

Pantastic

ADVENTURES

**VOLUME I
NUMBER I**

**MAY
1939**

C O N T E N T S

S T O R I E S

- REVOLT OF THE ROBOTS** by Arthur R. Tofte 6
Jol Herrick thought he had created only a superwoman, but Tarra had deeper plans.
- THE INVISIBLE ROBINHOOD** by Eando Binder 16
Criminals and warlords feared him, good people loved him—but his own love he denied.
- THE EMPRESS OF MARS** by Ross Rocklyne 26
Into Mars' most dangerous city went Darak, searching for a life-giving bracelet.
- THE SLEEPING GODDESS** by Maurice Duclos 44
Sealed from the world, the valley evolved its peoples, guarded by a lovely sleeper.
- ADVENTURE IN LEMURIA** by Frederic Arnold Kummer, Jr. 60
Khor the Wanderer finds the land of Mu a place of weird science and lusty adventure.
- THE MUMMY OF RET-SEH** by A. Hyatt Verrill 70
What strange secret of the ancient priests could cause hallucinations after centuries?
- THE DEVIL FLOWER** by Harl Vincent 80
Death's whisper haunted Gregory Pines, and the devilish flowers were somehow responsible.

F E A T U R E S

- | | |
|--|---|
| The Editor's Notebook 4 | Quiz Page 87 |
| Fantastic Inventions 25 | Ray Holmes, Scientific Detective .. 88 |
| Fantastic Hoaxes 58 | Readers' Page 96 |
| Introducing the Author 84 | The Man From Mars 97 |

Front cover by Robert Fuqua, depicting a scene in Revolt of the Robots

Back Cover by Frank R. Paul

Illustrations by Julian S. Krupa

Copyright, 1939, ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
608 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

William B. Ziff, Publisher, B. G. Davis, Editor, Raymond A. Palmer, Managing Editor, Herman R. Bollin, Art Director

Contributors are advised to retain a copy of their manuscripts and illustrations. Unavailable manuscripts will be destroyed, unless accompanied by return postage. Contributions will be handled with reasonable care, but this magazine assumes no responsibility for their safety. Any copy accepted is subject to revision or changes to meet the requirements of this publication. Payment for manuscripts and illustrations will be made at our current rates.

The names of all characters that are used in short stories, serials and semi-fiction articles that deal with types are fictitious. Use of a name which is the same as that of any living person is accidental.

FANTASTIC INVENTIONS

PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINES

An impossible invention which has lured many inventors

CONTRARY to all logic, many inventors have sought to create a machine which would work until it wore out, without an application of outside force to keep it going. This is a complete fallacy, and a little serious thinking will make it apparent.



A water wheel is run by sun-power

At first thought, a water wheel is such a machine, but it is not. It is evident that it is the sun which makes the wheel go by raising the water.

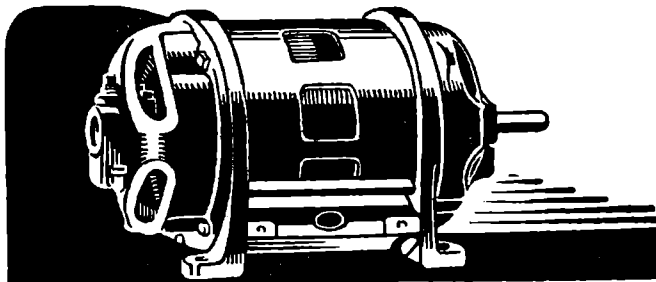
A Foucault pendulum might be said to be a perpetual motion machine, since it continues to describe an arc as the earth revolves. But here again, a phenomenon of nature, evidenced in a machine, depends wholly on an outside force, motion of the earth.

Many things occur in nature and in mechanics which those inventive dreamers who seek the will-o-the-wisp of a perpetually moving machine point out as evidence that it is not an impossibility. But when they try to carry out these apparent instances in an inventive manner, creating all sorts of machines, they run up against the obstacle of impossibility.

They have tried to use magnetism, rigging up complicated systems of inter-operating magnets, and have achieved some remarkably baffling machines, but upon examination, each has shown itself to possess some outside motive power, either intentionally placed there by the inventor, or not realized by him as such.

Basically, all these magnetic devices have been nothing more than electric motors, in fantastic forms. They need a power input to activate them.

The force of gravity has been used by many in an effort



An electric motor operates magnetically

to produce perpetual motion. Many fantastic devices were created. One, for instance, is a wheel equipped with buckets, something like a ferris wheel geared to an upright elevator conveyor, operating on the continuous belt prin-

ciple. It uses metal balls to make it go, the balls ascending the elevator being propelled up by the geared wheel which is turned by the weight of other balls continually being dumped in at the top, and rolling out of the buckets at the bottom, to return once more to the elevator to be raised again. Thus a series of balls is supposed to keep the wheel going. The theory of the inventor who devised this one is simple. Inasmuch as the distance the balls had to be lifted was shorter than the distance the same balls traveled around the wheel's circumference from the top, it *seemed* that there would be surplus unexpended gravity power left

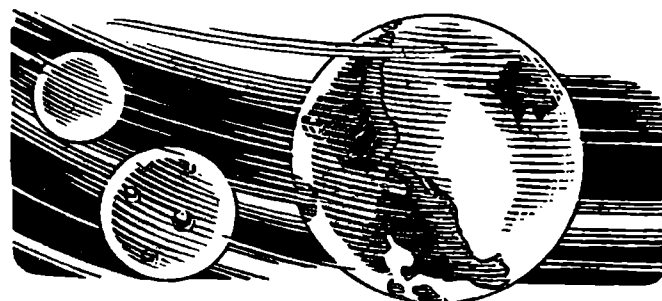


One form of hypothetical perpetual motion machine

to be utilized in moving the wheel. And as long as the wheel moved, the balls would continue to become available for still more power-producing descents. In fact, however, the friction of the wheel, the gears, etc., needed far more power than supplied by the balls. It is a law of physics that it is impossible to get more power out of an apparatus than is put into it.

These inventors persisted because they pointed to the motion of the earth and the stars as perpetual motion. But again they erred. The motion of every heavenly body is dependent on other bodies. If we analyze deeply, we come to the Einstein precepts of relativity, and discover all motion to be relative. A lone planet, plunging at incredible speed through absolutely empty space could not be said to be moving. There would be no basis of comparison.

Perpetual motion machines are impossible.



Motion of heavenly bodies depends on mutual gravitation