Geo. C. Wallis appears again with "THE CRYSTAL MENACE", J.M. Walsh contributes "After a million years" and D.J. Foster makes his second appearance with "The Island in the Air."

The guinea letter prize, which will now be discontinued, is awarded to John C. Craig, of Caterham. Authors Corner had J. Fearn & J. Williamson.

SCIENCE-FANTASY REVIEW

: Twice a month :

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O N T H E S O A P B O X  
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J.G. Norman Bird: Coalville

Please continue to send me my Science Fantasy Review. I find it most interesting, novel and invaluable to Science Fiction fans.

D. Webster: Aberdeen

No.6 I found not, I think, upto average, but still filling a much - needed function: Anyhow, the next will probably be better. All articles were interesting (e.g. Famous Fantastic Mysteries & Ken Chapman's news) and sensible (Bloom's) I found, however, that I agreed little with his ratings of stories in the previous issue, whereas, I remember, my likings nearly always coincided with Ted Carnell's in his ratings in 'Novae Terrae' and else where. Just goes to show you - chance a son gout. And mention of Ted Carnell reminds me: several of the THINGS YOU WANTED TO KNOW were rather pointless, weren't they. I am especially glad (who isn't) to hear of the new Munsey Mag - surely it will be a project of far above average importance. Haven't yet read 'Proof', but be sure you don't overdo the short story stuff - one

every now and then will be fine.

I am still rather amazed that for next to nothing I get all the news of what is going on every other week. You would please me greatly if you could include, as in the past, snippets of news on stories published in 'ARGOSY', 'BLUE BOOK' etc. (Hope we can continue to please in the future. Best we can say now is 'Wait till the war's over')

BOB TUCKER; USA

While reading a copy of your 7th issue I note a filler remarking on the probable pen-names contained in the first issue of SCIENCE FICTION. The 'inside' of these pen names was made known round about here some months ago, and some is no longer news, but in the chance you haven't yet found out, I pass it on herewith. John Coleridge is supposed to be

Robert Castle	do Edm. Hamilton
Dennis Clive	do Thornton Ayre
William Callahan	do R.Z. Gallun
Derwin Lesser	do Chas. Hornig
Guy Arnold	do J.H. Haggard
John Cotton	do Thornton Ayre
Ephriam Winiki	do J.R. Fearn.

Now if you have good reason to believe that Fearn had two stories in that first issue, you can see at a glance that something is haywire in that list above. Perhaps it lies in those two Thornton Ayre names. One of those could be Fearn.

Meanwhile, thanks for the reviews of the pre-mags you run every issue. They help me considerably -- I am accumulating and condensing all these published reviews, the total to be published in my next year's YEARBOOK. Therefore, to me, they are the most valuable part of SFR. (The argument as to whether Thornton Ayre is J.R. Fearn still excites fandom, and is likely to do so apparently, for the photograph recently published in Amazing Stories has not, apparently, settled fans' doubt. Is Fearn Ayre? No prizes)



## Science for Children.

There is a growing body of opinion in this country in favour of immunisation against diphtheria and scarlet fever. These two diseases attack children more than adults and are particularly virulent and dangerous, but immunisation, where it has been carried out amongst school children has been found to reduce the mortality rate in astonishing proportions.

For instance, in New York immunisation has been proceeding since 1920 with an intensification begun in 1929, with the result that deaths from diphtheria have dropped from over 1200 to 35 in '36. At Montreal mortality has been reduced from 219 in 1927 (before immunisation started) to 18 in 1936 despite 1/6th rise in population.

This proves science can save lives of children without possible doubt, but, as usual, the more people are won over in favour of compulsory immunisation, the greater becomes the opposition from narrow-minded, unsocial anti-scientists. These persons use arguments that sometimes children who have been immunised contract and die from diphtheria and that others are made ill by injections. Quite true, but these are very small minority. Some people, for mysterious reasons, do not develop immunity after inoculation and are not helped thereby, while a very few, in poor health, are made temporarily ill, although new methods are now solving this fault. But the main result is good and these who oppose immunisation can only be classed as anti-scientists and it is our duty as supporters of science to ensure its benefits are adopted by the community. Heaven knows, enough of its work, has been turned to evil account, surely in face of incontrovertible proof no one will deny little children some of its good.

## CLEANINGS.

Garnered by Ron. Holmes.

I hope my readers will excuse my referring to juvenile mags. but all mags that print Stf comes under my hammer. The latest batch of this type is "The Hotspur", the English tuppenny. Issue for Sept 25th. has a new serial "The Last Rocket to Venus". The author is unknown but I hope to have some inside information by the next issue. The story is well told and on the lines of "When Worlds Collide". In the same issue starts a serial "Nick Silver" (nothing to do with Bob Silver so far as I know) and tells of a robot schoolboy who is being educated at a collage. Plenty of Stf laughs.

Another juvenile is Modern Wonder Sept 6th issue (my birthday - please note) in which starts a new serial "The Romance of the Suez Canal", further information to follow. Talking of Fan mags - which I was'nt. Le Zombie, Bob Tucker's mag of candid comments and nutty news, printed in his Aug. 12th iss. a photo of Ted Carnell. This is the first mimeographed mag. to print an actual picture. Hot Stuff!

As a result of our questions in the last S-FR about the Mitchelists, we hear that they have gathered together for protection and have ensconced themselves in a house in NY naming it "Futurian House". We gather that the exact address is 585 East 4th street, Brooklyn, N.Y. Who cares anyway??

I hear that all the fans who had vowed never to read Amazing again, begot themselves the October issue to read all about the Greatset Announcement in the History of Stfn. I regret to say that after reading the Radio Script that had been banned (not in the manner you would think), they returned to their anti-Amazing ways. "Serves them right," I say. "Fickla" I call's them.



"Art; more or less".

By D.R. Webster.

Let me discuss a letter to a magazine, and the editor's reply (July "Amazing", pp. 141-2). Reader Hamilton is against pictures of machines, however well drawn (that's Fugua, sometimes), and for human beings, however badly drawn, (that's Juhre, and Fugua, and Krupa, and Jackson and many more). The pros. and cons. about intricate machinery are, I think, a matter of opinion; you can't therefore, discuss them. But when it comes to declaring that Juhre's covers - RAP. says Juhre's efforts "were more artistic than others" - are definitely superior to the April cover, I stir to life. I laugh heartily, and weep a little, since Palmer is no judge of Art. Admittedly, constant masses of brightly coloured machines become tiresome, but if they are well-executed, carefully-detailed, and so coloured that they do not offend the eye with harshness, they must be superior to Juhre's poor attempts to portray human beings.

Take the "Skylark of Valeron" cover (Aug. '34 "Astounding"). Here is none of the bright, all-colours-of-the-rainbow space-ships which - among others - Fugua would be bound to give you, and which, I take it, annoy Reader Hamilton. It's cold grey metal, it looks heavy, strong and - this is the point - not like a brightly painted tin toy. Just take a look over a dozen or so covers of robots or space-ships, intricate machinery and elaborate ray-guns; the reason you don't like many of them is because they look just like tin toys, and, subconsciously or sometimes consciously, you can't believe they are anything else.

The words of Editor Palmer are thus: "Name a pulp mag. which has presented artistic painting", implying that Juhre comes nearer to doing it than most. His covers

were hardly well enough drawn even to be considered as art; but "Weird Tales", for instance, set a policy of art before sensation for many years, and succeeded admirably. Among the best, to my mind, was a Virgil Finlay's for "The Thief of Forthe" (July '37), which was NOT brilliant, nor gaudy (see RAP., ibid.), but which DID attract attention, and why? - Because it was anatomically a delight, excellent artistically and a pleasure on the eyes. Many other examples I could cite - many by Brundage, whose disappearance from W.T. at the end of last year was a great mistake, especially as her second last cover - for "As 'Twas Told To Me" Sept. '38 - was a really fine effort.

Thus, you see, I personally disagree in this instance with both Hamilton and Palmer; although, as de Coverley would say, much might be said for both sides. I, somehow don't understand the mentality of editor or artist who would produce the Nov. '38 "Amazing" cover; could have told you Finlay's cover on "Astounding" would probably be poor, since he was supreme and superb in 1937, but nowadays - sad thought - shows only occasional flashes of his old brilliance; think Schneemann about our only hope at present - bar Paul, and others occasionally - and he, too, is often careless; prefer Harry Turner in the English mags., and pat Gillings on the back for standing up for him; and could talk at unlimited length on this same subject, if not restrained.

/Well readers, what do you think of all this. We hope you do not take this young man's remarks about the Brundage covers the wrong way./

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IF YOU ENJOY S-FR please recommend us to a friend. Tell him to write for a free copy and have him enjoy the pleasure of our magazine.

## KIDNEY HIS MONUMENT.....

by

DEREK CHAPPLE

One of the most astounding myths in which man has believed made an Italian priest a famous scientist. In the early seventeenth century nearly everybody, including even the scientists, believed that tiny animals, from rats downward, were not born naturally, but were spawned by dirt and putrefaction. To them rats came from mud, while flies and maggots originated in bad meat.

With an originality which required much courage in those days, the Italian priest, believing the theory to be nothing but a fantastic & foolish legend, set out to prove that all living creatures, no matter what their size, must be born from parents, and he succeeded, by proving it with microbes. Spallanzani (that was his name) working with feverish energy in a laboratory littered with hundreds of glass flasks, all of which he used to wash and clean himself and in which he carried out dozens upon dozens of experiments at the same time, demonstrated to an astonished world that microbes did NOT grow out of any substance. If you took a fluid with or without germs in it and boiled it for a time, it would be absolutely free of microbes until some were introduced to it either by the air or some contaminated substance.

But the world had believed the old theory so long that it took him several years to establish his proof and only then after an argument which rocked the whole of Europe. Time and again opponents alleged he was wrong, yet always, with the aid of his hundreds of flasks & much burning of the midnight oil, he would produce still more convincing experiments to confound the doubters, until at last his antagonists retired, defeated. As a reward he

was made Professor of Natural History at the University of Pavia by Maria Theresa, Empress of Austria.

Spallanzani did not rest on his oars. He went from success to success. He found to his own amazement that some microbes can live as well in a vacuum as in air, but one thing which eluded him was how these minute creatures reproduced. A scientist friend to whom the problem was put, suggested he had discovered that the tiny germs grow big then split in two to form two separate individuals, but this was promptly declared by others to be utterly untrue. The phenomena seen was averred to be caused by microbes being broken in two by bumping into each other when swimming about at full speed.

The Italian was never beaten. To prove his friend right, he performed what was almost a miracle. He isolated a germ hardly bigger than a five-thousandth of an inch. And behold - this unbelievably small animal grew to split in two and 20 minutes later these had become four. Spallanzani had won again.

But, like all successful men, he had enemies. Once when away on a health vacation, some of his fellow professors accused him of stealing specimens from the University. Not in the least dismayed, he immediately demanded a committee of enquiry before which he not only succeeded in clearing his name, but made it so hot for his accusers that they were all dismissed from their posts.

Spallanzani, in killing a great myth and pushing forward the science of microbe hunting, helped to make the world a safer place for living in, because that science is now wiping out foul diseases, yet the only memorials left to him were a little bust in the University and his bladder in the adjoining museum. Great scientist that he was, because his bladder was diseased he bequeathed it to science to study for the advancement (continued on page 6)



X WANDERINGS by WAYFARER . X

I am still waiting to hear from some of you about those collections of yours. Details of unusual books magazines containing science or fantasy fiction are welcomed from all readers. All books again this time

THE DIAMOND MAKER by Jacques Futrell. The man who made diamonds. I've heard that one before, says you! Well, this yarn is one of the first of that particular kind and good.

THE PENDULUM OF FATE, by Robert Alexander, London (The C.W. Daniel Co., 1933) Sub-title "Cosmic Glimpses of Past and Future" In a series of visions the author is permitted to have glimpses of life on Ganymede, Mars, Tapetus, Tital, Ariel and Triton, rather after the manner of a Cook's tour. The accounts reveal surprisingly little imagination. For no particular reason, the author proceeds to treat us to a psychic S.O.S. from a shipwrecked mariner of the year 1702 and then to a vision of the Future.

KIDNEY HIS MONUMENT (contd from  
of knowledge.

WONDER AERODROMES OF THE FUTURE .  
by Ron. Holmes.

"The aeroplane glided gracefully down over the city, coming to rest upon the roof-top aerodrome." This sort of sentence is common among the s-f stories of the future, but did you ever consider it as a serious possibility. Others have and there has been formed The Rotary Airport Association to promote interest in their project in the same manner as the BIS works for rocketry. The Association has plans for a rotary airport for every important city in England and France.

The advantages of such an airport are obvious. In times of peace it would be invaluable to people who have little time - for is it not a great deal easier to catch your plane in Piccadilly than travel to Croydon. And in times of war, you can imagine it vomiting forth fighting 'planes to protect the city from invasion, while anti-aircraft guns on its summit can fling a curtain of fire round the city making it almost impossible for enemy machines to enter.

Liverpool would be greatly improved by one of these airports. For one on top of Cunard Buildings could receive inland planes and the passengers descend by fast lifts to the waterfront where flying boats wait to take them to America.