

L I G H T

L I G H T F L A S H E S

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PLEASE NOTE If a member of F. A. P. A. appears as a contributor, in any issue, he/she automatically receives a copy in payment, besides the one received in the regular mailing. Letters also merit a free copy same as a regular contribution.

FLOOGLES' GALLERY

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NEXT ISSUE WILL BE LIGHT'S FORTIETH!!!!!!
LIGHT WAS STARTED SEPTEMBER, 1941.

by The Editor

December 16, 1948: and here I am, sitting here on my haunches composing on stencil, as usual, another Light Flashes for another issue of LIGHT. . .The next issue, number 40, should be something a trifle different. It is a sort of anniversary for the magazine, making LIGHT the oldest continually issued fanzine north of the 49th Parallel, regardless of claims made elsewhere and elsewise. To prove my claim, next issue there will appear a chronological history of LIGHT. The article will tell how the magazine was started; how the name was picked and by whom (and where); it will clear up what is still commented on from time to time by various readers-- the inconsistency in numbering. One new reader has asked me to compile an index. This would be such a big job that I hesitate to promise anything, though I have thought of it myself, from time to time. There might be one in the future. There certainly won't be next issue-- that is for sure! . . .Coming up also will be the usual departments by such Canadians as Norman V. Lamb and Sam McCoy. . .There will also be a story by yours truly-- the first in LIGHT in a long, long time. It was written especially for the magazine, and is entitled "The Victorious Bride". It runs about 1,500 words. . .You will notice there is a sad dearth of letters this issue. This is due to the fact that I refuse to fill up a letter department wholly with letters of the "this-I-like" and "that-was-a-stinker" variety. No other kind came in. Maybe somebody will remedy this sad state of affairs for #40 oh? . . .Each time I go "to mimeograph" I find a new floogle or two. For the (((((((more of this on page four))))))

"OUR" GIRL IS THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

Female Formsheet Indicates Kinsey Or Can't She

IF SHE'S A FRESHMAN

SOPHOMORE

JUNIOR

SENIOR

She blushes at naughty jokes.	She smiles at naughty jokes.	She laughs at naughty jokes.	She tells naughty jokes.
She thinks a college education leads to things social, cultural and academical.	She thinks a college education leads to things social and cultural.	She thinks a college education leads to things social.	She thinks a college education leads to things.
She thinks midnight is late.	She thinks midnight is pretty late.	She thinks midnight isn't late.	She thinks midnight is midnight.
She reads "What Every Young Girl Should Know".	She reads "How to Win Friends and Influence People".	She reads "The Art of Love".	She reads "Care and Feeding of Infants".
She won't date a boy who has ever had a drink.	She won't date a boy who has just had a drink.	She won't date a boy who had had over one drink.	She won't date a boy unless he drinks.
She tells her mother everything.	She tells her room-mate everything.	She tells her diary everything.	She doesn't tell anybody anything.
She likes to smooch.	She likes to smooch.	She likes to smooch.	She likes to smooch.
Her motto: Mother Knows Best.	Her Motto: Death Before Dishonor.	Her motto: "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained."	Her motto: Boys Will Be Boys.

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PROTOPLASM by Barbara E. Boward

In the various science-fiction magazines, it is to be noticed that constant references are made to "protoplasm" and the synthetic organization and activation of "protoplasm". While the author is no final authority on the subject, some amount of research, plus fifteen years of study on biology, reveals certain facts which cannot be totally discarded for this new theory of "synthetic life".

It is to be taken for granted that the making of new life, synoids, man-made beings, or what have you is the final culmination of all the ideas and studies of all mankind. Life, itself, is the mystery that entices and fascinates every scientist, whether he be astronomer, physicist, geologist, or biologist. . .not to mention the other several types of studies.

It would be entirely safe to state that synthetic protoplasm has been attempted and constructed. It is very highly complicated bit of work, consisting of chemical and physical properties intermingled to the finest of degrees; degrees so fine that they are unmeasurable by man. In the final analysis no small amount of guess work was done in order to accomplish what was attempted. This protoplasm was then activated by certain types of electrical impulses and to all appearances, the basic life stuff of which the entire living world is created was lying in a basin on a laboratory bench. Life created artificially by man.

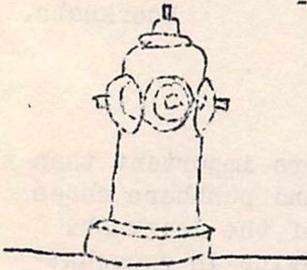
BUT-- and it is a very big "but", indeed-- that "synthetic protoplasm" was just that-- synthetic protoplasm. That "protoplasm" was no the real living unit of life. The reason is very simple.

Protoplasm has two groups of properties which are the fundamental laws of its creation. These properties are the "nonvital properties" and the "vital properties". The above-mentioned "synthetic protoplasm" had all the nonvital properties and one of the vital properties. The former consist of diffusion, osmosis, surface tension, absorption, adsorption, saturation, and some other chemical reactions. All of these were found to the proper degree and reaction in the synprotoplasm. Of the vital properties, irritability or reactivity was found to be present. Irritability, as you are all no doubt familiar with, is the property of responding to stimuli. The synprotoplasm did just that. Unfortunately, however, the two most important vital properties were lacking. These consist of metabolism and reproduction.

No one will deny that life-stuff lacking these two properties is not life-stuff at all, but merely some imitation that serves only as a physical example. Metabolism is the capturing or ingesting of energy and the utilization of that energy for growth and activity, plus the storing of it, when necessary. This metabolism, which is the basic factor of growth, is something peculiar to protoplasm and to protoplasm alone. Moreover, the particular property is so complicated, both physically and chemically, that the processes quite escape the biologists and bio-chemists as of now.

As for reproduction, it goes almost without saying that life unable to recreate itself is not life. What is more, reproduction is dependent upon growth, certain chemical reactions, and the maintenance of a constant type and size of organization, whether growth takes place or not.

Experiments have been made with this protoplasm and with organs and tissues already pronounced as "dead". Everyone is familiar with the Lindbergh-Carrel heart which has been kept alive by "artificial" means. "Artificial" is in quotes because the exact chemical and physical properties of the body have been reproduced. There



Christmas
Story

by
DAVID H. KELLER

Johnson was very fond of the dog. He wanted the little Pekinese to be healthy and comfortable. That meant vitamins, potassium, and the most expensive dog food. In November he bought a box of rabbit food, a box of dog food and a cunning little hat with holes for the ears. He showed them to his wife.

"I really believe you love that dog more than you do me!" she exclaimed.

But on Christmas Eve there were no presents for Miss Johnson. She demanded an explanation.

The husband sadly replied,

"A week ago, while you were at the Music Club, I crossed the lot for cold weather; but on the way home, the first snow fell and the hat and the dog food were stuck to the car. When I carried him out and put him in the yard."

"What happened?"

"The damned dog bit me!" signed the disillusioned man.

THE END

(Editor's comment: I mentioned to Keller that I was hoping to make this issue of LIGHT a nice light, airy, humorous number. THIS is what Doc pulled on us!)

General Films, Ltd., 156 King St. W., Toronto)

LIGHT FLASHES

stencil solidly enough to permit running of the number of copies I required. Page 4 of the last issue was the one from this Gestetner stencil. It turned out light as I typed it without using a "carbon" or impression sheet under it. . . I see by FANTASY NEWS LETTER, No. 4., that a lot of books therein listed for several bucks a copy, I have. These were obtained back when I was swapping. Maybe I should sell, nein? . . . LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES, home movies, that is. Encyclopaedia Britannica Films Inc (U.S: Wilmette, Ill., CAN: Gen-

sell 8MM, 16MM prints of "A Lost World". This is a 200' (in 8MM., about 400' in 16MM) reel made up of scenes from the 35MM film, taken from the book of that name by A. Conan Doyle. 8MM price in the States is \$6.65. In Canada it is \$7.35 (16MM--- \$16.50). If you are ordering ask for #6 (8MM), or #75 (16MM). I purchased this print in 8MM and had it here in time for Christmas showing. The film is quite good and well worth buying by any fan owning an 8MM or 16MM projector. The scenes picked tell a complete story from the beginning where our exploring friends (see you again in pg. 6)



ISTAR OF BABYLON

BY

MARGARET HORTON POTTER

a book review by S.W. McCOY

New York, London-- Harper & Bros.,
1902. xvi, 494 pp., 8" x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Cloth
bound in blue, stamped in gold.



He goddess Istar is sent to earth to discover for herself the relation of Man to God, and takes up abode in a specially built temple in Babylon. Charmides, a Greek rhapsode (lyricist), hearing of her, takes the long journey from his home to Babylon, by way of Tyre, where he takes part in an erotic feast dedicated to Ashtoroth (Astarte). Arrived in Babylon, Charmides sees and worships Istar, marries a flower-seller, and settles there. Istar, gradually losing her godhead, meets and mates with Belshazzar, son of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Her high-priest, Amraphel, jealous of her power and invulnerability, plots with the "captive" Jew, Daniel, for her downfall. They make use of Istar's condition as a reason for throwing her from the temple; Charmides rescues her from the mob that has gathered, and she makes her way to the palace, where she is taken in by Belshazzar, who is for the first time aware of the consequences of his act. They are married, and the child is born; despite the efforts of Amraphel and Daniel, all three live in good health.

Amraphel and Daniel plot treason, planning the downfall of Babylon to the invaders Cyrus (coming from the south) and Gobryas (coming from the north). King Nebuchadnezzar, in his dotage, plans to prevent this by setting up a number of new gods in new, sumptuous temples, thinking that these gods will protect him and Babylon. Then he goes to meet the invading Gobryas in an attempt to increase recruiting and defenders and prevent the revolt being incited by Amraphel's henchmen. At Siddar, 14 miles north of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar is betrayed by the priests. He is taken back to Babylon, and put in the hands of Amraphel and Daniel, who murder him. Belshazzar, learning of his father's death but not of its method, takes over the reins of government of the city, which is now in a state of siege.

After about two weeks, Istar's child becomes ill, developing a fever, and dies in the night before the eyes of its parents-- the first victim of the dreaded plague.

Ten days later, in the midst of a great religious festival which was held regardless of the siege, the two armies, again aided by Amraphel and Daniel, invade and conquer the city amid great slaughter of many unarmed people. (During this festival the Biblical writing-- "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin"-- appears on the wall of one of the temples. It is a message to Istar: "Hast thou found Man's relation to God? The silver sky waits for thy soul", but Daniel, claiming to be a seer, interprets it, "God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it; though art weighed in the balance and found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.")

Belshazzar, with his personal company of soldiers, puts up a valiant fight, and, though wounded, kills many of the enemy until stabbed in the back by Amraphel. He is left dying in the street, where he is discovered by Istar, who has escaped the massacre. He dies in her arms; distraught, she wanders about the now defeated city, where no one recognizes her until Charmides encounters her, and takes her back to his home.

The stricken city, is now under the thrall of the plague, which has broken out. Unburied bodies lay in the streets, providing infection for others; Istar, living with Charmides and his family, is also a victim; in five days "her beauty fled away, and she was left a thing dreadful for mankind to look upon." On the thirteenth day she awakens from her stupor. Recovering, she finds her hair gone, her skin "streaked and swollen and hideously scabbed", her eyes weak and all but



Illustrating "ISTAR OF BABYLON" by Margaret Horton Potter

(W. Robert Gibson '49)

blind. Veiled, she leaves Charmides' abode, and is taken by the priests to the conqueror Cyrus, who wishes to "behold that face that the world has worshipped." He sees her ugliness, hears her story and vision of the eventual fate of Babylon-- its disappearance from the ken of man for centuries-- and releases her.

On entering the gate of Babylon, she is stoned by a superstitious mob, that blames her for the plague, and she is once again rescued by Charmides. She wanders away along the bank of the Euphrates, where she hears the voice of her husband Belshazzar, speaking the words she had read on the wall.

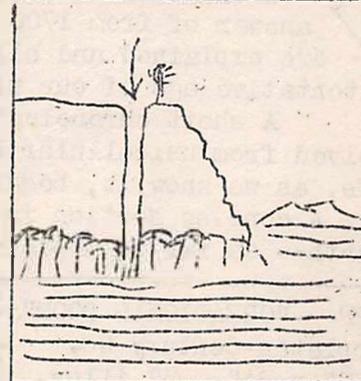
Istar of Babylon gives her answer: "Man and man, as man and God, are bound by those ties of eternal love that made the covenant of Creation. Consciously or unconsciously, all living things must live with this as their law, in the end returning to their eternal source, which is God. All the sin, all the sorrow of the world, I have known, have suffered. Yet no loss nor grief can take away the great joy of love, its purity, its perfection. I acknowledge the wisdom of the All-Father displayed in his Creation. Let Him do with me as He will." And then her worn-out body fell from her like discarded garments, and she ascended to where Belshazzar and the concourse of gods awaited her.

////// THE END //////////////////////////////////////

LIGHT FLASHES

the five-reel edition of the same film listed by Eight-Sixteen Films in New York, but then this is, if I remember rightly, 5 reels, the complete uncut picture. They were asking \$20. for it. However, the Encyclopaedia Britannica edition is very good, well edited, well told, and the photography is good. . . . I was thinking as I looked through the picture to write the foregoing. If there were enough fen interested in the amateur movie aspect of fantasy, I think I could get enough material for a department on the subject. Martin Alger has done and is doing some experimentation in 8MM films. I have done some and will do more in the near future. Right now I am getting material together to make up a reel on the Torcon last summer. I took

movies when I was there, and I am now after still photographs taken there to film and splice into the reel along with the actual motion pictures. There are various sources of films of interest to fantasy fans in the U.S. and also in Canada. It takes some digging to find them, I'll admit, but they are there. I'd like to hear from you concerning this. . . . Down below



"LOST WORLD" -
WHAT THE PLAT-
EAU LOOKED LIKE.
THE ARROW POINTS
TO THE ABYSS
THE EXPLORERS
HAD TO CROSS BY
FELLING A TREE

you'll after be finding some stuff I want to get rid of. Each issue from now on there will be additional item until the old swap column will be back. The swap business-- I'm not necessarily after books. So make your offers. . . .WHAT do you want to see in LIGHT. I'd honestly like to know. Write in your requests and I'll print them.

SWAP OR SELL

Bart House editions-- "Weird Shadow Over Innsmouth" by H. P. Lovecraft. Mint. Pocketbook. 50¢ each cash or swap.

"Werewolf of Paris" by Guy Endore. Cloth-bound. Good. \$1.75 cash or swap.

"Upsidonia" by Archibald Marshall. Cloth-bound. Fair. \$1.00 cash or swap.

Astounding Science Fiction- covers- Aug. 1939. Fair Condition. 40¢ cash or swap.

Astounding Science Fiction- covers- June 1945. MINT. 40¢ cash or swap.

Postage paid in Canada, United States and Great Britain.-- Los Crutch, Box 121, Parry Sound, Ontario.

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There was a young fellow named Dave,
Who kept a dead girl in a cave,
Said he. "I'll admit
I'm a bit of a rip,
But think of the money I save!"

NON-
FICTION
NO. 1

HERMAN V. LAMB

TIME

no 7 of a series

first section is devoted to estimates on the age of the earth. They range from that computed by measuring the salinity of the oceans, which gives a figure of from 30 to 600 million years, to that obtained by measuring the amount of lead associated with uranium, which gives the vastly different answer of from 1700 to 2500 million years. Various methods are explained and all differ from one another greatly in their tentative age of our planet.

A short chronological survey of life on earth tells how life evolved from unicellular bodies up to mammals. It is stated that life, as we know it, began at least 1,200 million years ago.

A concise section is devoted to the probably expectancy of life on earth-- as far as dependency on the sun is concerned. Students of

DR. DESIMERIUS PAPP-- "CREATION'S DOOM".
Published by D. Appleton-Century Co.
1934. 286 pgs. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 37 illos.,
originally published by Amalthea-
Verlag, Vienna; under title, "Zukunft
une Erde der Welt". Translated by H. J.
Stenning, 1932:

astrophysics will notice at once how dated this particular section of the book is. Figures are given to show that the sun will give sufficient light and heat for at least three milliards of years. A preview of what "Homo Sapiens", or rather, "Homo Superior", will be like in the future is given at length. Man will be hairless except for eyebrows; toothless;

and possess a skull 50% larger than those of today. The external ears will vanish-- leaving but small external orifices leading to the inner ear. The brain will enlarge to the capacity of the bigger skull. He will be gifted with a spectroscopic sense, allowing him to analyse any substance without recourse to chemicals, etc. His sense of sight will enlarge to see in-- to modern man-- utter darkness. Possibly some new organ will be developed to aid his eyes. He will be telepathic and this power will not be affected by distance.

Ecto genesis will be utilized to produce needed mutations at will. Rejuvenation will bring about any average life span of some 120 years. By means of suspended animation, man will be able to live for centuries, although the "active" portion of his life will not exceed his ordinary life span.

A short history of the past is related by a man of the year 100,000 A. D., and is interesting because of the mechanical marvels mentioned. (Dr. Papp has man using atomic power for the first time about 3,000 A. D.!) Interplanetary voyages are rare except to the moon. Venus is inimical to earth-life, and Mars, having a much older, much more advanced civilization, is not even interested in mankind-- treating the voyagers as highly advanced animals of a lower order.

The second section is devoted to possible world-destroying catastrophes. Due to the earth's crust being so pliable there is little danger of the molten interior exploding. The amount of water the earth loses is so minute that there is no danger of mankind perishing from thirst for thousands or millions of years. The earth's gravity insures that it will retain its air and not lose it to outer space. Due to the fact that its ignition point is higher than its combustion point, it would be impossible to set fire to the air and burn it all away. The retardation of the earth's rotation is so minute that by the time day and year coincide, mankind will long have been defunct. The moon will gradually approach the earth until the gravitic forces cause it to burst. This will not totally extinguish life on earth as most of the fragments will never touch the earth but will travel around it, thus giving the earth a luminous girdle.

If the solar system should run into a tenuous cloud of star-dust it would probably lower the earth's temperature sufficiently to bring about a new ice age. This might last for a millenium and civilization would vanish and man would revert to the primitive way of life of his forbears.

The destruction of the earth by meteors or meteorites is so highly imptobable as to be called impossible.

Comets are no threat to the earth as it has passed through the tails of many. A notable one being Halley's-- which was shown to be composod partly of Prussic acid. Comets are so tenuous that they can have no effect on the earth whatsoever.

The orbits of the planets of the solar system are so stable that not for untold billions of years will the disturbing forces of gravitation be likely to cause any effective change.

Because of the emptiness of space the possibility of a collision with a star is likewise nearly non-existent. Should a grazing take place, man will gradually evolve to a high state because of the "rays" emitted by the oncoming star.

If the solar system should by any chance run into one of the oceans of vapor which are present throughout the universe, the earth would be dissolved into atoms by the explosion of the sun.

The third section is given up to life and death. Some of the types of life that have been dominant on the planet and explanations for their vanishing are given. Nature, acting through evolution, has been the judge and executioner. Man, in turn, will grow senoscent, lose the power of reproduction, and eventually die out.

Man's possible successors are discussed. It is probable that the insects will be the next rulers of the earth. After struggles the termites will gain the throne-- only to be ousted by the ants after years of warfare. The earth will become a huge ant-warren. Their rule will last for millions of years.

The sun's heat will gradually decrease and life on earth will be forced to congregate in an equatorial girdle. As the ages pass, the temperature will drop below the ants' optimum and their reign will cease.

Once again, for the second time in earth's history, the unicellular form of life will reign supreme. Amoebae and infusoria will be the sole inhabitants until the time comes when the earth grows too cold.

The temperature will gradually drop until the atmosphere liquifies and all life will be extinct. The black, cold sun will drift through space with its retinue of dead planets. Eons may pass until the system might run into a gaseous cloud in space. The sun would be given a short-- a very short, lease on life by the heat generated by the friction. Howover, it would explode and all the minor planets would vanish in the solar photosphere. The outer planets would dissolve from the force of the majestic explosion. The resultant masses would whirl around the chaos of the shattered sun and gardually evaporate and vanish into space.

Finnis Terrae.

This is an extremely well written and well thought out book. The translator has done remarkably well in capturing the spirit of the original.

There are literally hundreds of plots available for science fiction or fantasy stories between the covers of this book. Although dated in spots, Dr. Papp has given us a work that deserves to be better known than it is. Many roaders of this type of material will discover that the book will be a welcome addition to their collection.

--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--| THE END() |--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Little Willie, mean as hell,
Pushed his sister down the well.
Mother said, while drawing water,
"My, it's hard to raise a daughter!"

There was a young lady of Kent
Who said that she know what it meant
When men asked her to dine,
Gave her cocktails and wine. . . .
She know what it moant-- but she went!



CRABBING

BY BOB GIBSON.

Amazing Stories was meticulous,
But the present incumbent's ridiculous.
The science is sad,
And the plots have been had--
You might call Ziff-Davis pediculous.

The mag that was incandescent,
Became, with time's passing, senescent.
But under its new
Controlers, why you
Can see that it's nearly putroscent.

For quality once quite assiducus,
--The quality now thought superfluous--
At one time they were
But no' any mair,
Do you wonder that I get acidulous?

