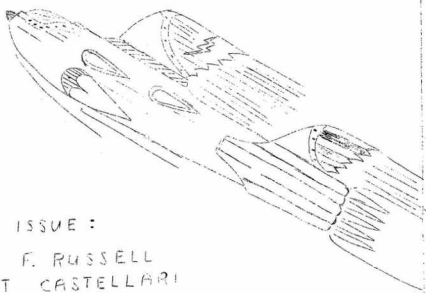


AUSTRALIAN

FAN NEWS

MAY, 1939



IN THIS ISSUE :

ERIC F. RUSSELL
BERT CASTELLARI
EDWARD H. RUSSELL
AND OTHERS !

AUSTRALIAN FAN NEWS.
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COVER BY EDITOR.

"AUSTRALIAN FAN NEWS": Vol. 1 No. 1, MAY-JUNE 1939. Issued whenever facilities are obtainable. Next issue should be out before September (granting facilities are obtainable.) Price: 6 pence or 10 cents. We will exchange on an equal basis with any other fan magazines. We now exchange with SPACEWAYS and SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. ADVERTISEMENTS: 2/- for $\frac{1}{2}$ page, 4/- for $\frac{1}{3}$ page, 5/- for full page. We will exchange with other fan publications, in regard to advertisements.

APOLOGY.

We are sorry, very sorry. This magazine had been scheduled for appearance on May, 1st., but through unforeseen difficulties (i.e. inability to use the mimeograph originally intended for reproducing the work, loss of a stencil at a vital stage, loss of much paper, etc.,) we appear over a month late. We can only ask for tolerance in the infancy of "A.F.N." and do our best to fulfil future promises. Readers will notice that some pages are better cut and run off than other pages. Also, different typewriters have been used. This is a direct result of our printer being unable to use the original mimeograph and typewriter. Again, we are sorry for the inconvenience we have caused our subscribers.

LAST MINUTE NEWS!

It seems that certain parties claim the existence of a new sf pro magazine, namely "Super-Colossal Science Stories", of which two have supposed to have been published already. However there is great doubt as to there being such a mag as it is stated that the bookstall which had them had only one copy of each of the first and the second issues. Inquirers at the bookstall in question reveal that no such magazine was on sale there. It is certainly not the proposed Australian pro mag as no advertisements regarding its release have appeared. The name "Super-Colossal" speaks for itself... What next?

Eric F. Russell is soon to issue a new fan magazine. Arrangements are already at an advanced stage so this fore cast can be assumed as reasonably accurate. The name of this magazine is "Ultra" and will consist of 16 pages. Selling price: 3 pence or 7 cents to cover extra postage. Several articles have been accepted already and other

"For Fantasy Fans"

EDITOR

WILLIAM VENEY

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

ERIC RUSSELL ----- BERT CASTELLARI

PRINTED BY FRANK FLAGERTY

CALLING ALL FANS

by The Editor.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we present the first issue of "Australian Fan News." Much time and energy has been spent on this magazine and we hope that our labours have met with the readers approval. As this is our initial venture into the fantasy world, we cannot be favourably compared with the other Australian fan magazine, or those of our American cousins. However, once we have contacted interested Australian and overseas fans, we feel sure that we can bring you fiction, articles and news equal to any in other magazines of this type.

Let us look at this month's contents. Our two associate editors, Eric F. Russell and Bert Castellari, have each contributed fine fiction. Eric has woven his story around one of the most topical of subjects, the time capsule; while Bert has attempted to clear the mystery of the Jovian "Red Spot". Jupiter is Bert's pet subject, so we have been expecting something about that planet from him ever since this magazine was first announced. As for articles, Sen E. Boyle has sent along "Life on Mars and Venus". Our youngest contributor, Edward H. Russell, has entered "The Universe". "Splitting the Atom" was included to satisfy our readers who are interested in this branch of science. The various items of news have been collected from many places and presented by Eric F. Russell under the title, "News and Views".

Now, a word to our active fans. This magazine is open to any reader to express his (or her) views on the current happening in science-fiction. If you have any particular like or dislike, let us know about it. You may hurl rocks or roses, trickbats or bouquets. No holes barred, (except in the case of an attack on some other fan magazine.)

We next come to the question of illustrations. As seen by this month's cover, ye editor is not a second Wosso, Brown or Morey. We will have to get some artists, otherwise we will never reach the standards of other fan magazines. Next month we will give Eric F. Russell a try on the cover as well as some interior work. Later it may be possible to contact other fan artists and build a profusely illustrated magazine. What do you readers think of interior illustrating? Do you want us to try it?

Notes: It certainly looks as though science-fiction has at least bit Australia. The old Sydney Science Fiction League has apparently disappeared from the face of the Earth, but new clubs are now rising to take its place. Our own organisation, the J.A.S.F.C.C., holds regular monthly meetings and many interesting subjects are discussed. In South Australia, Mr. John Devern is attempting to contact I.S.F.L. members so as to form the Adelaide Science Fiction League. Bob Molleski (believed to now reside in Melbourne) when in Sydney last year, told me he intended to form a chapter of the I.S.F.L. Things are looking up at last!

See you all next issue!!

On 16th March, 2043, John Kent sole survivor of the Durant expedition into the Second Red Spot of Jupiter was picked up in a lifeboat of the space ship used in the expedition. He related his story to the captain of the rescue ship and it was taken down on a recorder. Readers probably remember that Jupiter's first Red Spot disappeared in 1936 and was thought by scientists of the time to be nothing else than a storm area. They were more convinced of it when the Second Red Spot appeared some 15 years later and was there till 3 days after Kent's venture. The disappearance of seven ships which ventured into the area before Professor Durant's, aroused interest to a great extent in the Red Spot, it was thus that Professor Durant was sent to investigate.

The following is John Kent's story as recorded two days after his rescue:- "After an uneventful journey from Earth we reach the Jovian system. The professor decided to stay on Ganymede for several days before descending. After the short delay, we arrived in the region of the Red Spot and according to instructions entered the 'cloud' immediately. For several minutes we plunged through that red dust-like mass, then to our surprise, we broke through and saw below us the surface of Jupiter. This was a great shock to the professor but suddenly things started to happen. I began to feel dizzy and could dimly see the others wheeling as though the ship had begun to spin. For a minute consciousness left me and I came around to see a very changed scene before me. The red 'dust' had disappeared and as far as one could see there stretched a volcanic land. For some time we guided our ship above this new land being very amazed at the turn of events. At first the professor couldn't offer any explanation, then suddenly he cried: 'I've got it! I've got it!'

We were anxious to know what had happened but when he told us we were still on Jupiter we just couldn't believe it! Our captain asked for a better explanation maintaining that the land below was nothing like Jupiter.

To this the professor replied: "Not as we know it but as the people of another dimension know it. That is if people exist in this dimension." For a moment we were spellbound, then we realised what he meant. "I mean that by some means as yet unknown to us, we have been transported to another dimension! Do not ask me what the Red Spot has to do with it, as it is as much a mystery to me as to you."

"We continued in the space ship for several miles and then it was decided that an exploring party should go out. Also repairs were necessary and one of the lifeboats was, as a result, removed. I was among the men who went to explore with the professor titling dreaming the calamity to follow. It was all so unexpected. We were commenting on the peculiar nature of the soil in "X" as the professor had named this dimension, when suddenly one of the men let out a terrible scream. It was followed by others as horrible that we had to shut off the radios in our space suits. We whirled around to see three men fade away as they were enveloped in a grey gas. Then into view slid about fifty of the strangest beings I have ever seen. A crystal-like dome shaped head was perched on a cylindrical body which tapered to a thin tonneau with a six-foot attached. This, I gathered was a one-legged creature and it crossed the ground by sliding on the disk foot. However, numerous tentacles projected from the upper portion of the body and they each held a queer contraption from which was flowing the grey disintegrating gas.

Professor Durant and I were in the lead of the rest of our party and thus we escaped the gas. To our horror we saw the rest of the explorers go down under the voluence of dis.-gas. It was a terrible sight which I shall never forget. Then, the strange creatures began moving towards the professor and myself! By their signs it was obvious they intended to make us

"Hoping that the remainder of our crew on the ship would see our plight we peered back in that direction. Our horror knew no limits when we saw the ship rapidly disintegrating under a barrage of grey gas!! Untouched and to one side lay the empty lifeboat and I felt a stupid urge to make a dash for it, but it would have been hopeless as these queer creatures were now forcing us towards a 'hill' which loomed against the horizon." Here a lot of details of John Kent's story may be omitted. Suffice to say that on reaching the hill Durant and Kent found what was expected---an underground city. Kent continued:-

"After several hours communication was established by signs, as it had been observed the creatures emitted no sound. Telepathy was probably a natural ability. But we learnt what we wanted to know by the sign language as an attempt by Durant to communicate by telepathy had no results. We answered and asked many questions, eventually getting to know something of their existence. Also, the Professor's theory that we were in another dimension was later found to be true. It seems that they obtained their food from the ground in much the same way as plants on Earth do, utilising the disk foot as a sort of root.

"Then we gained some very important and interesting information and they did not seem to fear us ever divulging it to others of our kind. On telling them of the Red Spot they said they said that they were the cause of its presence on Jupiter and further inquiries led them to showing us a mass of complicated machinery. They told us that they were endeavouring to gain entrance to our dimension and conquer the worlds of our system having already done this to their own system!! However, the screen, for such was the Red Spot, had only worked in the reverse. They mentioned the entrance and destruction of other ships like ours. We were informed that in one case the entire crew of one ship went stark raving mad! They continued by telling us what they intended to do to our worlds once they had conquered them. At this point, Professor Durant interrupted them by telling that our air supply in our suits was running low, and asked if we could be allowed to go to the lifeboat which had escaped destruction, and refill our air-tanks. They agreed, an enroute we were amazed to see them wade through pools of boiling mud and molten lava as we waded through water. Apparently they were invulnerable to the terrible depth that would befall a human who attempted to do as they did. When we were several yards from the lifeboat, the professor acted!

"'Make a dash for the ship!' he yelled into the radio, 'It's our only chance!' Lifting my gravity boot, I crashed it into the body of the nearest dimension creature. The professor followed suit and we dived for the lifeboat. I was the first in and as the professor was about to join me, the ground beneath him collapsed and he disappeared into the newly formed pool of bubbling lava! I left to the controls of the vessel and before the startled creatures could think, I fled for the area in which we had entered this dimension.

"It was then that I remembered that I could enter via the Red Spot but not return! I suddenly became aware that a wave of nausea and vertigo was sweeping over me. The ship, uncontrolled went into a spin right over where we had first appeared! I recovered suddenly to find the ship hurtling towards the familiar surface of Jupiter while above swirled the red dust of the Spot. I brought the ship under my control and saw the 'Triton' just off to the left. You know the rest."

Here Kent's story ended and strange to say the Red Spot faded away into nothingness several days later. With the usual stupidity of our race, those who heard the story doubted it and said Kent was out of his mind. As for the second Red Spot, no one has been able to say exactly what it was and the old theory of it being a storm centre are again into being. John Kent may have been out of his mind and yet again it is possible he did experience the adventure in the other dimension. Who knows?

The Universe

by Edward H. Russell.

How did the stars and planets first come. Nowadays scientists believe that at one time the universe was a great cloud of gas which gradually collected into groups and formed solid bodies. These clouds are called nebulae and there are many of them still changing. There is no time in space and 1,000,000 years are as one, and countless ages must pass before these clouds of gas form into planets and suns. A nebulae is generally formed by the collision of two heavenly bodies. In the terrific impact, the heat produced would dissolve the two into clouds of gas. This, in the course of time will probably form new suns or worlds. One of these such nebulae is the Orion which is a bright mass and young compared with many others. Scientists gather from the sweeping curves of these light masses that great forces that are unknown are forever at work.

The centre of our Solar System is the sun shining through 93,000,000 miles of space. The outermost region of this fiery star is the corona (crown). Viewed from Earth it appears as a soft silvery light which is probably the light reflected on the countless particles of dust. The second region of the sun is called the chromosphere and is 5 to 10,000 miles thick. It consists of flaming hydrogen and other gases. Next comes the photosphere a layer of luminous gases which send light all over the solar system. Although the photosphere looks calm it is, in reality, in a state of violent turmoil. From time to time sunspots are seen on the surface of the photosphere. Some of them large enough to hold the Earth. On the edges of these cavities huge flames shoot up, and, over and around them a glowing vapour whirls violently as if it was driven by a terrific gale. This gives the spots the appearance of whirlpools. The sun revolves on an axis as the Earth but not at the same speed. On the sun's equator a point takes 25 days for one revolution while another either north or south would take 28 days. This proves that the sun is not solid. For countless ages the sun has been giving out enormous quantities of light and heat and for countless centuries it will continue to give out this energy.

Mercury is the planet nearest the sun and revolves round the sun in 88 of our days, so that the length of a year on Mercury would be about 3 of our months. At its nearest it is only 28,570,000 miles from the sun then 44 days later it is 63,347,000 miles distant. This means that there must be great changes in temperature. Mercury is probably a dead world and has passed through its span of life. The next planet from the sun is Venus which has a very thick cloudy atmosphere. This of all planets would be most suitable for us if we were compelled to leave Earth. Venus is almost the same size as Earth and revolves around the sun at a distance of 57,000,000 miles. Next comes Earth and then Mars 140,000,000 miles from the sun. It is of a red colour and about half the size of Earth. Mars and its canals puzzles astronomers. Every one who has heard of Mars has heard of the canals. If they are really there, is not agreed upon by astronomers. The next planet is Jupiter which is 88,000 miles in diameter and 483,000,000 miles from the sun. It is a young planet and is thought to be dead and as Earth was ages ago, Jupiter is now. This planet has no less than eight moons and it takes 12 years to revolve around the sun. A man on Jupiter who lived a 100 years would be 1000 on Earth. 836,000,000 miles out is Saturn being 719 times larger than earth. Its chief attraction is the rings which are probably meteorites in countless numbers which are forever whirling round the planet. Uranus is next and is 995,000,000 miles from the sun. It is invisible except through a telescope which shows it as a gloomy planet and like Jupiter too hot to support life as we know it. It takes 84 earth years to make one revolution around the sun. Far out in space 2,971,000,000 miles from the sun is Neptune and still farther out Pluto which was

5998 THE YEAR OF FRUSTRATION

by Eric F. Russell.

Gulping down his final cup of coffee and slipping on his coat, Professor Hubert Browning kissed his wife, hurried to the door and slammed it behind him as he departed. Glancing at his wrist watch he noted the time 11.30 p.m. At this hour most New Yorkers were at work but although there were not many on the side walks, the roadway was crowded with the steady stream of city traffic. Hailing a passing taxi which pulled into the kerb, the Professor boarded it. "Drive to the World Fair Grounds," he ordered, and after a short ten minutes drive the vehicle pulled up outside the gates. Having paid the taxi fee Professor Browning entered the grounds and made for the Eastinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company's exhibition building where the Time Capsule was to be lowered into its fifty foot tube.

As he neared the building, his colleagues who composed the committee over which he presided, joined him. While walking to the dias, the party, like all men fell to discussion their topic being the Time Capsule and, who, if anyone would open it in five thousand years time. "I don't want to be unduly pessimistic," said Smithers the thin hawk-faced sour visaged chemist, "but there is always a good chance of there being an earthquake." "Impossible," retorted Kane, the mathematician, "why, you're stupid!" and but for the fact that visitors were arriving, a hot argument would have been the result. It was then the would-be combatants soon stopped when they realized their positions. Then at twelve o'clock exactly at the moment of the Autumnal Equinox the Time Capsule, representative of the 20th Century began its long 5,000 year journey, to the tolling of a giant bell. When it had disappeared workmen screwed down the cap and the Cupuley Capsule was gone forever from this age. Professor Browning addressed the gathering and in his speech told an interested audience why the capsule was sunk and a rough idea of the people of the far future whose legacy it would be. Then as the ceremony ended the gathering dispersed and the Time Capsule was past history.

The years roll on - centuries pass - time, invincible flows on - science advances - but fate plans a terrible doom for mankind. It is the year 5998, Lars Knuck, chief astronomer of Earth is watching the Sun - suddenly his face is contorted in an agony of fear. Rushing to the teleradio he broadcasts a message. "Attention all! There is a terrific eruption on the surface of the sun. It will soon flare up into a flaming nova and all planets as far as Earth will be caught. There is nothing that can be done - we cannot escape!" As the dreadful significance of these words were realized panic spread - there were mass suicides everywhere. Many people were so eager to escape death that they sheltered in mines or dug deep holes. The sun meanwhile was gradually growing hotter and hotter and with the increased heat came increased power. The sun became a terrifically powerful magnet irresistibly drawing the planets towards its white hot core. When Earth's revolution stopped, houses - buildings - rocks and all sorts of debris were flung far out into space and thus was born a second Saturn.

Mars too was effected but only one Martian space ship got away. Mark Al pilot of the M-29 was talking to Rudi San when from the speaker above his head came, "Collision stations strange tornado-shaped object ahead." Mark Al wasted not a moment and soon the object was aboard. Then leaving the controls to Rudi San he went to the hold where the object was. Going up to it he spiced the capsule (for such was the object) neatly in half with his pencil ray. Out of it tumbled a strange collection of objects. Picking up an alarm clock he tried to puzzle out what what it was when suddenly the at-

SPLITTING THE ATOM

(Reprinted from the "BUSINESS INDUSTRY AND TRADE", 1937.)

As a result of the surprisingly successful test carried out in various laboratories throughout the world, with a view to splitting up atoms, the interior of atoms has become a new field of investigation for the physicist. Unless the chemist makes the necessary materials for industry, commerce and daily use by combining atoms or by modifying complicated atomic structures, as required, the atom physicist is now concerned with the constituents of the atom. He splits the atom and also builds up heavier component parts from lighter ones. Modern science has realized the wildest dreams of the alchemists, and has in fact gone far beyond them. Although at the present day, these experiments are regarded more from the point of view of the additional knowledge they bring with them, it must be emphasised that even now there is a possible practical application of the bombardment of the atoms, namely, the artificial production of radioactive substances; the latter may in the hands of a specialist doctor, provide an effective means of fighting cancer, without the necessity of costly radium.

It is not possible, within the space of a few lines, to give even a summary of the vast amount of definite knowledge that has been gained regarding atoms. In order to be able to figure the resistance offered by an atom to penetration by a projectile, the atom may be compared to a wooden sphere protected by a steel shell. It is clear that such a shell cannot be perforated by wooden arrows; what is needed for the purpose is rather a high speed, powerful projectile. Once the steel shell has been punctured, the inner wooden contents can be easily broken up. The projectiles used for bombarding atoms are other atoms or component parts of atoms, (ions, such as protons or cores of hydrogen, for example), which particles are fired by "atom guns". The propelling agents in the atom guns are not chemical explosives, but electric forces. The proton which is often used as a projectile, is a particle charged positively. It is thus possible to impart to this particle, through electrostatic attraction in a container where the gas kept rarefied, an extremely high speed and communicate to it in this way an amount of energy and a piercing power, which are enormous as compared with its size and mass. When the shell of the atom has been pierced, the projectile can easily cause change in its interior. It is then said the atom has been split by bombardment.

THE END.

GRAVEYARD GOSHIP

by A. Chutney Ghoul.

I reckon that smart ghoul dat wrote Dead Reckoning is gonna have a tough time at the bumpin' off party we've arranged and dese another guy- Bela Lugosi, yosh de guy dat plays a grave anstoker in some pitcher huh.

I don't like de way he acts, no guy can go round wid a broken neck and remain a self respecting ghoul no sirc. Well I quess he's gonna be bumped off. See ya' at the next funeral!

A. G. GHOUL.

Current Science-Fiction Review: In these days of turmoil it is gratifying to notice at least one magazine following in the footsteps of the old "Amazing" and "Wonder". I refer to "Tales of Wonder", the second British venture of its kind (the first was "Scooper"). Unlike its predecessor, "Tales of Wonder" is well on the way to success and the 5th issue features that master of satire, Stanton A. Coblenz, who gets first place for his "Planet of Youth". Other authors in this issue are: Charles F. Hall, Edmond (world saver) Hamilton, Geo. C. Wallis and John Edwards. Passing on, we next come to the march issue of "Astounding Science Fiction", where Don A. Stuart's "Cloak of Assir" takes an easy first. Kent Casey gives us "Star Crash", another Private Kelton tale while Author J. Burke is back again with a Jack McNab yarn, "Follow the Bouncing Ball." The interior work (as usual) is above the general run of the other magazines. Next on our list is the April, "Thrilling Wonder Stories". The policy of this magazine appears to be that of a lift, up one issue and down the next. Lately it seems to be on a steady rise for it even mentions Brown paints the cover(!) Ray Cummings takes first place with "ZEON-X" the tale of a thinking robot. (shades of "R.U.R."...) Consistent with its policy, T.W.S. has introduced a new artist--to wit, Virgil Finlay whose work is very carefully done. The second issue (march) of "Startling Stories" is much better than the first. It is illustrated by Finlay and Marchoni with Brown on the cover. The featured story is Bendo Binder's "The Impossible World", but Edmond Hamilton takes first place with his side-splitting "The Fear Neutralizer". The following magazines are due in Australia.

"Unknown"
 "Fantastic Adventures." (Ziff-Davis.)
 "Science Fiction."
 and
 "Dynamic Science Stories."

Paragraphs: The English magazine, "Argosy", publishes some science-fiction and amongst the latest is "X from Saturn". The Sydney Mail (now extinct) once or twice has printed scientific and fantasy yarns. The last one was "The Green Ray". Another concerned a man who was exploring the caves under the Mullerbor Plain when he was trapped and fell into the hands of an intelligent race of animals who lived in subterranean regions under Central Australia. To continue. One day an artesian drill bores down and his hat is caught in it and whirled up to the surface. After various adventures he escapes and his hat is his only proof that anything has happened. Another English example is the "Modern Boy". In this book which is published weekly, Murray Roberts writes a series of stiff stories which concern the adventures of Captain Justice and his friends Kidge, Len O'Connor, Dr. O'Kalley and the somewhat absent-minded scientific genius, Professor Flazzagel.

Last year in the "Wireless Weekly", a story by W.J. Passingham was published. "Modern Wonder" (English 2nd weekly) has printed during 1938 "The Weather Machine", "The Misty Wilderness", and "The Chronicles of a Space Voyager" by John Russell Fearn. Then there were three articles on Rocket Flight by H.K. Teyman and finally "Atlantis Returns" and "The World Behind the Moon" by W.J. Passingham and "The Ray of Peace" by H.K. Teyman. Gleaned from Modern Wonder. At an international exhibition which is soon to be held, an ingenious planetarium will be erected in the shape of a dome. Outside it, visitors will enter a steel rocket ship fitted with windows. This will be then wheeled into the dome onto a turntable which is tilted upwards. On the walls of the dome will be projected motion pictures of comets, stars, and the planets, giving the passengers the impression of travelling around the universe. At the end of the flight the turntable

"News and Views."
(Continued from page 9.)

During 1938 a star was discovered which, if placed where the sun is, it would occupy the whole Solar system. But, believe it or not, the star has never been seen! It's existence was deduced by using a spectrograph and from celestial observations made over a period of nine years.

Remember "War of the Worlds"? Well, a similar case occurred in England in 1924 when a description of London in Communist hands was given. Behind the voice were noises of explosions, gun shooting, etc. The, then British Broadcasting Company was overwhelmed with telephone calls from anxious listeners. But there was no panic. Evidently Londoners were not as easily scared as their American brothers. H.G.Wells giving a broadcast here in Sydney made uncomplimentary references to a certain Alf magazine.

Film Review: Horror films may come and go but it seems as though the "Frankenstein" series are destined to go on for ever. Universal's latest effort is entitled, "Son of Frankenstein" and is every bit as creepy and blood curdling as was its predecessor. The infamous "monster" is again played by Boris Karloff, Dr. Frankenstein by Basil Rathbone and Ygor, a crazy shepherd, by Eola Lugone. Rowland V. Lee who directed the film called them "the triple-B horror boys." Good photography and clever acting combine to make this one of the best thrillers that has come out of a Hollywood studio.

The story: Dr. Wolf Frankenstein and his wife and devil son come back to their ancestral home. Inspector Krogh visits them and warns the doctor that the villagers believe he (Frankenstein) has revived the monster, and that the monster has committed six brutal murders that have been the result of his (Frankenstein's) return. Secretly, he has revived the monster but does not know that the madman, Ygor, is controlling it in an effort to kill the eight jurors who had sentenced him (Ygor) to death for grave robbing. Altogether, a good "horror" film.

THE END.

Spaceways: Spaceways is undoubtedly the best of the American fan magazines. It consists of 24 large size pages and is edited by Harry Warner Jr. and James S. Avery. All the best fan authors write for this mag---Annalis Reynolds Long, Sam Moskowitz, Bob Tucker, Larry B. Kes-
-el, James Y. Taurant, Dale Gert, Hoy Ping Kong, and hosts of others. The over righteand origin is featured. Two fan gossip pages. (Wow! and "Sternback"! It contains a large readers section and only costs (in America) 10 cents. Australian rates should be about 10/6(?) pence. You may secure more details from the editor by writing to him at 308 Ryan Place, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

"PANELS."

(Many thanks to Harry Warner who supplied much of this news.)
by Bert Castellani.

It seems as though a certain party by the name of McLennan is contemplating starting another Australian fan magazine. At the moment there is only one other fan publication besides this one, namely "The Science Fiction Review" edited by John Devern. Whether or not Mr. McLennan's magazine will appear is uncertain, but if this should meet his eye we would be very pleased if he would communicate with us. Incidentally, there is a rumour of a professional Australian science-fiction magazine.....Harry Warner informs us that there is to be a sci. magazine to appear in France! Its editor, Georges A. Collet says that it will appear weekly and have a launching circulation of 500,000 !!!!!! This is a bit hard to swallow when one considers that at no

"Life on Mars and Venus."

by Dan E. Boyle.

If we observe the physical conditions of the other planets within our solar system, we find little to believe that life resembling Terrestrial existence could possibly be found on planets other than Mars and Venus. The latter is almost a twin sister to the Earth, and as far as we know, would be well adapted to life similar to ours. Some scientists believe we could be transported to Venus without any serious dis-comfort.

Now, let us look at Mars. While leading scientists agree that recent discoveries have demonstrated that life can exist on that planet they disagree as to the extent it is developed there. Dr. William Pickering, director of the Harvard College branch station at Mandeville, Jamaica, in the Caribbean Sea, takes the advanced view that it is almost certain Mars is inhabited by some form of intelligent life, and even suggests the Martians may be signalling to us. The appearance of Mars varies from year to year owing to its changing distance from our Earth. Every two years or so, it makes one of its approaches to the Earth, coming within 35,000,000 miles of us at its most favourable opposition. The period of revolution of Mars about the sun is 687 days. The diameter of the red globe is 4,215 miles, about one half that of Earth. Its average distance from the sun is approximately 140 million miles. The celebrated canals of Mars vary from season to season which is visible proof of the existence of water on that planet. Later observations have brought the conviction that not has the red planet water, but also heat and oxygen. Visual as well as photographic observations, indicate that conditions on Mars are not unlike those of Earth. Probably the most important cause for this change of view, was the measurement of Martian temperature which Dr. Coblentz of the United States Bureau of Standards first made with a delicate new instrument called the Thermocouple. Contrary to the opinion that Martian temperature never rises above the freezing point, the thermocouple gave readings denoting that it rises to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and even higher, which not unlike conditions registered in London or New York on a bright and sunny day in late October or early November.

From these facts, I hope I've convinced you in some small way, that life as we know it, could exist on Mars and Venus.

THE END.

"The Sydney Scene."

by William Vency.

So far this year the most important science-fiction event has been the visit of the distinguished prophet and historian, Mr. H.G. Wells. Mr. Wells was the honoured guest of the Federal Government at the Australasian Science Congress held recently at Canberra, F.C.T. Besides his interesting speeches at the Congress and at various luncheons and dinners, Mr. Wells delivered four broadcast addresses over the National network. From the viewpoint of a science-fiction fan, the first of these broadcasts, "Fiction About the Future", was the most interesting. In this lecture, Mr. Wells discussed the difficulties surrounding an author who attempts to write a futuristic story to be presented to the general reading public. He touched on the subject of how he wrote the "Time Machine" and also of the trouble behind the production of the picture "Things to Come". One thing that amused me, was the difficulty of dressing the futuristic World Dictator. "We didn't know whether to do his clothes up with zip-fasteners, buttons, or safety pins," stated Mr. Wells. After the address had concluded, the march "Things to Come" was played, presumably to keep up the atmosphere. Speaking of radio,

"J.A.S.F.C.C."

The "Junior Australian Science-Fiction Correspondence Club" is an organisation aiming at banding all young Australian s-f. enthusiasts into association. Scattered throughout this continent are many science-fiction readers who would be eager to assist in the development of this interesting type of literature, if they only had encouragement and a definite object in view. We hope to contact such readers and hear their opinions, so as to form an essentially Australian outlook on Science-Fiction.

Anyone desiring to join our correspondence section, are advised to contact our secretary at:
274 Edgecliffe Road,
Woollehra, Sydney, N.S.W.

Anyone wishing to attend our central meetings or form a branch club in their own district, are advised to contact our director at
11a Lawson St., Paddington,
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We Wonder.

Could Malcolm Jameson, one of "Astounding Science Fiction" s authors, be Neil H. Jones? Other than the similarity of development of plot that exists between stories by this(these) authors, the pen-name "Malcolm Jameson" would appeal to Mr. Jones for these reasons. He created a character Professor Jameson which had the name of Elm592. Watch this:

ELM 392.
LAW: COL.