

seem rather silly.

But analysing the situation scientifically and impassively, working from a knowledge of the Mind of the Fan, we find that they are probably necessary. They are the safety-valves to the Fan's store of surplus energy, which, being a misfit, he cannot turn into normal channels. (Not in the early stages, at least.) And it must be noted that any kind of club in which intelligent discussion on politics, &c. takes place, is of value - and fan clubs and conventions have this merit at least.

The actual literature, while not being in general of the highest order, has contained several classics, notably those of Wells and Stapledon: and those of Heinlein, Smith, deCamp, vanVogt, Ferritt, etc., which while not great literature have a peculiar indefinable value of their own.

But Science/fantasy, and the Pandom which has grown around it, is to the world at large not a very important thing and it is more or less immaterial whether it is good or bad. We outsiders don't give a damn - it's not of enough consequence to worry about. . . . and I hope that has helped to squash one or two Fan Egos, inflated with their own importance to Man and the Race!

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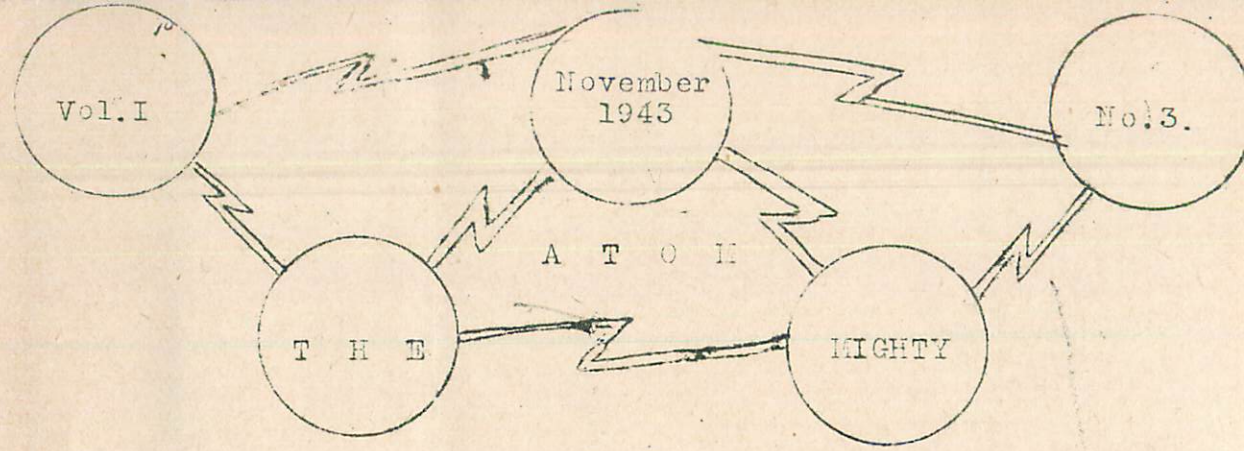
RAMBLINGS

(Being a collection of short notes on things inadvertently omitted from the Editorial.)

We regret that the proposed "best-ever" poll mentioned last month cannot be published - only five lists were received, from which no representative results could be obtained. Apathy of fans again. . . .

If those gentlemen in the Midlands Area who received notices dealing with the Kinnison Club are true fans, we would be much obliged if they would take the trouble of answering them instead of completely ignoring them. It is rather bad that the Cosmos Club, consisting almost entirely of new fans, should be such a success, and a Midlands Group in which nearly all the fans are old-timers should flop because of lack of co-operation.

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MITE will certainly never have a reputation for punctuality and regularity. Once again something turned up to make us late with this issue. We had great plans last month of linocut three-colour covers, twelve pages, etc. etc., but these fell through, and in doing so made it impossible for us to produce even the normal sort of thing. Sometime in the future those colours, and the twelve pages, and vixidens too, will appear: but we cannot make any guess as to just when that will be. Keep hoping, it'll happen eventually. . . .

This issue is even more of a wreck than usual, but we must thank Peter Corbishley for enabling us to produce it at all. He has certainly been of great help - and, at long last, we have lured him into the R.F.S.

With you next month - we hope.!

Our own PROBABILITY ZERO Department

- 1. IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
- 3. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
-27. So God created Man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
-31. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

...And this took place in the year 4004 before the common Year of Christ.

ODDMENTS: (Being just that - oddments.)

Last August, we had a horrioly experience. We were roused in the middle of the night (i.e. c.3-00 a.m.), and told - horror of horrors - that a Mr. Webster was waiting to see us!

Recovering from the shock, which took some time, we hurried downstairs, and found that 'twas indeed he. We spent five or six hours together, and pleasant they were. Re DW's remarks about Leicester bookshops last month - he was right. When we say "bookshops" we usually mean "magazine shops". Thus the mistake.

A fortnight after this great event, we ourselves did a little travelling, and toddled down to see Dennis Tucker in High Wycombe. The night there, and off again to Worthing, and the charming Ann Gardiner. On the way back, three hours on Hanglebone Station were spent in solemn meditation, with several visits to Frank Edward Arnold's flat nearby - to find on each occasion that he was out.

More recently, another international meeting took place in the shape of Norman (Gus) Willmorth's visit to Leicester. Gus's vivid descriptions of life in Los Angeles made both Pete Corbishley and us wish for a one-way ticket there. We expect in any case to attend the first US Convention after the war, though that is another matter.....

We were amazed at the response to our article on future side-arms last issue. Two people wrote saying that in the perfect world of the future guns would not have a part, and one wrote an article in answer long enough to fill a whole issue of MITE!

If we may risk a plug, look out for the first issue of the new sheet "Phoenix", edited by Julian Parr and myself. It may appear at the same time as this - if not, it will be next month. We hope that it will become the political battleground of Fandom. It's contents will always, if nothing else, be vitally important. The time has come for the greatest possible political awareness throughout the world, and there fore a campaign to Make Up Fandom. This is it!

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Foreword:

Before beginning this article, readers should understand one thing very clearly: it is not a second "Radcliffe" attempt. Peter Corbishley is an actual person -- some fans met him at the Midvention - and although his ideas and his style are not dissimilar to my own (sorry - our own) we have not written this article. We told Pete what we wanted, and he supplied it. So no accusations, please....

SCIENCE/FANTASY and FANDOM

by
P. Corbishley

Let us first ask, "What is science/fantasy fiction" ? (Does anyone really know...?) I myself take it to be that form of literature inspired by a desire to roam by means of the imagination in worlds other than those we know or have known in our normal life. Is this, then, of any use to the community?

It is doubtful. The community at large is unaware of the very existence of science/fantasy; in any case they would not have the necessary imagination or intelligence to appreciate it.

One class of people - those who "desire to roam....in worlds other than those we know" - are naturally attracted to the literature. It enables them to escape from a life into which they cannot without a great deal of trouble fit themselves. They are more or less misfits. (Though not necessarily inferior.) They lack the necessary will-power to make themselves fit in. It is easier to fit themselves into the stfigal worlds. And they tend to become cynical about the normal worldly things with which they are at variance.

But it is a fallacy to suppose that most fans are of this escapist, cynical type. It might seem so at first, for these are the young ones and are inclined to make most noise. But sooner or later they "stabilize", and become just normal highly-intelligent people with rather peculiar tastes and vivid imaginations, no longer slaves to the Great God StF. They adopt the sensible attitude: that science-fantasy is a useful and interesting part of the greater literature, of perhaps slightly more value in stimulating the mind and the imagination, but nothing more.

About the various "fan-activities":- the Cosmos Club, the B.F.S., the F.A.P.A., chain-letters, fanzines, conventions, etc. etc. of what use are they? To a layman they