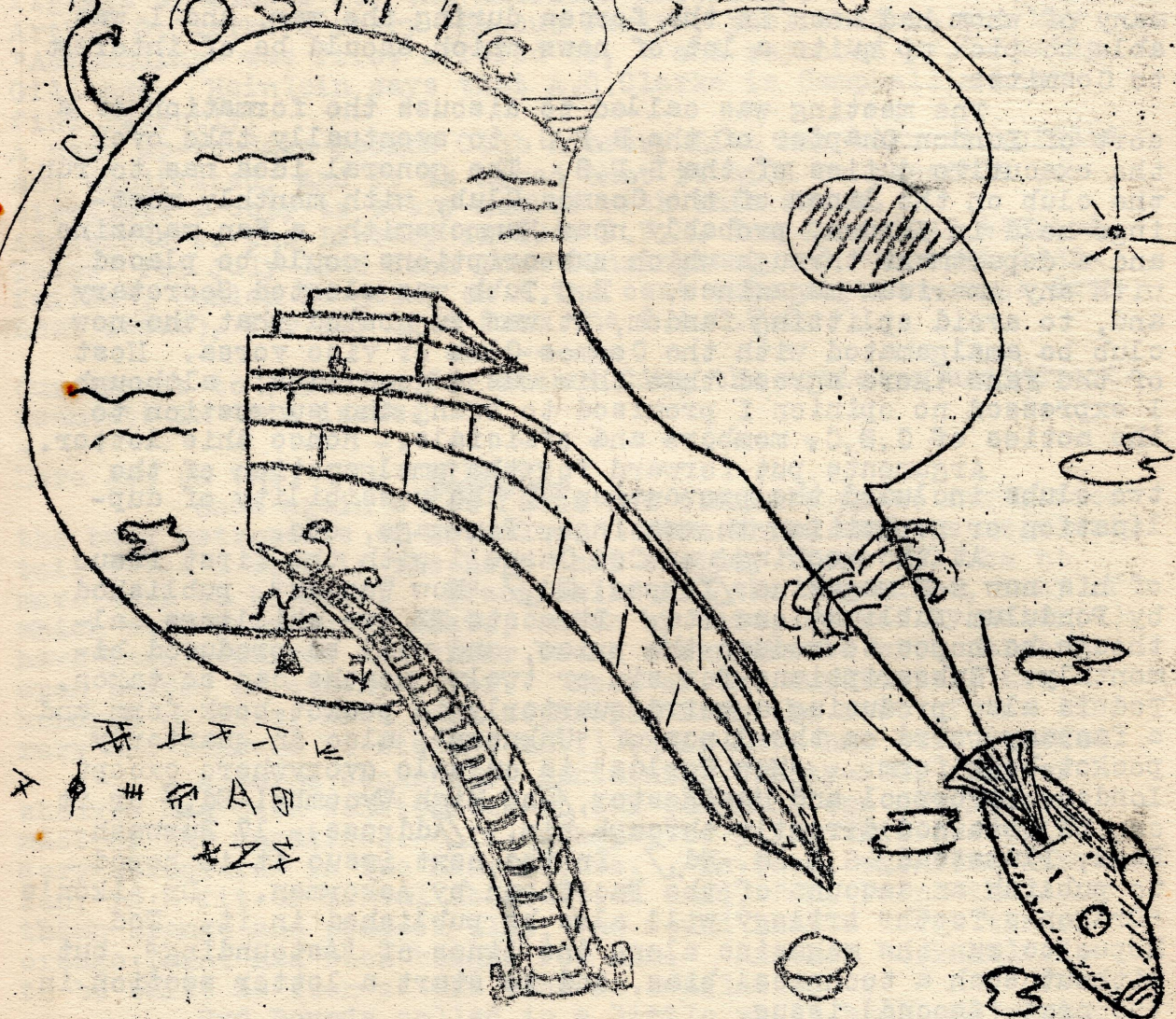


# COSMIC CUTS



FROM A DESIGN DRAWN BY JEAN AT THE JUNE RAMBLE.

"COSMIC CUTS". Volume V, Number 2, June 1946. This is an amateur, non-profit publication edited for the Cosmos Club by Dennis Tucker of "Wicklow", 87 Oakridge Road, HIGH WYCOMBE? Bucks, at whom any mud can be slung if you wish.

NEWS LETTER from J. Newman.

J. Sibley, Syd Bounds and myself attended a meeting of London fans held at Mr. Fred Brown's home, 255 Burgess Road, East Ham, on Saturday, 15th June. Sixteen fans were present, many of whom had been in the forces during the war, and I was able to pick up quite a lot of news which should be of interest to Cosmites.

The meeting was called to discuss the formation of a sort of London Chapter of the B.F.S. to eventually take over the executive duties of the B.F.S. The general idea was to run the club on the lines of the Cosmos Club, with monthly meetings held in London, probably near Hammersmith, a fan magazine and a department through which subscriptions could be placed with any American magazines. E.C. Tubb was elected Secretary and, to avoid splitting fandom, it was suggested that the new club be amalgamated with the Cosmos Club or vice versa. Most of the fans there agreed that this was a good idea; although I expressed no opinion I promised to bring the suggestion to the notice of C.S.C. members and officials. Hence this letter.

Arguments put forward for the amalgamation of the two clubs included the prevention of the possibility of duplication or repetition in meetings, fan-mags, etc.

At the meeting was Ted Carnell with the first issue of his new S-F magazine Yippee!-Ed. "New Worlds", published by Pendulum Publications Ltd. It costs ~~XX~~ two shillings, although he hopes to reduce the price, and will be produced bi-monthly. Subscriptions for six or twelve months can be taken. Ted is also producing a weird quarterly in pocket-book form and a fantasy-weird on the lines of "Unknown", also an quarterly pocket-book form. "New Worlds" is on sale everywhere except London, Liverpool and Manchester, and High Wycombe!-Ed. or it can be obtained directly through him. Address:- 17 Burwash Road, Plumstead, S.E.18.-Ed. In the next issue it is hoped to publish an account of the Pacificon by Aokerman. Dr. Aikon's "Dragon's Teeth" trilogy will also be published in it. Ted hopes to run the magazine along the lines of "Astounding", but without such a technical bias, and to start a letter section in the next (second) issue.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS, supplied by J. Newman.

ARKHAM HOUSE now has a British Representative, Mr. G.K. Chapman, 23 Farnley Road, S. Norwood, S.E.25., who will be able to get any of the Arkham House books. He can take orders for future publications. "Slan", for example, should be published in the early Autumn.

It is reported that each edition of the British Edition of "Astounding" runs to 20,000 copies, all of which are sold. No figures available for the American Edition.

Arthur C. Clarke's story "Rescue Party", published in the May "Astounding" was first offered to, - and rejected by, - Wally Gillings. Heinlein says that A.C. Clarke is Campbell's best find recently.

A new, up-to-date Cosmos Club Library List has been stencilled and duplicated, and it is hoped that it will be possible to circulate a copy to every member with this issue.

Additions to the Library include F.F.M. for June 1946, & "Weird Tales" for July 1946 from John Cunningham, and "Shangri L'Af-faires", (which is going on a ten cent subscription basis from next issue), for May 1946 from the L.A.S.F.S.

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Our thanks to J. Newman for stencilling the articles and advertisements in this issue.

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More gen on the . . . LIBRARY.

Once again a few facts and comments issue forth from the busy metropolis of Hounslow. Here three members regularly toil twice a week in the hope that one day there will be no more work to be done. Practically all the magazines, many of which were in a sorry state, eaten by rats, soaked by water(?), have been repaired and their backs strengthened with parsec upon parsec of sticky paper. Most of the duplicates, two hundred of them, have been separated from the rest of the library and removed to storage until their fate has been decided.

A large bookshelf, containing twenty-four feet of shelves has been constructed of oak planking and now houses most of the magazines. It is hoped to paint this 'beautiful, aery structure' in the near future. In fact, when the librarian, in a fit of mental abstraction said, "Oh! Paint the damn thing orange and peacock blue," he found that a large tin of orange paint had been bought for him. Another bookshelf is to be built as soon as the wood is available.

Syd Bounds called in a little while back and stated that he hoped to be demobbed by August, although the recent 'speed-up' would probably delay his release. He took away the latest "Weird Tales" but left "The Books of Charles Fort" which makes extremely interesting reading. A large number of books has been loaned to members and quite a number of new magazines received from our American friends.

Morojo has sent us the new three-dollar book "The Best

of Science-Fiction". This has an extremely good preface by J.W.Campbell, Jr., and contains forty stories, most of which have been culled from "Astounding Science-Fiction", printed during the last twenty years. They include such monumental efforts as "Blow-ups Happen", "Solution Unsatisfactory", "The Piper's Son", "Killdozer", "First Contact", "Universe" and "Jackdaw". The book is right up-to-date and contains quite a number of references to the Smyth Report.

Magazines received from Cunningham include the latest "Astoundings", "Thrilling Wonder Stories", "Astonishing Stories", "Planet", "Amazing Stories", "Fantastic Adventures" and "Famous Fantastic Mysteries". Cunningham has also sent us the two latest Fantasy Amateur Press Association mailings, some of the covers and drawings in them being particularly effective. All these can be had on request to the Librarian.

From F.J.Ackerman and the L.A.S.F.S. we have received a large quantity of back numbers of "Amazing Stories", "Wonder Stories", their quarterlies and many other magazines. They have continued to show their never-failing generosity by sending bars of soap, candy and chewing gum.

A large part of the Science Fiction Association's library has been transferred to the home of the Cosmos Club library and may be borrowed whenever needed by Cosmos Club Members. The books moved so far, circa one hundred of them, are in extremely good condition and include such stories as "Odd John", "Last Men in London" and "After Worlds Collide". A number of old "Astoundings", well bound, are also included.

Your librarian has a copy of Willy Ley's book, "Rockets", which he is prepared to lend to interested members. Members who wish to borrow books direct from the library should call round after 7.30 p.m. on Friday evenings.

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Postscript to the above. As the above was written some time ago, things have since moved along a bit..... It seems that another worthwhile helping of the Science Fiction Association's library has been collected from Harry Kay. The duplicate magazines mentioned are being stored by Mr. Gomborg at present, and, as soon as a list can be produced, will be offered for exchange.

Short Story.

Herbivorous J. Nettleweed, feeling tired of life, bought a revolver and blew his brains out... The End ?  
(In case you didn't guess, the above is a filler.)

(5)

# TRY DR. BEETLE'S PILLS.



A celebrated analyst, who was sent a sample of our product, wrote: I have never found so much in so little in the whole of my career. The phenolphthalein and starch in the sample was of especially high purity.

The Wonder Pill  
off the Ages.

This is science's greatest  
boon to mankind.

When you feel weak and  
ill,  
Do not run a Doctor's  
bill,  
Use your mind, use your will,  
And try a BEETLE'S pill.

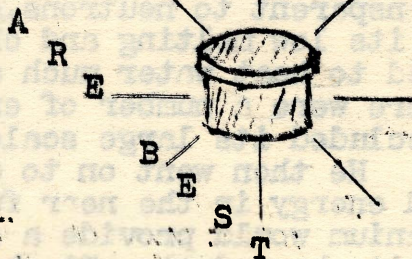
Worth a pound a pill.

Try one when you  
have the time.

Do you suffer from lack of pulps,  
housemaids knee, hangovers on Sun-  
day mornings, lack of imagination  
or vivility? Are you over forty?  
You do? You are? Then try a Dr.  
Beetle's pill.

From all gro-  
cers and chemists

Thousands write in to praise  
us. Here are a few samples, at random.



A Doctor writes: Since pre-  
scribing your pills I have  
less and less work to do.

A school matron writes: Since  
using your pills less boys  
have been ill.

A widower writes: I have  
never been as happy since  
my wife tried one your pil-  
ls.

A research chemist writes: I  
have found your pills to be  
the perfect paint remover.

At a recent lecture on atomic energy, given by Professor Oliphant the well known member of the Atomic Bomb Team, a number of interesting points were discussed with regard to the use of atomic bombs and energy. The lecture had been announced at the February meeting of the Cosmos Club and it was attended by Sibley, Humphris, Gomborg, Lily, and Newman.

Professor Oliphant began his lecture by tracing the part played by science in increasing warfare, from the invention of gunpowder to the present day. He showed how the use of atomic energy in bombs had utterly disrupted the old concepts of war and nationalism, and pressed home the point that it would be absurd for nations to think that war in the future could be conducted as "gentleman's agreement", without atomic weapons. He explained in simple terms the elements of nuclear physics and the way in which research, especially that of Rutherford and his assistants at Cambridge, had been correlated by the British and American scientists. In spite of all the capital and technicians supplied by America, he said, it was the genius of Rutherford which had made the whole project possible, and that should not be forgotten.

Professor Oliphant then discoursed upon the uranium pile and the theory and work behind the atomic bomb, the main difficulty at present, in utilising uranium as a means of obtaining easily controllable energy was the absence of a non-corrodable metal easily plated or drawn onto the uranium rods, and transparent to neutrons. Aluminium had been used but, because of its low melting and chemical reactivity, it could not be used to heat water much above 100°C. Beryllium was useful but there were a number of engineering problems which had so far precluded its large scale use.

He then went on to discuss the economics of atomic bombs and energy in the near future. Any atomic power plant utilising uranium would provide a supply of material for atomic bombs in its byproducts. It should not be forgotten that if the residue from one atomic pile was burnt and the radio-active smoke distributed over an enemy country more than two thousand square miles of land could be rendered absolutely sterile and uninhabitable. The dust, being a basic oxide, would be impossible to wash out of the soil and time would make it passive. The worst aspect was the prospect of an atomic armaments race in which all the uranium and research of the world would be diverted to means of destruction, and not to the good of the human race.

Atomic power plants, utilising the present uranium pile, would be of about the same size and mass as a normal power station generating the same amount of energy, because of the

heavy screening of gamma rays needed. Professor Oliphant mentioned the possibility, and the probability, of producing bombs ten, a hundred or even a thousand times as powerful as those used against Japan, and utilising rocket propulsion to deliver them without warning against a city or factory area. One hundred such bombs could cripple Britain but would hardly touch a country such as Russia.

Britain, he said, had crippled herself with her gigantic efforts during the last war; her coal seams were becoming increasingly difficult to work and she had very few natural power sources. This was a totally different state of affairs to that prevailing in America, whose industries were in a relatively strong position, whose coal seams were very thick and easily worked, and whose oil fields still contained almost unlimited supplies, especially those in Canada at Alberta. Unless Britain developed an efficient means of generating uncontrolled atomic energy during the next few years she would face almost demise as a world power. In America there were very large vested interests in the coal and oil industries who would not welcome competition from the atom, and would do their best to sabotage any such plans. This was not so in Britain, where most power combines are, or will be, under the control of a central unified government.

In summing up Professor Oliphant stated that the only means of preventing the complete destruction of the present civilization would be to completely outlaw war, to set up an efficient world police force and to promote the exchange of technical information, relating to nuclear physics, between the various nations. A discussion of the different economic and political points and problems raised during his lecture then followed.

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Now available from the British Stationery Office at 1/- ;  
"A Report on the International Control of Atomic Energy"  
It is a reprint of the American document drawn up for the  
U.S. Secretary of State's Committee on Atomic Energy.

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Two American vampires meet in the street, "Hi-ya sucker."  
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It was on the second Saturday in May that four conspirators met at Hounslow, just as the nearby Church clock chimed six times. The first to enter the librarians house was Sibley, but he was joined in a few minutes by Lackersteen and Humphris. The librarian gave them details of the evening's work so picking up the suitcases they had brought, all except Humphris who had produced a large rucksack, they quietly slipped out into the street. Before they could get away unseen the group was besieged by a horde of young children shouting "Daddy", much to the embarrassment of the party. Making their escape, they hurried to the nearest Underground station and rushed up the stairs to find, to their astonishment, that they had not missed a train. Nonchalantly disengaging three girls and two dogs from the pile of suitcases, in which they had become entangled, the fearsome four waited until a train arrived, when another mad rush, to obtain seats, resulted.

A series of well told stories kept the Cosmos Club members, and the rest of the carriage, highly amused until a change was made onto the District line. Here Humphris and Lackersteen refused seats and insisted on standing for a large part of the way to Charing Cross. As it was now four minutes to seven and the train which they had to catch left the Southern Railway station at seven minutes past seven, still another mad rush occurred. A hurtling mass of suitcases and slans burst their way through the crowd to the exit, where the party had arranged to meet Gomberg. A hurried search revealed no sign of him.

By now it was seven o'clock; their train left in seven minutes. Sibley was despatched to buy the tickets whilst the remaining three waited under the bridge.

7.5. No Gomberg.

7.10. No Gomberg. The tension relaxed and ice-cream was bought. The group seated themselves on their suitcases and waited.

7.15. No Gomberg. Cigarettes were distributed and Humphris and Lackersteen went for a walk in the nearby park.

7.20. A large suitcase walked out of the station carrying Gomberg.

The station buffet was visited and the ferocious five then staggered onto platform 1, where the next train was waiting, and subsided into an empty carriage. Suitcases were piled onto the seats to ensue privacy and, as the train clattered across the bridge, a few chocolate wafers were



consumed. More anecdotes were told and the stencils for the next issue of Cosmic Cuts exhibited, their brevity being much bewailed. The latest Astounding Science Fiction was also produced and discussed, whilst cigarettes and pipes were lit up.

At Ladywell Humphris decided his pipe needed refilling and, in knocking it out on the window top, broke it completely in half. The flying bowl, emitting dense clouds of sulphurous fumes, rocketed past a young damsel, standing demurely on the platform, she being suitably shocked by such a horrible sight. The sight of Humphris, holding the stem in his hand with an amazed expression on his face, brought forth roars of laughter and scared all travellers in the vicinity of their carriage.

The party emerged from the train at Catford Bridge and caught a 'bus, much to the annoyance of the conductor, who did not approve of his vehicle being cluttered up with baggage and Cosmites, and insisted that the cases be taken upstairs. This was done, with much banging and clattering, and soon the Cosmos Club working party arrived at Brownhill Road. Ringing at the door of no. 321 they were invited in and shown the Science Fiction Association's library, for which they had covered such a tremendous mileage. The books, which had been offered to the Cosmos Club library, were quickly packed into the rucksack and suitcases and the return journey commenced. Unfortunately H.T. Kay was not present.

The five climbed the hill to the 'bus stop with much puffing and panting and without much difficulty caught a 'bus back to Catford Bridge. Whilst returning to Charing Cross, Humphris and Lackersteen could not control their mirth when an uninvited passenger entered their compartment and started "big game hunting". The rest of the journey back to Hounslow was completed without mishap and the party, tired but happy, arrived at the librarian's house at the late hour of half past ten to find a tremendous supper awaiting them.

The books were hurriedly unpacked and stacked on the floor and the various aspects of nutrition seriously studied. Sibley kept the party well amused with a number of shaggy dog stories. Afterwards the Cosmos Club library and the new books were examined by the members before they commenced their long treks homeward.

COSMOS CLUB LIBRARY DUPLICATES.

AMAZING STORIES.1927 Sept.1929 Feb.1930 Aug Oct Dec.1931 Feb  
April June Sept Dec.1932 April June July Sept Dec.1933 Jan March  
April May June Aug Dec.1934 Jan June July Aug Nov.1935 May June  
July Aug Oct Dec.1936 Feb April June.1937 April Oct.1938 Nov.  
1940 March.1942 April 1943 Sept.1944 Jan.

AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY.1928 Winter Spring Fall.1929 Summer  
1931 Spring Fall.1932 Winter Fall.1933 Spring.1934 Fall.

ASTONISHING STORIES.1941 Sept.

ASTOUNDING STORIES.1930 Sept.1931 Sept Oct.1932 Jan.1934 June  
Nov .1935 June Aug Oct.1936 June July Aug Oct.1937 June July  
Oct Dec.

CAPTAIN FUTURE.1944 Winter.

DYNAMIC SCIENCE STORIES.1939 Feb April.

FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES.1939 Dec.1940 Jan Feb.

" " NOVELS.1940 July Sept.

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES.1944 Feb April June.

MARVEL.1939 Feb.

PLANET STORIES.1942 Fall.1943 Winter.1944 Spring Summer Fall

SCIENCE FICTION.1939 March.

STARTLING STORIES.1943 March.1944 Winter Spring Summer.1945  
Winter.

Super SCIENCE STORIES.1942 Aug.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES.1938 Feb Aug.1939 FebApril June.1940  
Aug Dec,1942 Dec.1944 Summer Fall Winter.

WEIRD TALES.1928 Dec.1931 Oct.1937 Aug.1939 Aug.1941 Sept.  
1942 July.1943 Jan May Sept Nov.1944 Summer Fall Winter.

WONDER STORIES.1930 May June July.1931 March April.1932 Feb  
Sept.1933 Jan Feb April May Nov Dec.1934 Feb Aug.1935 May  
July Dec.

It is wished to exchange these magazines for any books or  
magazines not in the Cosmos Club library or for any British  
sf magazines. Applications should be made to H.Gomberg, 45,  
Elliot Road, Herndon Central, where the books are now stored.  
British and American sf and fantasy books of all types are  
also required.