

SLITHY TOVES #1

#1

FAPA



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SLITHY TROVES : Meaning you characters. We thought of calling this thing Swivey Troves, but decided that puns on Carroll were not in keeping with the no doubt delightful literary merit (I said it and I'm glad) of this publication. Besides, Chaucer's rosebudding has been given enough ego-boosting by certain other members of this organization.

Incidentally, this is published as often as activity requirements forces the issue for FANTASY AMATUER PRESS ASSOCIATION from Gus Willmorth at 628 South Bixel Street, Los Angeles 14, California, point of origin of at least five amatuer publications which is a disgusting concentration of crudulent crap I must admit, but no one will get out, so what can be done?

Comments and criticism of FAPA mailings will be kept at a minimum with an emphasis upon persons and bookish thoughts if I'm able to do so and continue to fill up the required pages. Being pedantic and filled with the love of quoted verse and small saws and such stuffery, we shall try to fill blank space with something like the following:

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* "Books are not like women, the worse for being old." *

EDITORIAL

There is no reason on earth for there being an editorial in a Fantasy Amatuer Press publication devoted to mutterings of the individual, but being a slave of tradition---every magazine has an editorial or should--I insist upon putting one in to explain this and that. Besides this is an excellent way to fill up space..

Our English professor whom we had begun to view as a literary foggy and somewhat of a bore changed completely in our estimation the other day and not only recommended Gil Blas for reading but further began to practically read one of our favorite "fantasies" to the class: James Stevens' "Crock of Gold", and continues to read the book in toto to the great amusement of the group. Just going to show that even in institutes of higher learning fantasy takes its place. If we could but get the prof to concentrate on the "Demigods" and Stephens' poems next, to be followed by a liberal stipend of Dunsany, Blackwood and James, surely the English course could be considered a successful venture for Fandomania.

This same English is a class that has been instrumental in forcing me to read several of Robert Louis Stevenson's essays again. Since we first read these things years ago, they have gained in coherency and interest quite considerably. Perhaps the basis for some of Stevenson's later fantasies lie in these essays. In fact, ideas abound muchly in these intellectual wonderings so that it would pay you all to glance at "Pulvis et Umbra" and "AEs Triplex" or others of his stuff in this vein. Tsathoggua! Do you suppose that college life could be corrupting our reading criteria? How will we be able to appreciate a Hamilton or a Shaver after we've been "educated"?

Speaking of education, I wonder how many fans are taking advantage of the GIBR in regard to the furtherance of their education? Quite a number I should think; for from this area there seem to be quite a number of persons going. Dale Hart, RA Hoffman, Bob Wilson, Leadabrand, and myself are a few of those who come to my mind. And of course Milty Rothman has announced his intentions of doing some persuing of education. Perhaps someone should run a poll on this in order to ascertain how many persons this business is effecting. If you don't follow the hinted logic behind, I'll tell you: undoubtedly further training in reading is going to have an effect upon the reading criteria of many of these people. Now what is this going to do to the type of story that these people desire

to read? Surely, much of the hack stuff is no longer going to appeal to the majority of them. Indeed, as many of the fans grow older their criticisms of fantasy becomes stronger concerning the literate quality of the fiction. With further training in this respect, that criticism is going to be further accentuated.

However, this education will undoubtedly heighten the appreciation of many of the more literate and more thoughtful books and stories contained in the fantasy fiction field. (No pun intended there!) Many of the political fantasies and utopias may gain in favor among the fan brethren. Perhaps there will be a renaissance on Wells, et al.

I reckon that most fans of over a few years standing in the futurist hobby are a bit prone to turn for a moment from the future and look back over the "Good Old Days" when one was just a neophyte in Fandomania and filled with the zest of everything fresh. In keeping with this policy, for the last few weeks I've been looking over my collection of UNKNOWN in between struggling with studies and the FANTASY ADVERTISER. Although much of the glamor of the tales have worn off, there is certainly a plethora of very good story telling in these pages from 'Sinister Barrier' to the 'Book of Ptath'. Seemingly fantasy is stronger and more lasting than science fiction and, indeed, has a much wider appeal for out of UNKNOWN there has been a much more considerable number of the stories transposed into book form including 'Sinister Barrier', 'Lest Darkness Fall', 'Land of Unreason', 'The Incomplete Enchanter', and to come 'Conjure Wife'. This is certainly a much better record than ASTOUNDING can begin to claim with 'Best in Science Fiction', and to come 'Slan' and 'Adventures in Time and Space'. Of course, Grant-Hadley are doing a great number of Scientifiction which is materializing slowly, but I think to date that UNKNOWN with three years of publication has done a good deal better than has ASTOUNDING with fifteen. Much of this preference for fantasy rather than for psuedo-science lies in the fact the scientific prophesies become outdated relatively soon while the fantasy, not dealing with solid, or reputedly solid, fact, has greater survival value in its utter unexplainability. The same comparison might be drawn between scientific researches and philosophy, thus accounting for the reason that the philosophies of thousands of years ago are still reputable works, whereas scientific laws of the intervening years have been renovated many times.

I suppose that someone will crack down on the above statement with quotes of all Burrough's books that have been reprinted from sfzines and some other things, but I reckon that the weirds have either of the other two branches of imaginative fiction completely out of the running with the able assistance of Arkham House and the various anthologists. Isn't there enough fans with dough to offset this tendency? In case there were though, how would we all get enough money to put up for the books? It keeps me puffing trying to keep up with the steady stream of books appearing now.

Appearing on the following page is a poem that is going to be a trilogy. This poem is entitled 'Drunkeness.....with Three Hangovers'. It is being composed by an ancient science fictionist of our acquaintance who gets these grandiloquent ideas after drinking our beer. It is good beer. I drink it myself. This poem is good; it should be, it was stolen from enough people as any fool can plainly see.

Cheerio!

 * When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most in-
 * sane, most delusive, and most transient of passions, they are required to
 * swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting con-
 * dition continuously until death do them part...
 *
 * George Bernard Shaw
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the corn grows green in kansas

Out of this nothingness ever grasping...
The cold Blue Star that springs white mist
over the Autumnal world...the dead cellophane
leaves, falling snow...the first flecks
of faery death.

Doom light and ever grasping
Into Nothingness...From Nothingness
enter Me...the nothingness and all
for ever and.

Till come the Lion of Judah on a white horse riding
the trumpets preceeding...Oh, fall down in the streets
O Lord, The Wind is rising...Come chimes
from the wind, rung by the wind somewhere
Far Far Away so far away

And the last man in Halfway House
Shall cry into the night but none shall listen
...The Fog that comes cold...like mucus
in the throat...the little eerie fingers
That reach on before.

Tall by candlelight a white soul singing
Amber, musk, and dust of dried roses.
Heavy heavy hangs over my grave...and the
willows weep

These be
Three silent things
the falling snow...the hour
before dawn...the mouth of one
--just dead after reading.
Adelaide Crappsie cinquains

Babylon has fallen...flicker
the fires feebly...the echoes fall
away...the night weeps by the broken wall
Babylon, thyself to me
must forever be
the loviliness of memory.

by the waters of babylon
I sat down and wept
and mourned for the glory
that was wells

the corn grows green in kansas

* "A dog is wiser than a woman; it does not bark at its master." *
* Old Russian Proverb. *

BRILLIG COBETS

ARTICLES AND COMMENT OF INTEREST

The four pages prior to this have missed two FAPA mailings and are hence slightly dated (I think) but I hope that you can make head or tale of them for a thought or two was included in the writing. The following is an indication of what Willmorth's FAPA discussions will look like. For a guy that's been carried along on the shoulders of better FAPA mems this last year, I feel pretty fair over this first real attempt. And I hope that it meets approval.

SOLE ASPECTS OF PSYCHOLOGY APPLICABLE TO GENERAL SEMANTICS

The long continued discussion of general semantics (it has gone on in fandon for seven or eight years that I know of, and, 'tis true, should've ceased long ago) leads me to put in my pittance. So I mention the fact that there is some justification for the unsemantic rantings of such fanatics as Korzybski in the division of science of psychology known as psychosomatics, which connection has been suggested before, I believe, but without much further substantiation. Psychosomatics deals with mind body relationships which is somewhat correlated with the general semantic definition of word-meaning---body relations which seem to include the psychological functions of the mind in its interpretations.

Neurologically, the autonomous nervous system is extremely closely connected with the internal mechanisms of the Gastro-Intestinal system, the Respiratory system, the Cardiac system, and other non-systematized organs such as the liver, various glands, etc. It might be mentioned that in more animalistic periods of human existence, when the livelihood and safety of the organism depended chiefly upon the perfection of bodily mechanisms, these neurological controls were vitally necessary to continued existence. When the emotion of fear, for instance, appeared, the escape functions of legs, arms, etc, demanded the utmost of the body, so the nervous system transmitted orders that ceased digestive functions, speeded up the heart, speeded up respiration, tensed the muscles, and diverted blood corpuscles and their loads of vital energy to the peripheral muscles of leg, arm and body in preparation for flight, fight, or any other emergency action. In our present society, where there is at least some attempt to live by brain-work rather than physical prowess, there is slight need of these strong emotional activities. So, unless utilized otherwise, there is this part of the nervous system set-up which must remain dormant. However, there it is with its strong control of bodily functions, and with its direct pipeline to the mind, its perceptions, its reactions to the outside environment, its emotions, its desires, its wild irrational drives and its aberrations.

As though perversely intent upon bodily destruction, the whole human race sets out at birth to educate this section of the nervous system and the areas it controls in the ways of its own disablement. Before the human infant is taught to walk, talk, read, write, or use any other non-bodily function, the gastro-intestinal system is brought under intense training. Set hours are adjusted for its functions of ingestion, digestion, and elimination. Great emphasis is placed upon the regularity of these processes and their consumation is watched hawklike by the parent. Irregularity of function is not condoned. When any irregularities appear, they are attacked violently, given immediate adjustive attention, and often emotionally treated. The infant is exceedingly sensitive: a child that can easily tell an unfamiliar hand, than can know unerringly if it is unwanted by the touch and tones of an otherwise exceedingly solicitous mother, has no difficulty in discovering and hence following the training of habits in this system and the suppression of obtrusive overt reactions that bring forth punishing attention. Freudians among the clientele here can tell you immediately the effects of suppression and frustration within the nervous system and body without a description of the hard and fast rulings of habitual action and neural patterns. What is said here concerning the training of the gastro-intestinal system may be said in a modified form for the other sections of the body that are connected to the autonomous nervous system. Later I shall indicate some of the results of that training without precise mention of the training itself.

Perhaps I should point out a few of the results of the psychosomatic relations, and the connections of these functions to the everyday speech of human beings. Undoubtedly there are certain physiological lackings in the individuals who are afflicted with psychosomatic ills, and which tend to help form psychological troubles, but there must be some more basic relationship for all of us are inflicted to a certain extent by these psycho-physical illnesses. I give a set of situations which have arisen in the various psychological studies of mind-body sicknesses:

The patient cannot swallow satisfactorily because there is something in his life situation that he cannot swallow.

Nausea may mean that a person cannot stomach something in his life situation.

A feeling of oppression in the chest may mean that a person has "a load on his chest."

A loss of appetite (anorexia) may mean that the individual has a loss of hunger for emotional experience and adventure.

Overeating may mean the eating of unrequited love---or the eating of affection or security that has been denied.

Neuralgia may be thought of as a focal conflict as well as a focal infection, in which a conflict is focused at one point, bringing functional paralysis and pain.

An ache in the arm may mean the patient's desire to strike a loved one the ache being due to unconscious muscular tension as well as psychological tension.

Itching may mean a dissatisfaction with environmental conditions which the individual takes out upon himself. Martyr-like, the person scratches himself instead of someone else.

With this set of situations in mind, the connection between bodily ills and everyday idiom may be clearly seen. Such talk and such illnesses as illustrated here are ground into the individual continually in all types of life situations.

Thus it is from the cradle up we have been taught to speak through the entire body. As previously stated the human being is made up internally of three sets of systems: the gastro-intestinal, which must learn food schedules, how to eat with all the mores and manners of eating, how sounds are made and not made, and what is expected in the way of elimination, etc.; the respiratory system, which must learn breathing in socially acceptable ways, the right ways of talking with its accents, nuances, and expressions; and the system of general bodily activities, which give aching muscles, gestures, striking, fighting, expression, etc, in a language of the body.

The human organism may be viewed as a tube with the gastro-intestinal system the inside surface. It is in direct touch with the outside environment in the ingestion of food and other matter in a raw and rough condition. Phylogenetically, the gastro-intestinal tract is the oldest in the body, and is therefore more apt to be used by the emotions, since emotions are much more basic than mental functions. In this connection, it is the most richly supplied part of the body with autonomous nervous fibers of both the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems. The brain, hence, has more ready access to the gastro-intestinal system through these nervous connections than any other part of the body. Therefore it has been stated that the gastro-intestinal system is the sounding-board of the emotions within the individual from the standpoint of activity. In our human society this system is the standard of health of the individual --- a person can be no more healthy than his digestive functions. As has been indicated, the gastro-intestinal system comes in for a terrific socialization, education, and training. That is, the hours of eating, sleeping, elimination, etc, are closely watched and guided.

The human body is a complicated system of neural patterns in its activities. Those habits which are the oldest, the most used, and the best established are the ones that are called upon to act when faced by the proper situation. So when situations involving loving, hating and fearing arise and are thwarted, this system, the oldest and best connected neurologically in the body, is called into service in a vain attempt to solve the dilemma in a primitive way. Its primitive ways of problem-solving may vary with the individual. The action may result in halting of the parastaltic action in some, or in anti-parastaltic action (vomiting) in others. Or in varieties of other fashions at its beck and call. To illustrate this situation I cite a few examples of psychosomatic ails incidental to the gastro-intestinal and related activities. There are many examples of gastro-intestinal up-sets that appear just before a situation that threatens the security of the individual - especially a situation that may be tinged with fear. A race, an examination, a fight, a conference may be the cause of these reactions either before or after the occurrence. And the upset may be chronic as the situation is chronic with the individual. Many business men get headaches, indigestion, and aches just before entering into conferences. Housewives develop indigestion and constipation when confronted with trouble over housework or their children. There are many cases of children who vomit before going to school which is an indication that the child feels insecure at home and or at school. At a glance one may see the commonness of these occurrences and understand even their implications to oneself. In modern society, security and sustenance are closely related. Hence, almost anything that threatens the security or the prestige of the individual may be represented actively in the gastro intestinal tract.

Perhaps some further statements concerning the psychosomatic action of the gastro-intestinal system may be of interest. The upper end of the tract (the point of ingestion) is the receptive end of the personality, and it may be said in general that a person who accepts food well also

tends to "take-in" friends, events and knowledge. The lower end of the tract represents the psychological traits of retention and generosity. As a rule, constipation in a child may be said to indicate a refusal to give. Peptic ulcers represent a serious problem in our society especially among men who work under pressure. These peptic ulcers may be said to be almost completely psychologically inspired, for with rest and release from psychological tensions, the ulcers eventually disappear. One of the most recent operational tactics to cure ulcers has been the severing of the large nerve between the stomach and the brain. (The stomach has three connecting nervous systems, the autonomous, the asynastic, and the tenth cranial nerve.) Thus partially freed of the controls of the brain, the stomach cures itself of the ulcers, and continues to operate as effectively as ever. The psychological functions causing ulcers in our strong, self-reliant business-men may be represented as a strong unconscious need for affection, to be appreciated and taken care of which cannot be accepted by the patient, and as a consequence, there results an over-compensation by great achievement and endeavor that does not satisfy the inner emotions. The conflict is represented in an insoluble and unconscious urge for dependence in a person who must show a conscious desire for independence. The nervous reaction results in the stomach endeavoring to perform the double function of reception of love and the digestion of food. This need for dependence results in over-secretion of acidous digestive juices into the stomach, particularly of hydrochloric, away beyond digestive needs, so that the stomach actually attempts to digest itself. Perhaps the almost sole appearance of peptic ulcers in men may be explained by the fact that more is expected of the boy; he is more harshly punished; he is expected to be independent sooner and to a greater extent. He is not allowed to be dependent upon his parents long enough, nor is he as well protected, nor is he as lavished with love and with gifts as are girls. Hence, men and not women develop peptic ulcers.

On the other hand, as apposed to those who need to receive, are those who feel that they have always given well and have the right to demand and take, and who develop colitis or inflammation of the colon. These people attach unusual emphasis on giving, having been rewarded most for it. Whatever they do is considered extremely precious. Later in life, when these persons fail to produce anything praiseworthy they suffer from colitis.. In attempting to revert back to previous situations in which they were rewarded for giving, they attempt to excrete excessively which leads to the psychosomatic trouble.

The respiratory system is very closely related to the gastro-intestinal system and resembles it in several ways, having nearly the same entrance orifices in the head; but whereas the gastro-intestinal system passes through, the respiratory system deadends in the body. They further resemble each other in that each incorporates the external environment, each has a retention of the external environment for a period to extract certain elements to be used as energy, and in the excretion of waste products. Without taking the time to develop the ailments of the respiratory tract as fully as I have the gastro-intestinal system, I will mention the possibilities of expression of mental meanings by the respiratory system. Stingy breathing (shallow breathing, leaving a large residual amount of air in the lungs) is conducive to upper respiratory trouble and tuberculosis, and may be said to bring infections from psychogenetic reasons. Anxiety neurosis results in palpitations, giddiness, perspiration, precordial pains in the chest, breathlessness, etc, which may be exaggerated by exercise. Psychological malfunctions in the respiratory system may be represented by an irregularity of respiratory level and oxygen consumption, an irregularity of respiratory depth, and an irregularity of respiratory rate, none of which are conducive to good health. Nasal congestion and secretion (bad head colds) may represent the thwarting of an in-

tense demand for attention, affection and security. The ancient motto "Feed a cold and starve a fever", may have a basis in the fact that depressed persons tend to eat more, the symbolic action of eating indicating the suppressed desire to take in more love.

The respiratory affliction of asthma is roughly similar to the gastro-intestinal ailment of ulcers. Asthmatic children are both insecure and over-anxious, and so are their parents. Asthmatics may be roughly divided into two groups: Those children who were "wanted" very much by their parents, such as an only child, or an only boy or girl in a family of, sic, girls or boys. The proportion of these children who are asthmatic are way out of proportion to the median. The mechanism---the anxiety of the parents for the child is forced upon the child, resulting in the asthmatic condition. The second classification are those unwanted children whose parents were overcompensatory for their unconscious resentment of the child. Either condition leads to an anxiety neurosis in the child, coupled with feelings of insecurity. The mechanism of asthma is supposed to be actually a suppressed cry. It has been noticed that asthmatic children seldom utter cries, shed tears, etc. Asthma is an expression of opposing desires, a protest against separation from the mother, plus a protest against wanting to re-establish a dependent relationship to the mother by crying. As a partial proof, asthmatic attacks are often precipitated by threat of separation, from the mother at an early age or from other desirable objects at an older age level.

These statements concerning both ulcers and asthmatic conditions all presuppose a predisposition on the part of the individual toward psychological and physiological lacks. Such symptoms are often hereditary, and indicate a lack in the strain.

Migrain headaches (which so many females develop so conveniently at moments of stress) are thought to be the result of a conflict between conscious devotion and unconscious repulsion. The head is chosen to take the punishment on the basis of the rivalry between intellectuality and emotionality in the person. In the army many men developed chronic headaches from being forced to serve under persons of whom they were intellectually jealous. Naturally, of course, the brain does not ache, having no neural receptors to make a feeling of pain, but the sinuses distributed about the head and the large cranial nerves symbolically ache for the brain. In most of the cases of migrain headache, the symptom indicates an escape from a situation in which the individual is forced to feel intellectually insecure.

Dermatitis is a condition in which repressed hostility breaks out in the skin.

Vertigo is a sign of anxiety and insecurity.

Arthritis indicates a hysteria reaction in which the conflict is focused in some joint. Two opposing forces cause blood and lymph corpuscles of the joint to contract. The joint becomes dry, inflamed, infected, calls for help and becomes enlarged by the excess of blood and lymph at that point.

Another system of the body which perhaps comes in for the greatest amount of verbal-connected stimuli is the cardio-vascular system. Indeed the heart is used more than any other organ in the body in a symbolic way to refer to the emotions of love, hate, fear and all emotional reactions. Hearts have been the single most important bodily organ in the history of the human race. Perhaps this has been so because the heart responds to

easily to emotional excitation with poundings, suffocations, etc. All of you have heard the many expressions that refer to the heart: In love one says warm-hearted, loving with all the heart, heart-felt, light-hearted, etc; in hate a person is hard-hearted, heartless, cold-hearted; in fear one is faint-hearted, chicken-hearted, heart races with fear, and flutters ditto. One is slow-hearted, one is heart-sick, one has a heart-ache. The heart has been used semantically to symbolize the emotions more than all of the other organs put together. The next most in importance I would suppose to be the eyes, which actually have little emotional expressiveness. To speak of heart-ache is as meaningless in actuality as yngvi for although the heart is equipped with neural receptors capable of making a feeling of pain, it very seldom aches. Feelings of heart-pains usually come from the chest wall directly in front of the heart which is subjected to a rapid and continuous pounding from the very tough cardiac muscle, and thus has a right to ache after a while. As in the brain, the disease that kills in the heart is never felt. However, from the cradle up, we strive to make people heart conscious. Besides the importance attached to the heart as a symbol of emotion in our culture, we are also taught to look for discovery by a doctor or an insurance company, etc, of a murmur, an irregular rhythm, or high blood pressure. We are taught to fear sudden death among our relatives of heart trouble, of symptoms that call attention to the heart, profound and protracted emotional states that lead to a disturbed heart, effort symptoms and emotions leading to fainting, blackouts, and shortness of breath. In actuality, hypertension (elevated blood pressure) cases in excess of 90% cannot be relegated to any organic trouble, and as much might be said for other types of heart irregularities such as murmurs, leakages, beat-jumps, etc.

Most of the heart-trouble cases are symptomized on the outside by friendliness and self-control, but underneath they have strong aggressions and anxieties. These inside psychological aggressions find expression in cardiac tensions. Therefore, superficially, as a rule a high-blood-pressured person is quiet on the outside. This condition is actively aggravated by public mores and controls. How many of us have not heard or even ourselves said at one time or another the adage, "watch your blood pressure"; "Be quiet"; "Take it easy"; etc? Not many, I vow, and for a long-distance way to kill your enemies it is as effective as a gun---provided they guy does have a weak kicker. Psychosomatically, hypertension is throttled aggression. The most effective treatment is excessive energy output along aggressive channels. Since it is harmful to tell anyone to be quiet and for them to watch their blood-pressure, I would advise you to tell your friends to react, to respond, and let yourself go. With release, tensions will not build up to the point of blow-up.

So, pals, LET YOURSELVES GO. It's more healthful.

THE END of this section and Slithy Toves #1.

 *
 * Consider the story of Eve and the apple of wisdom. She had *
 * hardly taken her first bite when she reached for the fig leaf. *
 * Strange that, as soon as woman begins to think, her first thought *
 * is a new dress. HEINE. *
 *
