

THE COMET



VOL. 1.

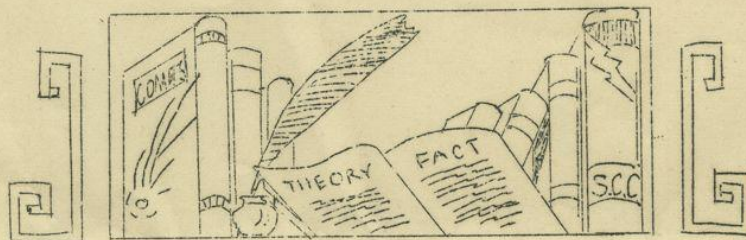
MAY 1930

NO. 1.

SCIENCE CORRESPONDENCE CLUB BULLETIN

EDITORS

RAYMOND A. PALMER
&
WALTER DENNIS



SCIENCE CORRESPONDENCE
CLUB

SCIENCE CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

Present officers

Secretary, Raymond A. Palmer, 1431-38th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.
Treasurer, (temp) Walter L. Dennis, 4653 Addison St., Chicago, Ill.
Librarian, Rob't B. Konikow, 497 Warren St., Roxbury, Mass.

Committees

Constitutional:

Walter L. Dennis, Chairman
A. B. Maloire
J. B. Dixon

Membership:

Raymond A. Palmer, Chairman
A. Stephenson
J. H. Pinkard, Jr.
J. O. Woodward

Finance Committee:

Walter L. Dennis, Chairman
Raymond A. Palmer
Frank Brent Eason, Sr.

Accredited Branches and Officers

No. 1. Oklahoma Society of Amateur Scientists
c/o Rt. 7, Box 100, Oklahoma City, Okla.
C. H. Hightower, President
Elven Herring, Secretary

No. 2. S. Lynn Rohrer Society of Greater Atlanta
c/o 400 Jefferson Ave., East Point, Ga.
R. A. Marks, Jr., President
F. B. Eason, Sr., Secretary

No. 3. The Boston Amateur Scientists Club
c/o 497 Warren St., Roxbury, Mass.
Rob't B. Konikow, President
Jos. A. Houghton, Secretary

Regional Directors

Far West-A. B. Maloire Wash., Ore., Cal., Idaho, Nev.,
Utah, Ariz.

Middle West-W. L. Dennis Mont., Wyoming, Colo., Neb., N. Dak.,
S. Dak., Minn., Iowa, Wis., Ill.,
Ind., Mich.

South Central-J. B. Dixon N. Mex., Tex., Kan., Mo., Ark.,
Okla., La., Ky., Tenn., Miss.,

North Eastern-E. A. Darmer N. Eng. States, Ohio, Penna., N. Y.
N. J.

South Eastern- F. B. Eason Del., Md., Va., W. Va., N. Ca.,
S. Ca., Ala., Ga., Fla.

Foreign- R. A. Palmer Foreign and U. S. Possessions.

A Brief History of the Science Correspondence Club

In the spring of 1928 while discussing a copy of the current Amazing Stories, Mr. Sydney Gerson and Mr. Walter M. Dennis conceived the idea of a club whose central idea was to spread science and scientific thought among the laymen of the world so inclined, by means of correspondence. Upon further thought, they decided to specialize on the idea of using correspondence as a means of drawing interested parties in the same localities together to form local groups who would discuss their own problems and ideas together. This the idea of the Science Correspondence Club, as first originated, closely followed the plan of the United States Government. Finally, in the early summer of 1929 this club numbered twenty-four.

It was in September, 1928, that Aubrey Clements conceived the same idea with the exception of local groups, and following the same policies, managed to gain an equal number of members at about the same time the Gerson-Dennis club reached twenty-four. It was then that a merger took place, combining the two clubs into one group and thereby enhancing the chances for greater growth.

Mr. Raymond A. Palmer continued in his position as secretary with Aubrey Clements as President and Mr. Dennis as acting secretary of his own group, later becoming a regional director in place of secretary, and taking up his duties as treasurer. It was through his efforts that a constitution and by-laws were adopted. A system of action was devised but progress of a necessity was very slow and laborious. In 1930 the crisis was reached when the request for dues went out. Sad to relate, less than 18% paid. Instead of giving up a few members got together and financed from their own resources, preparations necessary to fulfill promises made to paid members. Thanks to these loyal few the club is progressing strongly and although further delay is necessary while material is collected for the Inaugural Paper the club now numbers as this goes to press, 315 members exclusive of honorary members. Of this number 58 have paid dues. This brief resume of the club's history touches only the high spots but a complete history will be filed with each officer as soon as time is available to go over the matter thoughtfully and thoroughly.

Evolution

A Poem by Frank Brent Eason, Sr.

When you were a tadpole, and I a fish,
In the Paleozoic time;
Side by side with the ebbing tide,
We sprawled through the ooze and slime.

But it has been many a day since we were fish,
And it is right now that we are short of cash;
The reason of this is, you did not pay your dues,
But I paid mine!

Think! Only Three Dollars per year,
Will bring the poor laymen cheer,
With a monthly bulletin sublime.
So pay up your Three Dollars, and I'll double mine!

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENCY

1. Frank Brent Eason, Sr.
400 Jefferson Ave.
East Point, Ga.

Mr. Eason is one of the most enthusiastic members of the S C C. He is 40 years old, has time, travels quite a bit and can meet many members personally. He is experienced in handling executive positions and is a member of several well-known scientific societies. He has several eminent scientists as personal friends and is no mean astronomer himself. He has devoted his life to science and has trained his family along these lines. He has sponsored and advised the S. Lynn Rohrer Society of Greater Atlanta, a branch of the S C C. His success in this venture proves his ability. He is a very methodical man and will do his best to carry out anything he attempts.

2. Arthur W. Gowing,
17 Pasadena St.
Springfield, Mass.

Although Mr. Gowing is only 21, he is capable along executive lines. He has held many positions among which are:-President of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine Correspondence Club, member of Trails End Club and World Adventurers, President of Class of '22, Past Grand Master of the Crusaders of the Way, now a student of the LaSalle Extension University, has studied with International Correspondence School, is an amateur chemist, botanist, entomologist, and student of psychology. He has time to devote 25 to 30 hours per week to the club. Does work systematically, has filing system, and answers all letters within 48 hours.

3. Edward W. Smith
541½ Church St.
Ottumwa, Iowa.

Extremely interested and enthusiastic, and willing to co-operate in every way, centrally located, has a creative personality and has time. Pleasing correspondent and an excellent scientist. Finishes what he starts, and has initiative. Is 25 years old.

4. Arthur Stephenson
Box 34
Hazelwood Washington

Mr. Stephenson is one of the club's most earnest supporters is 30 years old and has time for the position. An excellent scientist in his field, and an avid student of sociology, Very pleasing correspondent, anxious to co-operate in every way. Member of Membership committee at present.

PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT

It is your duty to vote for One of the men whose qualifications are listed on the foregoing page. Read it over carefully and select the man you think best fitted for the position. Send your ballot in immediately.

I VOTE FOR _____

Your Name.....

Address.....

City & State.....

Clip on this line, or copy the above in voting.

RESIGNATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT

Aubrey Clements, who acted as president for the S C C for over a year, finally found that the club had grown to become a real organization, potent with possibilities, and wished to turn over the leadership to an older man who would be more able to wisely handle the intricate problems of a world-wide club. With this in mind, he notified the officers of the club and gave them time to select a capable man or men, and aided to the greatest of his ability in making the change. He is to be commended for his own clear-headedness, which is astounding, notwithstanding his youth, and personally, in the years to come we hope to see the name of Aubrey Clements again on the roster.

The Editors.

STATUS OF PRESENT SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Mr. Walter Dennis, who is acting as temporary treasurer, will continue in this capacity until the election which will be held next year.
Mr. Raymond A. Palmer, who has been secretary since January 1929, feels confident that he can still uphold the business end, and intends to become more active than ever this year.

REMEMBER

All new members must be referred to the Secretary as his records are the basis of all mailing lists, and those enterprising members who write to the Science Magazines should be sure to include his name and address. No other name need be mentioned in this connection as it only results in delay as the other party must relay it to the Secretary.

Thank you.

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE S C C WHO ARE DELINQUENT IN DUES

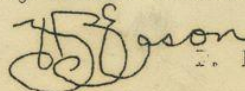
You have all shown an interest in this organization by making application for membership. The application blanks were sent you; constitutions and by-laws were mailed most of you, and statements followed when the Secretary received these applications. Things seem to have stopped right there, for members in the main, failed to forward dues.

The writer is wondering if those who have intentionally or otherwise, failed to forward dues, are thinking that a few like Palmer, Dennis, and Clements are going to do all the work in the organization, and finance it at the same time? It will be best for those members to discard this idea, for after this initial bulletin, which contains only the items necessary to start things moving, and none of the real results of club and individual effort, is mailed out, there will be no more to those who have not paid their dues. This organization is not a playground for those who will cheer from the sidelines, but a field for the evident benefit of those who will leap in and help fight the battle.

Remember, we are at a critical period; we have obtained the interest of some of the worlds greatest scientists and we have to prove to them that we have the GUES (to use plain language) to PUSH FORWARD and not retrogress back to barren failure! We have to prove to them that we are in earnest; that we mean every word we say; and when we stated that we were going to organize a society for the purpose of assisting those who were interested in science; that we wished to gain the interest of those who not interested, we made the statement in all faith, and WE ARE GOING TO KEEP OUR WORDS. But it can't be done without something to show that will prove that we are worthy of gaining interest.

A timely suggestion to those whose interest lies no further than having everything done for them and make no effort to reciprocate, would be, "send in your resignation". There is no room for slackers in an organization that must have the co-operation of all to be a success. What are we? Are we merely out to obtain the names of a select few and then proceed to drop them a line saying "Hello, how is the weather in China today?" No! We are going to say, "I made an effort to bring forth a low form of life with chemicals last evening. I followed Prof. Herreas formula, which states---etc. etc. Can you help me with any suggestions? By the way, I set up my telescope the other night in search of the new planet discovered after 80 years of search, and also searched the heavens in the region of Orionis."

Get together; pay your dues; help us make this bulletin one that will be eagerly watched for, and do not let Palmer, Dennis, and Clements do it all. Miss Lorraine, Dr. Breuer, and others are paying their dues and doing all in their power to assist us, Won't you also?; you can do it by PAYING YOUR DUES.


F. B. EASON.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF
THE S. LYNN ROHRER SOCIETY OF GREATER ATLANTA
A BRANCH OF THE
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

Organized March 23, 1930 at 400 Jefferson St., East Point, Ga.

Named in honor of S. Lynn Rohrer, organizer of the Southern Cross Observatory, Miami Fla., and a noted Amateur Astronomer recognized by leading authorities; the discoverer of a new star.

OFFICIALS

Wm. Tyler Olcott, Honorary President,
R. A. Marks, Jr., President
F. B. Eason Sr., Secretary and acting Treasurer
S. W. Hardin, Librarian
Charles Preston, Chemist
Wm. Ward Matthews, Historian and Publicity Agent
J. Clifton Eason, Caretaker of Collections.

This branch has a library of 400 scientific books, a large collection of science fiction magazines, collections of ores, rocks, fossils and prehistorical objects, and a chemical laboratory and radio testing outfit.

The branch plans to install a seismograph in the near future. The telescope is set up for visitors any night they chose to come.

Membership now numbers 28, and meetings are held each Tuesday at 7:30 P. M.

Wm. Tyler Olcott, Honorary President is secretary of the A. A. V. S. O., a noted astronomer and writer of scientific books.

Respectfully submitted,



F. B. Eason, Sec'y.

WHAT WILL FUTURE BULLETINS CONTAIN?

The following article, "Trends in Psychology" by Billith Lorraine, will give you a fair idea of the quality of material that our bulletin will contain. We are sure that if articles like this are carefully read and digested, it will aid greatly in furthering the knowledge of the members. If you have something of the kind, a subject that you have studied and KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, don't hesitate to submit it. Don't forget, we are in this club to spread science, not hide it under a bushel.

The Editors

TRENDS IN PSYCHOLOGY

By

LILLITH LORRAINE

It is difficult to realize in this age of machinery that man comes into life equipped with a machine for more wonderful, more complicated, more delicate and with greater possibilities of achievement than any human mechanism that has been or ever will be devised. This machine is the human brain.

We are just beginning to understand the laws of this marvellous machine, we are just beginning to learn how to overhaul it, to re-condition it, to repair it, and to co-ordinate its parts so that they may work together harmoniously to serve their intended purpose.

For ages the study of the human brain has been veiled in mystery and superstition and quacks and charlatans have grown rich in expounding the "Secret laws of mind" and in "Unfolding the hidden potentialities of the soul". They have tried to make us believe that by some mystical process some mysterious "mental energy" can be released that will renew our youth, and make us wealthy and successful over night. So numerous have become these schools of quackery, that serious science has long fought shy of the study of psychology, associating it always with the vagaries of metaphysics. But at last investigations have been made and experiments have been undertaken by real scientists, and the results have been little short of astounding.

What they discovered is, in short, simply this; that the human brain, like the human body as a whole, is very like a machine. That by the application of definite psychological principles, the laws governing the operation of this machine can be determined and applied for the betterment of the race and the individual and applied to the healing of distorted minds and the functional ills of the body. That the degree of efficiency of the machine is dependent principally upon three factors; heredity, the first and greatest, which might be said to determine, to use a crude symbolism, whether the machine that we get is a Ford or a Cadillac; environment, which to use another crude example, may be said to decide whether the machine is to receive the care of a first class mechanic or a Jack-of-all-trades and whether it is to travel over dirt roads or paved highways; and individual initiative, resulting indirectly from the first two factors, which if applied to one's own mental development, will enable him to study his machine, to overhaul it when necessary, and to become its master.

The psychologist has found that the greatest obstacle in the way of using the mental mechanism to its greatest capacity, is what we know as the complex. A complex, in brief, is an emotionally colored idea that, symbolically speaking, may be said to usurp the throne of reason, the operator who should be at all times in control of the machine. When an individual has a serious complex, which is somewhat equivalent to a serious prejudice, he cannot be reasoned with. His ideas, instead of revolving around the sun of reason, revolve around the complex. All his thoughts and actions radiate from the complex and derive their energy from it. But although such a person cannot be reasoned with, he can be re-educated

This is done by a process known as psycho-analysis, a system of mental probing whereby the complex can be located and brought to the attention of the patient, where it can be dealt with in the open. Volumes, however, cannot adequately deal with this subject or enumerate the thousands of instances of human lives that have been made over by psychology applied by the expert.

The day will come when the psychological laboratory will be as complete, as extensive, and as fully equipped as the chemical laboratory. The day will come when human minds will be re-constructed just as disordered machinery is repaired today. When that day comes, incalculable power and vistas of happiness will open before us, as man's selfish and destructive tendencies are slowly weeded out by character building and replaced by the altruistic tendencies which alone have any right to survive if man is to rise above the level of the beast. In that day we shall truly understand what St. Paul meant when he said, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds".

Well, what did you think of it? It would please the editors if you would write in and give your opinion on whether articles like this should be printed in every issue and in as great a quantity as possible. We have quite a number of articles by many of our learned members and even by some of the leading scientists of America, who are going to aid us in making these articles a success, both in rousing interest, and in the real aim of the club, that of extending knowledge to laymen.

The next issue will contain articles by J. B. Dixon, Dr. Miles J. Breuer, David L. Pickering, and others. Be sure you don't miss them. Get your name on the mailing list, by sending in your dues. The blank below will aid you in doing this.

The Editors.

Clip on this line

Date.....

Business office, S C C.
1431-38th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Enclosed find my dues for the year 1930, which will make me eligible for all bulletins and benefits distributed during the year. The amount is \$3.00.

REMITTERS NAME.....

Address.....

City & State.....

Please send me membership card and receipt immediately.

ODD NOTES

The list of members, which will be distributed soon is being printed and will be ready soon.

Several complaints have been received of the commercialization of the club by certain individuals who desired to sell Xmas Cards, greeting cards, etc. Any such complaints are noted and the offender dealt with immediately. The humiliation of an individual who joins a club like ours, and is met with the news that he is an "agent" for some doo-fangle, is self-evident and all possible efforts to curb this evil will be made.

Send in your suggestions on departments for the bulletin, such as the Readers Page, Science Notes, New Theorys, etc. Your ideas will be appreciated.

Budding authors may have an opportunity to see the public's reaction to their work by contributing short SHORT stories to the bulletin. The views of the members are sure to improve their style and gain them many good suggestions.

Can you name the men pictured below? They were drawn by two of our young cartoonists, Stanley Osowski and Harold Scott. We invite your comic strips and cartoons.

