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No.24

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THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL This issue goes to all B.S.F.A. members on the 1965 rooter. VECTOR 25, with material by Eric Frank Russell.

Harry Harrison, E.C. Tubb and others, is only being sent to members who are paidup for 1964. A reminder to those who have not renewed at the time of going to press is enclosed herewith.

There has been precisely one unmination for the next Committee - Charles Winstone (%,549) has been maninated for Treasurer by that office's present incombent, where G.T. Adams (%,12). He is thus returned unopposed. The remainder of the offices will have to be filled at the A.G.M.

As last year, voting rights for the Dr. Arthur Rose Weir Memorial Award are being reserved for those who have paid their 5/- Convention registration fee.

Voting forms will be circulated with the Convention bulletin.

Taking about the Convention, there is some excellent news. Having now received the surplus funds from the 1963 Convention, the 1964 Convention Conmittee have decided to restore the admission charges to last year's level. Unfortunately your editor appears to have no record of what these were - but a refund will be nade in appropriate cases.

Still with the Convention, popular artist Arthur Thomson is preparing the programme book. Haterial for inclusion, such as advertisements etc. should be

sent to him at 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London SW.2.

The sinner of the latest Trans-Atlantic Fon Fund caupaign, Wallace W.

(Wally) Wober (pronounced "Webber") of Seattle, noted humorist, will attend. From Con to Con - the last issue of VECTOR was accompanied by a flyer nevertising the "Costleoon", to be held over August Mank Holiday week-end at the Castle of Margartstein in Upper Bavaria. A considerable number of British SF fans (including os) are eaking plans to attend. For the waverers - a lot of German SF fans speak protty good English, including Thomas Schiltek.

a lot of German SF fams speak proving good English, including Thomas Schlück, from whom further perticulars may be obtained at 3 Hannover, Altenbakener Dann 10, W. Cornany.

Everybody has a good word for Dr. Feriatyle (everybody who bothers to write

everybody has a good word for Dr. Peristyle (everybody who bothers to write in, anyhow) but nobody wants to ask him any questions. More are urgently solicited please. Send then to the editorial address.

Further not-reviews are also solicited. There is still quite a backlog, but thny will be cleared in VECTOR 25, after which it is hoped that the subject can be kept up to date. The not-reviews in this issue, by the way, are nainly free caterial submitted by Brian Rolls, Robert Worrall, and Terry Dull, to whoo thanks. John Larfoot, Richard Gordon and Peter White have also been very bolding.

The death has been reported of author T.H. White, best known for his cycle of Arthurian romances (parts of which were originally published as The Sword in the Stone, The Witch in the Wood and The Ill-Made Knight) which were collected in a revised edition under the overall title of The Once and Future King. It is of interest to note that he just lived long enough to see The Sword in the

Stone issued as a full-length Disney cartoon.

accompanying this issue you should find a voting form for a proposed amendant to the B.S.F.A. Constitution. The object of this, if carried, is to make full members under the age of 21 eligible for Countitee posts - with appropriate safeguards. (It makes no alteration to the position of Associates under 18.) Mrs G.T. Adams, of 54 Codden avenue, Ditterme Park, Southampton, has been appointed Feller for the purpose, and votes should reach her by the little of Mamch 1964. She happens by a curious coincidence to be the Treasurer, so anybody who has not yet removed his or her subscription for 1964 can do that not the same time, thus killing two birds with one 35 stamp.

If the alendment is negatived, then some of our teenage members look like being driven into open revolt. One such revolting teenager is Charles Platt, one of the Vectory's most active correspondents. Anybody of any age who would be interested in joining him in either a revolution or a round robin (correspondence chain) in invited to contact him at 8 Sollerabott West, Lethworth, Herts. He publishes a funzine titled EXYNON (formerly FORM OF VISA),

Poter Western (9 Periods Creacent, Northfield, Mirringham 31) mentions that ZENIFH 3, at 1/-, will be out for February 8th. Contents are slated to include articles, reviews, book news, and photographs and - just in case you can't wait till March and VERTOR 25 - a story by E.C. Tubb.

Frs. Beryl Henley, lady member of the Bruingham group, wants to know just what Mark Twain wrote on the subject of telepathy, as mentioned by Heinlein in

Lost Tegion/Lost Legacy. Anybody know?

And finally - I have recently received an anonymous letter. Not, I hasten to add, a scurrilous letter or snything of that sort - but anonymous nevertheless. It refers to a recent VECTOR - but since I have no idea who sent it, it's somewhat pointless.

W-H-E-W !!! Never thought I'd get it all in! And there's even room for a not-review underneath. AM





TO THE VAST najority, Edgar Rice Burroughs is the creator of "Tarzen". the famous apownen who has battled his way through twenty-odd books and innuncrable films; but to the initiated, he is the author of the world of Barsoon, John Certor la Mora.

It is hard to think of a nore controversial set of books in the whole field of SF and fantasy. Are they SF? Are they anything but crud?

Whether you thrill to the adventures of Tardos Kors and Tors Tarkas, or whether the obvious improbabilities and odd style make you winco, the fact remains that EMD is the way many people first meet the fantasy world, and he still compands such admiration and influence there. (Rear pot, noble editor: you are not the only one in the B.S.P.A.)

One thing about Parsoon is that you get the feeling of a world - too many SF stories give the intression that it doesn't patter where you land on the planet of Bliznai, you will suo much the same sort of thing. Burroughs' Mars is a place of diverse races, customs and manners, and distinct personalities.

The red den are the post advanced; dilitarily, scientifically, and culturally. They live mainly in walled cities or fortified farms along the irrigated canals. The Engire of Holium (nerbays a name could have been chosen not the same as element no. 2) is the most powerful of this race. The capital is the twin cities of Greater and Lesser Helium, marked by great yellow and scarlet towers. Of the other red nations, acce, like l'tarth and Gathol, are friendly to Helium: others are often at war with ber.

In the North Polar regions, cut off by an ice wall, live a race of yellow Den, dwelling in artificially heated cities, rather like Blish's trading cities. In the South live both a white and a black race. ERB is often accused of being a white supremacist of the worst sort, but in this connection it is interesting to note that the black race is described as handsome and intolligent. whereas the white race runs the corrupt religion and is depicted as degenerate and treacherous.

The bottons of the dead sees are inhabited by 15-foot green warriors with four arcs. These are also split into nations such as the Tharks and Varhoons. VECTOR THERE'S FOUR

Although strictly truthful and just they are alien to any thought of friendship or love, and are oruel and warlike in the entrene.

The organisation of all races is roughly on the tribe or clan method, with jeds (kings) and jeddaks (emperors) as rulers.

Apart from the green race the peoples are remarkably like old home sap (well, other writers do this sort of thing), apart from their long life and the fact that they are owiparous. Despite this I may say that the females look quite manhalian on my covers. They can however interbreed with Earthmen. The eggs are kept in the back garden by the more civilised races, but are put in incubators by the green pen.

Their long natural life is balanced by an electrostant state of warfare and strife with the fauna. This includes benths (ten-legged lien-type andmals); apts (a huge white furred six-limbed age) and siths (bornots the size of bulls) on the wild side, but thoets, zitiders and calots are deconsticated. Thoets are the horses of fursoon and come in two sizes, large so used by the green men and a smaller variety used by the red race. Zitidars are draught animals and calots are watch dogs the size of a pony with ten legs. MEMish, perhaps, and why all those legs?

Mans is a dying world, kept alive by the advanced science of the Barsconlans, the atmosphere, for instance, is constantly regenerated by a mechanical plant.

The Martians are quite a social and cheerful people, despite the warfare and the danger of assassination. (To be an assassin is rather an honourable calling in fact one, Gor Weine, is highly addired in his country).

If the Martian lives to the age of 1,000 (which can be seen to be difficult), he or she generally takes a pilgrinage down the less to the valley Doraccording to religion a place of pisacure but in fact a place where pilgrins are killed by blood-sucking plant non and despoiled by the white race, the Holy Therns. ERB does not seen to like organised religion very nuch; warf from the Iss-Dor swindle, the others which axist on Mors (e.g. Tur worship) are depicted as ridiculous and run by priests core marked by greed and self-interest than piety. Apart from any formal religion most Martians venerate the nesories of their ancestors (e.g. the greeting 'Elessod be thy ancestors for this nesting').

The main fighting weapons are swords and daggers; although pistols and fifles are known, they are not favoured for personal could. They are used in mayal battles, however. The main branch of the arned forces of the red men is the many. This is an air fleet comprising ships from one-man fliers to battle-ships carrying several thousand men. These are supported and driven by the "eighth ray", which is a sort of antigravity assence. It is held in tanks which are always being punctured, disabling the flier.

In A Princess of Mars, John Carter, a Virginian soldier, is being chased by Apache in Arizona. He takes cover in a care where he is overcome by fluces, 'dies', and is miraculously propelled to Mars. This may seen a bit of a deusex-machine, but if we accept Bester's jounting, why jib at this? He is captured by the green Tharks and taught the universal harsomian language, which is apparently so logical that there is never more than one possibility for the name of a new thing. By unflarkian kindness he makes friends with Woola, a calot

set to guard bur, and with his thouts. Sola, a green girl, and Tars Tarken, her father, eventually befriend him and another prisoner - Dojah Thoris, a princess of Helium captured from a scientific expedition. By his process, aminly due to his Earth cuscles and his rather unexplained skill as a swordsman, he rises to be a Thark chieftain.

After capture by Than Kosic of Zodanga, Carter rescues Dejah Thoris, while Tars Tarkas kills the Burderer of Sola's mother and becomes Jeddak of Thark in his plane.

Carter and bejon Thoris are married but the locked atmosphere plant falls, threatoning all life on Mars. In his wanderings Carter has learnt the telepothic commands meeded to open the door. He does so, but as the Martina engineer crawls in to mend it, he collapses and returns to the cave in Arizona.

Ten years later, in <u>The Gods of Mars</u>, John Carter returns to Mars in the same way, this time arriving in the valley Dor. Dejah Thoris has taken the pilgrinage and has been captured by the head of the Therns, Matai Shang. The Tarkas has also done so, and together he and John Carter escape the plant can and apts only to be captured by the black pirates. These claim to be the first race burn from the primordial 'tree of life' in which most Martians believe. They expose Isaus, the 'goddess' the rules the black race, and Carter escapes

DRIAN McCADE hore illustrates another of Edgar Rice Burroughs's fanous interplanetary protagonists - Carson Napier of Venus



with Carthorie, his son, and Madar, a disillusioned prince of the First Borr. ite is accused of heresy by Zat Arras, the regent of Helium (in the absence of Tardon Bors the Jeddak and Mors Kajak the Jed who are searching for the latter's lost children). Due to his popularity he is released, but too lete to rescue his wife, who, with another red girl called Thawla, prisoners both of Matai Shang, is locked in a cell revolving under the ground which can be reached only after a year.

In The Warlord of Maro, Dejah Thoris is stolem from the cell by the uncasy alliance of Matai Shang and Thurid of the First Born and, followed by John Cartor, is taken to the court of Kulan Tith, Jeddak of Kaol, who still follows the Them religion. Matai Shang in exposed by Carbor with the help of Thuran Dihn, Jeddak of Ptarth and father of Thurin, but escapes, He takes Bejah Thoris to the land of the yellow upen in the north, Cartor and Thuwan Dihn on his heels. Here they befriend Talu, prince of Marentina, who is at war with the tyrranous Jeddak, Salemous Oll,

The country has been protected by a nagnetic pole which attracts all ships, causing then to crash, but Carter dectroys this in time to adult the rescuing army led by Carthoris, Tars Tarkas and NodarVECTOR TWENTY=FOUR 7

Tardos Mors, Mors Kajak and Dejah Thoris are rescued. Cartor is ordered to stand trial for his heresy in returning alive from the valley Dor, but in fact is elected Warlord of Mars in one of Burrowsha's boat impressive scenes.

Thuria, Maid of Mars, is the story of the red girl rescued from the therms. The basis of the plot is reminiscent of women's magazines: Thuria, daughter of Thuran Dinn, is engaged to Kulan Tith, Joddak of Kaol, but is basically in love with Carthoris, Carter's son. Astok, prince of Dusar, also desires her, and adducts her in such a way that suspicion falls on Carthoris. The letter follows her, but both are crytured by the Torquasians, a green tribe, then by the Lotherians. These people believe themselves to be the last civilized race on Mars, and defend their city with telepathically produced images of archers and banths, the enemy being killed by suggestion as the arrow approaches. One of these projections, Kar Kouak, becomes real, and with his help the red couple escape.

Dusarian agents have meanthile fomented war between the allies. Carthoris not only turns up in time to prove his innocence and hence overt war, but in rescuing Kulan Tith from a green honde gots Thurla when Kulan Tith realiess she prefers Carthoris. This eleventh hour aversion of disaster, or the the-U.S.-cavelry-will-turn-up technique, detracts seriously from the plausibility of parts of ERG's stories.

In The Chessmen of Bars, Tara of Helium, Carter's daughtar, is carried away in her filter during a storm and is captured by the koldanes. These are beings which consists almost entirely of head, all the other links and organs being atrophied. They use almost brainless bodies, called rykor, both as food and means of locomotion. Their rescal arbition is to produce a pure brain, which, shut in an underground bole, should de nothing but think. Tara chamms a kaldane, Ghek, with singing, unknown among them. Cahan of Gathol, who lowes Tara, rescues her, only to be captured by the men of Manator. ("Tar, the jeddak, is cruel and treacherous, but is opposed by U-Thor, the just and popular jed of Manatos. Note here the similarity to the plot of Thuvia.

There is a Martian game, similar to chess, called jetan. In Manator, howover, it is played with living pieces, the non fighting for a disputed square. Forced to take part in this, Gahan rescues Term, and their friend A-Kor, son of U-Thor, becomes indiak.

The Master Mind of Mars is one of the best Mars books. Another earthman, Ulyses Facton, is Milled' in France in the first world wer, and is transported to Mars to become the apprentice of a brilliant but unstable surgoon and scientist, Ras Thaves. The villainous jeddars (express) Kaxa of Phundahl has her brain transferred to the beautiful young body of Valla Dit of Duhor. Parton, however, has fallen in love with her (love is a very sudden process in ERB's books), and swears to restore her body. With a resurrected assessin, Gor Hajus, Der Tarus, whose body has been stelen by one of Kaxa's nobles, and Hovan Du, whose brain has been transferred to the body of an apt, he succeeds. Valla Dia naturally turns out to be a princess, and John Carter and the Heliumetic navy turn up in the mick of time as usual.

A Pighting Man of Mars tells the story of Hadron of Hastor (one of the oitles of Hallun). We become infatherted with a spoilt beauty called Samona Tora, and when sho is kidnopped (yes, sgaint) sets off in pursuit.

He rescues a girl, fevir, from the Torquasions on the way and goes to Jahar, whose jeddak, Tul Axter, he suspects. Imprisoned on the way by May Osis of Tipanth, he and a fellow prisoner, Nur An, escape, and after a brief brush with a sadistic jed, Chron of Chaste, discovers the source of the new Jaharian wempons which dissolve motal. This, along with other fantastic inventions, including a paint which confers invisibility, has been invented by Phor Tak, a prototype and scientist. (Compare Mas Thewas of the previous story).

With an invisible air-ship he rescues Sanona Tora and Phao (Mur An's woman) with Tavia's help. By the treachery of Sanona Tora, Nedron and Tavia are stranded in cannibal country by Tul Axtar. Here they recover the air-ship and help John Certer to defect the Jaharian Rures. Phor Tak is killed, and his inventions are destroyed in order to prevent their use in future wars. (ENS evidently did not believe in the deterrent theory). At the end Hadron discovers that he had really loved Tavia all along, and she (surprise, surprise) turns out to be a princess.

ERP's Venusian adventures are less well known and Klime, probably the best burroughs initator, ande Venus his with the Grandon tales. ERP's Venus is a planet of sees and giant forests. The inhabitants are again human, with variations - some, for instance, are winged. Carson Napier travels to Venus come conventionally, by spaceship, and crashes. He joins a group of extlos whose land is now run by pseudo-communists, and falls for a princess. It sounds fariliar enough,

The Terram storios contain many fantasy episodes and plots (c.g. ant-men giants, lost nace) which could well form the basis of a similar article if mmybody's interested.

The similarity of plot centioned above is admittedly more evident in a short summary than in reading the books, but is none the less there. This has led to the rether unkind suggestion that EMs got John Carter to send him a Martian computer to write the steries but that Carter only sent one programs. The coincidences are often hard to take - the way the invisible air-admy floats away from Thi Astar to just where Hedron and Tavia are standing, just as they are about to counit suicide to prevent capture by the samibals - but, well, coincidences do happen. The rather coy way he has of describing contions is a more serious fault. The characters also tend to be black or white - upright and noble if on 'our' side, but utterly without relieving virtue if they are villains. All the women are beautiful, even the unpleasant ones. Some people object to the fact that always is taken for granted, but it is reasonable in this scui-feudal scotety, and in any case is not irredeenable - some ex-slaves rise to high positions mong their nesters.

The style lends itself readily to satire - "ten thousand green warriors were firing at ne with their realer-controlled radium rifles that never miss, but fortunately I escapsidaru" --- "I slow 27 and the rest took flight"...

The books have their foults - oresking plots and so on - but they still have the power to cooke the vision of a world. When the events have faded from the mind one still remembers the central character, John Carter, with his stubborn refusal to admit defeat (I still live!) and his spectacular courage. The Mars of Rex Gordon's brilliant No Man Friday with its detailed, plausible ecology may be more reasonable, but a lot of people still have a soft spot for

- 9

the larroom where the twin towers of Helium rise above the dead see bottoms and the mand where walks John Cartor, Joddak of Jeddaks, Warlord of Jacroom, RIAN ROLLS

EDITOR'S NOTE. Besides the seven "Mars" tooks enumerated above, the series continues in sequence with the following stories:

Swords of Wars

Synthetic Men of Mars

Llans of Gathol

John Carter and the Giant of Mars

Skeloton Mon of Jupiter (in which John Carter and his friends move on

to a further planet)

The first three of these stories are complete movels; the latter two are shorter works (a complete movelette and the first section of what would have been and other full-length movel) which are due to be published together with a teft-over Yenus opisode under the title of Tales of Three Planets. AM

中央連邦の設定を

THE EARTH WAR (Mack Roymolds) (Pyranid 40% 141 pages)
Frigid Fraces from "Analog" - token warfare and a fossilised "sold war".

THE HUMANOIDS (Jack Williamson) (Lancer 178pp 3/64)

Facous govel of humans and robots, with controversial ending.

SOME OF YOUR BLOOD (Theodore Sturgeon) (Ballantine (Tar) 143pp 2/6d)
A deliberately unploasant tale.

TALES OF LOVE AND HORROR (ed. Dun Congdon) (144pp)
Shorts by Bradbury, Matheson and others.

A MILE HEYOND THE MOON (C.M. Kernbluth) (NacFaddon 175pp 40%)
A typical collection of Kernbluth short stories.

THE WALL SHOOMD THE WORLD (T.R. Cogswell) (Pyramid 160pp 2/6d)
Collection of Cogswell's stories including The Specter General.

ANALOGUE MEN (Damon Knight) (Berkley 160pp)

Novel about non controlled by machines, with one lone rebel.

THE SURVIVOR AND OTHER STORIES (Lovecraft & Dorloth) (Bullantine 145pp 2/64)
Stories written by Derleth from Lovecraft's notes, without much variety.

TALENTS INCORPORATED (Murray Leinster) (Avon 3/6d)
Space opers in the Leinster tradition.

ANYTHING YOU CAN BO ("Darrel T. Langart" = Randall Garrett) (Mayfl.190pp 3/6d) An alien on earth, who can only be beaton by a super-buman.

THE HALUSTRATED MAN (Ray Dradbury) (Corgi 3/-)
Reprint of the facous compendium of Bradbury stories.

A CANTICLE FOR LETERNITY (Whiter M. Miller) (Corgi 278pp 3/6d)
Award-Winning movel of the (R.C.) Church after the blow-up.

BYPASS TO OTHEROESS (Henry Kuttner) (Consul 2/6d)

8 Kuttner stories, including one each from the "Mutant" and "Hogben" series

EARTHLIGHT (Arthur C. Clarke) (Pan 158pp 2/6d)
Reprint of this famous melodramatic adventure noted for its tochnical

FURY (Henry Kuttaer) (Mayflower 3/6d)
Reprint of this forcus tale of a future submarine civilisation at war.

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LESS LAUGHING IN the back row, please, while the first of DR. PERISTYLE 's pupils delivers his apparation.

NOW WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE ?

PHILIP MARBOTTLE: Why has E.C. Tubb dropped out of science fiction, and why did the library say that he was E.C. Elliott of "Kenlo" notoriety? Apparently be denies it emphatically.

DR. PERISTYLE: As to the second part of your question, your learned scribe laboured under the same delusion as the library. If Tubb has said he is not Elliott, then we can assume either that he is lying (for reasons of codesty or prudence) or he is telling the truth. A third possibility, that he may have forgetten whether he was ever Elliott or not, must be discounted as an idea too horrible to conjure with, since in that case we may never know whether Tubb and Elliott are synonymous.

As to the first part of your question, it is not entirely correct to assume that Tubb has dropped out of sr. Your scribe (who walketh with his ear to the ground - and damned unconfortable it is) knows of a publisher who next year will commence a new series of sf novels, the first two of which will be by Bertram Chandler and E.C. Tubb - the latter's to be a slightly revised version of "linow on the Meon, retiried from its first appearance in "New Worlde" as a serial.

Of course it is true to say that Tubb is writing much less. Many of us remember when Ted was of in this country, and remember with gratitude. In this connection, it was sad to hear him say publicly at a recent convention that he felt his type of writing had become old-fashioned among the more sophisticated material in vogue today. There are many other writers from whom such a confession would have been entirely velcome, but such modesty from Ted is surely misplaced.

JIM ENGLAND: Can Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle be used to prove the existence of "free will"?

DR. PERISTIE: Heisenberg's theory indicates that nobody can predict how small particles will more if he knows exactly where they are and, conversely, that nobedy can find where such particles are if he can predict how they will move. How this affects free will (the workings of which nobody can determine even when they have defined what it means) I cannot clearly see. Perhaps populs can. But come back in fifty years and I may be feeling a little brighter.

CHARLES P[ATT: What is your real name? Well, you did ask for a loaded question.

DR. PERISTILE: I should have stipulated what it was to be loaded with. Horse manure will not do. To reveal myself would be to fall victim to a fiendish platt.

MOTRA READ: I can't help out with readership figures, but how does the Doc think they can be improved?

DR. PERISTIE: Stap we, medam, women ask the most difficult questions. I can think of six answers, none of which would satisfy either of us. But to give you a reply that perhaps contains the whret features of all six, I'm not sure whether the supposition behind your question that the present readership to low is entirely correct. An sf writer of average standing whom we know of is published by a reputable paperback firm in the States; they print a quarter of a

million copies of each of his titles, and have later been known to reprint. In this age of minorities, this seems not ton house-like an audience to have. Better writers do better, worse writers do worse - a very sensible celestial law that suggests the Almighty is keeping up with his reading. Permit me to quote Peristyle's First Law of Science Fiction, after which the class can break up in furnious disorder:

There is no virtue in of as such, only in the writings of the individual authors: their minds possess individual virtues which can be assessed individually: the virtue of the medium cannot be assessed, for it does not exist.



MORE NOT-REVIEWS

NEEDLE (Hal Clement) (Corgi 3/-) First British paperback of this aliem "needle" in terrestrial "heystack".

WATCH THE NORTH WIND RISE (Robert Graves) (Aven 756) Graves's personal picture of a future world, also known as 7 DAYS IN NEW CRETE.

STAR GATE (Andre Norton) (Ace 406) A fairly typical Norton adventure.



CHARLES PLATT (Letchworth) I maintain that full addresses of letter-writers should be included where possible. If I want to

write a personal letter to someone, I don't want to have to look out a list of BEFA members and then search out the right name. In addition, there must be people (like myself in fact) who joined relatively recently (after the last members' list was produced) and who have no way of getting the full addresses short of writing to you, which I as sure you would be glad to avoid.

Phil Harbottle's article is, if anything, a little superficial; a collection of facts strung together with connecting paragraphs that don't actually

contribute anything of importance. But this is my only criticism.

It seems you have more artists listed on the front over than you have illos in the magazine: What's going on? Couldn't you, perhaps, add the artists' names to their respective files, to avoid compassion and to identify

the work correctly? It'd be much better,

I don't see that Phil is getting at with this 'sero minus one is still zero'lark. Mathematically, he obviously hasn't a leg to stand on. And anyway, no matter what you take one aray from, I should have thought it was reasonable to assume you had one less than when you started. Bringing infinity into it doesn't help matters; infinity isn't the opposite of 0; infinity is the opposite of minus infinity. There is no connexion between 0 and infinity at all. To point out that infinity minus one is still infinity is completely irrelevant, as is to point out that once ice is at 0° centigrade reducing the temperature still leaves it as ice; to carry this absurd analogy to its other extreme, I suppose one might point out that increasing the temperature still leaves it as steam, which would imply that 100 + 1 is still 100 according to Phil's reasoning. There may be something in what he is trying to say; I don't quite know what he is applying his ideas to, thouch.

"(Further opinions are requested as to whether it's worth typing in each correspondent's full address overy time - hitherto I've been going on the principle that it isn't. Anyway, if wenting somebody's address means that the seeker after information is prompted to write a letter of comment that he otherwise wouldn't have got round tr, then fur from being glad to avoid it, I'd be delighted not to. As for the artists' names, if an artist signs or initials his work the signature gets out on to the stencil with the rest of it. If he doesn't, it doesn't, it doesn't, it. There's probably a better way of coping with the matter,

so if I find it I'll use it. AM)

MARY REED (Banbury) I enjoyed the reviews - am I "focoony" or what, but I always seem inclined to go rushing off to pore over the yarns the Reviewer slated ...?

My fave, part at the min, is The Moil Response - what I'm weiting for are the occurents on how to tell a Moira from 6 Many - NOT LEAST (I way add) from Moira herselfit

With a wild screech at the Banth - may I suggest that a copy is sent to all new members - for reference like? S'funny, but on a few old pulps of the

Mars whatnots I'll swear the Earth was distinctly Elephant-like - 'opent it depends on the individual's imagination.

How about getting ATom or scoolody to do cartoons of leading lights of the WETOR - on the lines of those simplified drawings one mees lying about nowadays? Guess I'm not the only one who wants to know what our Great Hen look like

(4 don'the of course - most of us, nayeay, AM))

JOHN HARFOOT (Newcastle upon Tyne) I liked VECTOR 23's blue cover very Euch, although I agree with Charles Flatt about

it not being standardised. At least the different covers give me something

to look at when VECTOR isn't very long......

Philip Harbottle's March of the Nutants was the best article in the issue. In fact, it was the only article in the issue. ((Nou peeped.AM)) It was very interesting but I was mused by the way he managed to get in a sly reference to J.R. Fearn as he did in his hyper-space piece. I'll be watching for his next article to see if he does it again. Do you think he likes the bloke or something?

The Sorth (complete with rippling ouscles), filled me with admiration. (Phil Marbottle mentioned Farm in both articles, true. Likewise Asimov, Meinlein, and Educad Hamilton, and if anybody cares to make a full comparative study of the two articles he'll probably turn up other manes used in both. So what? As for the cover, you'll just have to wait till six reams are exhausted now, I'm afraid. Then, perhaps us'll have an even botter one. At)

HARRY NADLER (Salford) Phil Marbottle's <u>Mutants</u> was great. I want to read some of the storice he outlined, for cycelf. But I did wonder whether anyone who had read Slam would have still been held by the article, when he began discussing the story?

To sum up, a good issue... but I'd still like to see

z. The 20 page restriction lifted.

b. More artwork.

c. Some fiction .. oh! you are doing in V25.

d. Something coming from the suggestion made at the A.G.W. last Easter, to run a short story competition through VECTOR, especially as Nova is

going.

(Your first three wants are interconnected. As for the fourth, the story competition - this has been tried in the past, with very poor response. The American MSF, by dint of throwing their equivalent open to non-members, has begun to have a bit of success - but we haven't got their population to fall back on. The situation created by the forthcoming denies of Nova, though, is very much on the h.S.F.A. Committee's minds at the moment. All D

SIEILA PINITIGION (Alderley Edge, Cheshire) Following recent articles about children's efforts at of I thought these might be of interest perhaps. There has been no lead-up given to the children at all; the first two were critten in response to a free-choice cosay, the third in response to the title Space Travel. The first two were the efforts of nine year olds - honce the "Spelling" - the third that of a thirteen year old. All three are boys who attend a Preparatory School.

I think that the first one is a well-worked-out story; it shows a good use of vocabulary for his age, though I'm not too bappy about the choice of title. This was the result of a 40 minute period, hence the possibly somewhat abrupt ending.

The Robot of Door

Arr I have don it, said Alid Fot one of the eyer growing popula-

tion of Mars. Now I can avenge my son- for Thave a little something to distroy Earth, he said to hinself as be hop(n)ed about a space bus to selector 25. When he reached the quiut space park, he started to uncap his parsel in it was a small china cat out of his pocet he took a complicated machian and fited it into the cat. 60 days later he hird a space ship and went towards Earth, he halted 50 miles from Earth.

He then threw the china cat towards Earth, the cat grew to a great sise and thretend to insulf Earth. O I have failed he said as the cat gree to its normal size.

The second one is much shorter and lacks the breadth of ideas of the first. but I particularly like the title of this one which, though possibly sounding rather hackneyed to the adult mind, yet is good for a nine year old. This was written in a half-hour period.

Eternity Is A Long Time

One day a cirtan men called John Rod, was tiding up in his farther's lab. He eyed the pare ray addenly he threw down his brush. He turned the rays on and steped under them he felt the room swirl. Suddenly he turned to stone he could do nothing but think.

I have had other efforts but they were all based on the old visit to the moon theme and lacked the originality which I think is shown above. The last one is very good, being both cleverly constructed and acusing - a rare combination in sf at any level, much less at the child's. This was written in a double period, ie 1 hour 10 mins, but no previous indication of the subjects had been given.

Space Travel

It was a cold winter's day on the moon. It really is not much colder than suppor but them a lupp of perforated dandruff is positively reserved.

I was walking back to my globe-bole (my house) whom a giant treeflobber presented itself in front of my front crater (garden) and refused to go away. I cripnolled it with an anti-gavlessor gun. The treeflobber started to waltz round the crater blurping, "Freetrickleslop, freetrickleslop".

I pulled my tongue out at it. It jumped up on its hind nose and

glafalloped off.

I walked inside my globe-hole and sat on a chair. I made a cup of moon-juice and settled down to road the "Daily Stars ". I read that the Martians had captured Eafleagle and shot all ito inhabitants. They were now eating the Milky Way and spitting on mellons to make their hair grow.

Suddenly I saw everything go hazy before my eyes. I weke up and while I could still remember the drawn, wrote it down under the title of 'Space Travel'.

(«Make a note of his name - he can do The Author's Lot 68 or so. All)

EWAN HEDGER (Cyprus) Phil Harbottle's comments on Tubb and Fearn have reawakened feelings that I've been nourishing for some time re certain other British authors. Wy conviction is that we have had some of the best modern SF and fantasy writers in our midst for some time, yet for some strange reason they we won little acclain except in the odd letter columns in the Nova mage. I'm talking about authors like Bulmer, Brunner, Rackham, Burke, Tubb (a la Phil Harbottle) and Hoorcock. The last of these really requires the resurrection of a magazine such as "Golden Fleece" to bring out his best. With authors such as these I feel that the British mays have been truly bringing back some of that much vaunted 'sense of wonder'.

VECTOR TWENTY-POUR 15

Is Dr. Peristyle a Jesuit? Though his forum night have its points at that - the Commies practice 'self-examination sessions' and although that would be a little impractical for us, a built in devil's advocate should provoke some mirth. ((Or: Speaking, as the saying says, for Ecskone? AM)) Dr. Peristyle, have at you - if you can't play bell with this letter, written mithout any presence at coherent thought - arount these.

I don't think you would love to hear more about Russian SF; on the whole it's pretty rough. The writing is just like "Anazing" back in the '30 s, with loads of footnotes, and the odd stories that have appeared in the general mag-

azines since the 'thaw' are shartly.

Essek, Jim - did I understand you to say that the concept of hyper-space should be dropped? Surely this is the one scientific concept that offers hope to a civilisation exhausting its natural resources at a high rate of knots? And don't let's use the 'fiction isn't fact' way out - there seems to be a deal of truth in the argument that scientific breakthroughs are only achieved in a level willing, and conditioned, to accept them. You, Hom. Ed, ask why so camy Geordies are inveigled into joining SF - perhaps for the same reason that samy join the RAF, to escape from Geordie-land (Now that should get a reply:)

"(Ewan also mentions that he enjoyed both Aldiss on Trieste and Harbottle on Hyper-space - though as the Cyprus mails have to travel through ordinary space, it's a bit late now. Also, he has formed an af readers' club enong the RAF in Cyprus, which boasts same forty members. (See small-ads dept). Concerning Russian sf, one of our members - Jean Graman of London - has prepared a plot-summary and commentary on the Russian novel Andromeda that I'm trying to

make room for in either this issue or the next. AN)

IAN ALDRIDGE (Fouldhouse, Midlothian) is an azed that Philip Harbottle has such an encyclopedic knowledge of early st. Also, he would like to see more artwork in VECTOR, particularly various people's impressions of conceptions that are nore often written of them illustrated - such as Cthulhu. Perhaps some more people will write after Christians - but they'd better hurry.

REPRINT DEPT. The following article is reprinted by permission from the Lincoln (England) Astronomical Society's EYEFIECE for December 1963, the editor of which (Betty Scall) writes as follows:

"WARNING. The following article can only be read with crossed eyes, the tongue in the cheek and strong drink at the right elbon. Any mistakes are due entirely to the typist being unable to decipher the Socttish scoent with which it was written."

As one who is acquainted with the parties, I can confirm that the latter is indeed the case, and wroceed regardless AM

THE

HYPOTHESON

APPLICATIONS IN ASTRONOMY AND SPACE STUDIES

by Dr. LIONEL NAFTALIN

THE HYPOTHESON IS a new genetical particle discovered by H.J. Barr and reported in J. Theoret. Biol. (1962) 3,514. I quote (with acknowledgements) his opening sentences:

The recent literature on induction-repression systems in micro organisms clearly shows that, whatever the molecular mechanism, the synthesia

of hypotheses in such systems is only rarely repressed. This fact and the observation that the total genetic and epigenetic information available to a cell is a linear function of the total number of its inductor-repressor pairs can be joined into a theory whose logical structure corresponds with the geometrican configuration of the E. cell chromosome.

The traditional attempt at unifying this field has resulted in the equation E = wc, where E is the emphasis commonly placed on a given model and where w is the mass and of the number of squares impliciting upon the

system.

In this context I propose a new genetical particle, the HYPOTHESON. This theoretical construction has the property that for every possible hypothesis this particle exhibits precisely those properties predicted by the hypothesis.

With respect I suggest that the second paragraph should read as follows:

The traditional attempt at unifying this field has resulted in the equation E = mo², where E is the embasis placed by an author on his particular model, m is the mass of information which be hopes his readers will believe he has integrated and c is the number of squares impinging on the System.

Thus far Dr. Earr; but this mode of analysis can obviously be extended to other fields, and this I will now try to do for selected subjects of interest to this Society.

In fundamental particle physics there is a delightful proliferation of the family of mesons cach familiarly known by its first mane, the mames for some reason having been given in Greek. If twins occur the same name can be used with an identifying number. Of course the best hypotheson of the lot is the neutrino which is easily identified by its not being there, and, moreover, neither is its mirror image, which FROVES that it is neither of the L or R, but only Unilateral.

Astronomers have not been quite so prone in the past to use hypothesens, but now occaping uses them on a cosmic scale. Close in-fighting is taking place between hypothesens arising from the so-called red shift and hypothesens generating actual hydrogen atoms out of pure space - 4 dimensional at least.

The red shift, as we all now know, is of course merely the barrest of coverings for certain Russian night-workers (?) who are determined to underwine that most precious of Western hypothesons, that known as moral superiority.

It is not altogether irrelevant to remark, in this connection, that in the recent revelations of perfunded politics, it is to the undoubted credit of Mr. MacMillan when advised by so meny to leave the scene, that he was never heard to say to them; "Ivenov of you too":

Another astronomical hypotheses which should be mentioned in that of "Outer Space". I am novem, deeply and outerly noved, to enquire WHZRE is other Space and where doos Inner Space begin? In my young days outer space began beyond the Solar System, but it has encreached, in some terministies, close to our atmosphere. This must be strongly repudiated and indeed energatically ohallenged, or we will be left tith no layer Space whatseever for privacy. If necessary, I would comprose by making the suggestion that beyond the Inner

planets. ic. beyond Mars. Outer Space can be permitted to begin; this dividing line in space constituting a Mars Har.

A related hypothesen which must be given careful consideration is that of "Space ends where matter begins". Matter consists, thou, of one large particle in lattice form, within which space has its existence. In this form there can be no Outor Space at all - or, of course, on the other hand, can there?

If I point out that space travel larg and glydies of other planets abound in hypothesons - a recent example might be acked, can see or otherwise directly observe - it might be thought that real live Science, in its tremendous surge forward, has caught up with, overtaken, and absorbed space fiction, but this would be a grave error. What, in fact, has happened is that by using the dastardly secret weapon of the hypotheson. Space Fiction has captured Science.

It is an odd thing that this discovery should have come to light in genetics, since the hypotheson has been a commen hugan practice in politics and religion since time becom - (that kind of time not to be confused with spacetime).

I thank you for your efforts of attention and I hope there will be a serious and informed discussion centering particularly on those points which I have not rained. BE, LIONEL PAFPARAW

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SMALL-ADS FHER TO MEMBERS SMALL-ADS FREE TO MEMBERS SMALL-ADS FREE TO MEMB

CHARLES R. SMITH, of 61 The Avenue, Maling, Lundon W.13, wants the Magazine of Funtagy and Science Fiction for the month of August 1959. He also Wants to get hold of some fanzines - no particular ones, any that are going. He would even be willing to pay for those things if necessary. Contact him and sec.

BEINGS UNO are willing to push a vast quantity of MEBULA SF in my direction. State your prices.

Reply: Dick Howett, 94 Ravensbourne Crescent, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex.

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ences if any.

CORRESPONDENCE VIA AIRLETTER to the USA is cheap, informative, interesting. There's not enough of it going on; too many British fans are restricting their correspondence to this country, and missing a lot. If you'd be interested in getting yourself an ef-biased American or Canadian correspondent, write for details to Charles Platt, 6 Sollershott West, Letchworth, Herts. State prefer-

England

WOULD ANY KIND folk be willing to help an up-and-coming Science Piction Club extend its Library? The Royal Mir Purge Parkamos Science Fiction Club, with about forty members at the moment, would like to hear from B.S.F.A. members willing to accept a token payment and postage for bundles of old mags, posket books, etc. Funzines would also be very walcome. Pleass reply to the Sec: Cpl E.R. Hedger, Room 27, 264 S.U., R.A.F. Pergamos, B.F.P.O. 55 (Cyprus)

WANTED.

ALL ISSUES "Weird Tales" 1923 - 1955 "Astounding" Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1930. I will pay \$15.00 for this?" Pro-bound volumes old "Weird Tales", "Astounding", eve. Books by M.R. James, Lord Dunsany, R.M. Wyler, H.P. Lovecraft, Colly R.H. Minter, 901 S. Fielderest Rd, Draper, M.C., U.S.A.

ANYBODY WITH DACK-musbers, however far back, of "Fantasy a Science Fiction" to sell, please contact N.P. Morton, 34 Princes Avenue, Great Crosby, Liverpool 23. Reasonable price offered for any quartity.

ELLA PARKER WHITES: "I should thank you for the constant plugging you give the meetings in V. It seems to be having some effect." The meetings in question are of course the informal meetings for B.S.F.A. members held every Friday evening (except for the Friday immediately after Christmas) at blin's flat; Flat 43. William Dumbar House, Albert Road, WW.6 (near Queen's Park station), Any B.S.F.A. pember who happens to be in London will be made welcome by the gang - there's no need to book an appointment. The more the merrier.

TONY WALSH WAS only the other day looking for two or three more registrations for the 1964 B.S.F.A. Convention to bring the numbers up to a round 100. They've probably passed that point now. The Convention is held over Esstatuek-end at the Bull Hotel, Peterborough. 5/- to Tony at 35 Saxon Road, Bridgemeter, Somerset, will bring you full particulars and further bulletins etc. and counts towards the admission fee for those the attend. See you there.

REVIEWS

The Green Suns by Henry Ward. Panther, 2/6d.

The dust jacket precised better things, but after wading through 30 pages of pseudorreal history designed to establish the reality of the hero (a target never achieved) the precise was never kept.

Green Suns appear simultaneously over the Russian and American stockpiles - each country only having one - and do-activate them both. A third 'Sun' ap-

pears offer the sea off Colombo (where the Atlanteans left their bombs).

The American apy hore uses a ridiculous 'man-who-never-was' technique to enter Russia to confirm that their stockpile is kaput. Finding it is, he makes an equally improbable scape. Helf way mark, and worse to come. At a loose end in Faris, he looke up an old friend, who just happens to have received a letter from a scientist who has been in contact with the 'Green Sums' for thirty years, Here investigates. By Ypaionic rays, the scientist reveals that a Sub Nuclear Universe is passing through ours, and has denotivated our bonbs for safety. The Sub Nucleann happened to have introduced life (of their kind) to our universe on a previous pass, but God interfered and code our life form. Atlantis gets brought in schehow, and then the spy villain arrives and handcuffs the here. The scientist blows up the lob and kills the spy. The here escap es (and his handcuffs vanish) and returns to America. No-one believes his story. The Sub Universe passes on, and the Sunn disappear, and we can all go to hell in a bucket once nore.

as for realist, how do you like 1955 V-2s which carry a 20 ton payload, or light that is given a speed of 185.000 c/p/s. My own favourite was the villain

putting half a crown on the bar to pay for his drink...in Colombu.

Recommended for fire lighting...or the smallest room. T.J.

BAStell Vol 4, No. 1. Nov 1963. Mi-monthly. Edited by Hjo Triphle.

Road, Raynes Park, London SW, 20,

"Project art Show" is the organisation which puts on the art shows at the annual World SF Conventions, among other activities, and Fastell is its official organ - the VECTOR of the fantasy art world. This issue contains three articles - on reproduction by the silk screen process, on making one sown Christman cards, and on what it's like to be in charge of a real live art show for the first time - besides a whole slew of official notices, news items etc. Furthermore, being as it is called by schoone who is herself an artist of considerable talent, PAStell is always wirtually a work of visual art in its own right, and almost every page is a delight to look at. Highly recommended for anybody at all interested in the world of fantasy art.

JOHN RUSSELL FEARE - AN EVALUATION, by Philip Harbottle. 50 pages, foolscap size. %- post free from the compiler at 27 Cheshire Gardans, Wallsond on Tyme, Northumberland.

This is not a reprint of Phil Barbottle's three-part VECTOR article, but represents a considerable expansion (to the axtent that it's essentially a new work) of the Fearn litting that was issued as a supplement with the American fanzine TARDRO some time ago. It is in the form of a copiously annotated listing of all of Fearn's science fictional stories, under whatover pseudomyn, that the compiler has been able to uncover, whether in book or magazine form, together with a four-page introduction and associated material. Recommended for those who have bibliographical interests, those who enjoy reading the works of the late J.R. Fearn, and those who have been inspired by the above-mentioned threcoppart VECTOR article to sample some nore of Fearn's stories. AM

VECTOR TWENTY-FOUR

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW No. 10, dated January 6, 1964. Edited and published by Robert W. Franson. (See P. 18 for addresses of agents and free sample of Er.)

A fortnightly review, offset-printed on four pages (American quarto size). The front page contains a short article by Poul anderson on which of his own stories he personally prefers, the remainder is short reviews (c. 75 - 100 words) of recent books and magazine issues, and a few advertisements. The sterling price works out at around 9d per copy, which is well worth it on a fortnightly schedule.

THE MAIL RESPONSE ANNEXE

PETER VHITE (Epson) VECTOR 23 was sadly invaded by those mutants. Ferhaps they were attracted by the fine cover.

Phil Harbottle's article illustrates the nonsense most of priters talk about mutation and evolution. The trouble was that Harbottle himself seemed unaware of the nonsedence all around. A mutation is a random genetic veristion, not an evolutionary change. Mutations form the stuff of evolution only in that they undergo natural selection that weeds out the poorly adapted mutants. Surtation is vary rare, and the 'arrival of the fittest' by mutation is rarer still. And the formation of a now species by the simultaneous appearance of many identical nutants would not happen this side of infinity. Species formation is much more complex, and would need to involve breeding between the original mutant and the mother stock.

Nor does Hurbottle seem to realist the quaintness of the idea, so typical of van Vogt, that old mother nature 'was building for a transmous effort'.

From the purely factual 'heavy research' angle the article displays (if that is the word) some startling onicions. No mention is made of Wells' early Star Wormand nor of Daniel Galouye's menorable Dark Universe (inspired I would guess by Aldias' Mon-Step, and almost as good). A more serious oniomic housever in that of Aldias' Hothouse; a work that deliberately takes all the old Cosmic Ray Direct Mutation Mother Mature Evolution of clickes and weaves the whole lot into a subtle and unforgettable story. The 'ne plus ultra' of this kind of thing.

So the next mutations may be fact not fiction; I always thought that they were fact already. We're mutated Pithacanthropus stock ourselves.

How can compone 'well acquainted with' Relativity describe a body as being 'wore stationary'?

(AMuch more of this, and VECTOR will require 'more stationery', AND)

ARCHIE POTTS (York), saddened by the forthcoming denise of Mova Publications, suggests that VBCTOR should fill the gap by the publication of extra issues devoted entirely to fiction - by now riters as well as by the established authors in our ranks. This, he suys, would near that (1) B.S.F.A. members would be assured of an sf sugazine, (2) writers would have somewhere to send their stories, and (3) some more of Nova's disappointed randers would probably be tenpted to take out semberships. TERRY BULL (Northampton) is unable to place the "great poem on a cat" sentioned by Tr. Paristyle. Rejecting T.S. Eliot and Thomas Gray, he toys with the idea that the "Belhill Airlock" werse on banth might possibly be the one. All I (AM) can think of is Oliver Herford's hybelynt of a Persion Kitten, and I can only remember one stanze of that. AM

MORE NOT-REVIEW

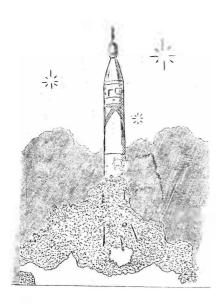
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Gillian T. Adams Hon, Treasurer E.S.F.A.

MORE NOT-REVIEWS...

- Bensen, D.R. (ed): The Unknown (Pyranid 192pp 3/6d or 506)
 11 stories from the old "Unknown", plus introductions by Asimov and Bensen.
- Margulies, Leo (od): Three in One (Pyrabid 40¢) Comprises There Is No Defense by Sturgson, Galactic Chest by Sinak, and West Wind by Lennster.
- Long, Frank Belkmap: The Hounds of Tindalos (Belmont 506) 9 stories from the original hardcover edition: some weird, some sf, all old.
- Howard, Ivan (gd): Movelets of Science Fiction (Belmont 506) 8 short/Stories by well-known makes.



The Jupiter C launching the first U.S. Earth Satellite, the Explorer, on January 31st 1958.
(Drawing by Ion Aldridge)

