

THRILLING WONDER STORIES



The Magazine of Prophetic Fiction

Vol. XIII, No. 2
April, 1939

TENTH ANNIVERSARY
NUMBER NEXT
ISSUE!

FEATURING
**THE ULTIMATE
CATALYST**

A Novelet of Laboratory
Magic

By **JOHN TAINE**

ROBOT NEMESIS

An Interplanetary
Novelet

By

**DR. EDWARD ELMER
SMITH**

DAWN OF FLAME

A Complete Short Novel

By

**STANLEY G.
WEINBAUM**

Plus Stories by

DR. DAVID H. KELLER

EANDO BINDER

OTIS ADELBERT KLINE

**JOHN COLEMAN
BURROUGHS and
HULBERT
BURROUGHS**

JACK WILLIAMSON

—and others!

EVERY STORY BRAND-NEW

Table of Contents

● **COMPLETE NOVELETS**

THE JULES VERNE EXPRESS By EANDO BINDER.....	13
MEN MUST DIE By WARD HAWKINS.....	48
WHITE BARRIER By FRANK BELKNAP LONG, JR.....	88

● **THRILLING SHORT STORIES**

EXPERIMENT By ROSCOE CLARK, F.R.C.S.....	29
BEYOND ANNIHILATION By HENRY KUTTNER.....	37
THE BROKEN AXIOM (Contest Story) By ALFRED BESTER.....	64
MADNESS FROM MARS By CLIFFORD D. SIMAK.....	76
ZEOH-X By RAY CUMMINGS.....	106

● **SPECIAL FEATURES**

SCIENCE QUIZ A FASCINATING KNOWLEDGE TEST.....	46
IF—(A Picture Feature) By JACK BINDER.....	74
SCIENTIFACTS By J. B. WALTER.....	86

● **OTHER FEATURES AND DEPARTMENTS**

SCIENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.....	10
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.....	106
SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE.....	113
THE READER SPEAKS.....	118
THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY.....	124
THE SWAP COLUMN.....	127

● **ON THE COVER**

Artist Brown has depicted a scene from the novelet, MEN MUST DIE, by Ward Hawkins, which appears in this issue.

Published bi-monthly by BETTER PUBLICATIONS, INC., 22 West 48th Street, New York, N. Y. N. L. Pines, President. Copyright, 1939, by Better Publications, Inc. Yearly \$3.00; single copies, \$15; Foreign and Canadian, postage extra. Entered as second-class matter May 21, 1936, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Names of all characters used in stories and semi-fiction articles are fictitious. If a name of any living person or existing institution is used, it is a coincidence.

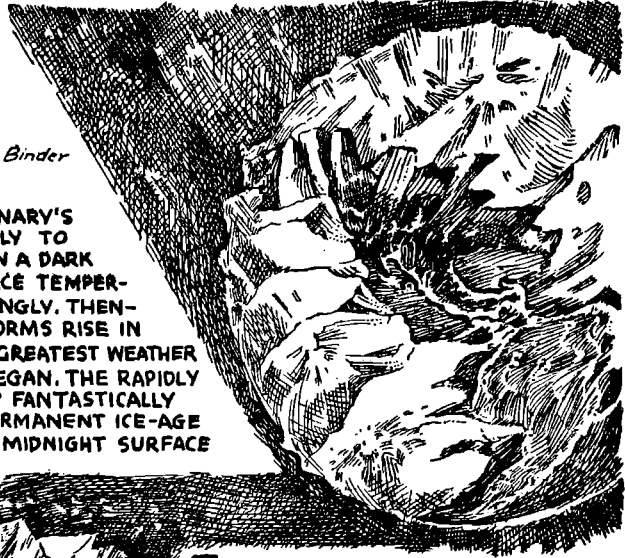
Manuscripts must be accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelopes, and are submitted at the author's risk.



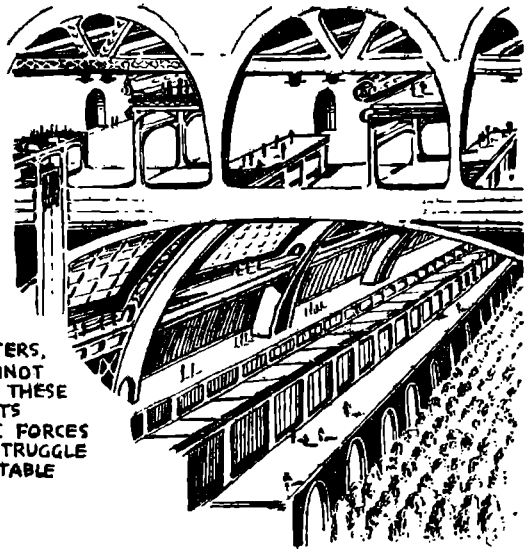
THE SUN WENT OUT!

BY JACK BINDER

IF OUR CENTRAL LUMINARY'S ATOMIC-FIRES WERE SUDDENLY TO DIE OUT AND LEAVE OUR SUN A DARK "DEAD" STAR, EARTH'S SURFACE TEMPERATURE WOULD DROP ALARMINGLY. THEN-SNOW, SLEET AND HAIL STORMS RISE IN ELEMENTAL FURY, IN THE GREATEST WEATHER UPSET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN. THE RAPIDLY FREEZING OCEANS PILE UP FANTASTICALLY WITH EXPANDING ICE. A PERMANENT ICE-AGE BEGINS, COVERING ALL THE MIDNIGHT SURFACE OF EARTH!

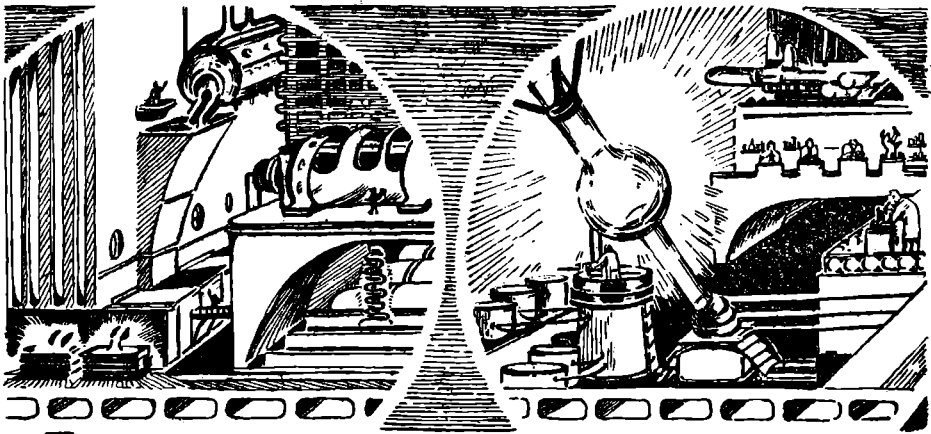


ALL HABITATIONS OF MAN ARE DOOMED. HIS MIGHTIEST BUILDINGS AND CITIES ARE CRUSHED BY THE IRRESISTIBLE ICE MENACE. HUMANITY'S NUMBERS MEET DEATH FROM FREEZING, STARVATION AND SELF-DESTRUCTION. IT IS A TIME OF HORROR AND DESPAIR, WITH NO DAWN TO CHEER HELPLESS SURVIVORS!



BUT SOME REMNANT OF MANKIND SAVES ITSELF BY BUILDING GIGANTIC SELF-CONTAINED UNDERGROUND QUARTERS, SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE FRENCH MAGINOT LINE, DESIGNED AGAINST INVASION. IN THESE SUBTERRANEAN "CITIES", LIFE RESUMES ITS COURSE, SAFE FROM THE CATACLYSMIC FORCES ABOVE GROUND. IT IS A GRIM, HARD STRUGGLE IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT, BUT INDOMITABLE MAN SURVIVES IN HIS UNDERWORLD!

Next Issue: IF THE



THE SCIENTISTS, CONCENTRATING ON ONE GOAL, PERFECT ATOMIC-ENERGY FOR POWER. WHEN STORED FOOD SUPPLIES RUN OUT, CHEMISTS MANUFACTURE STAPLE PROTEINS, STARCHES AND SUGARS FROM BASIC ORGANIC MATTER. AIR, WARMED AND PURIFIED, IS PIPED DOWN FROM THE SURFACE IN HUGE CONDUITS. TRANSMUTATION PROVIDES NECESSARY METALS FROM COMMON ROCK MOLECULES. SCIENCE ANSWERS EVERY EMERGENCY OF BURIED MANKIND!



SAFE FROM EXTINCTION IN HIS NEW HOME, MAN DOES NOT FORGET THE SURFACE WORLD HE ONCE DOMINATED. EXPLORING PARTIES WANDER OVER THE FROZEN UPPER WASTES, WHERE LIFE CAN NEVER AGAIN GAIN A FOOTHOLD. RELICS ARE BROUGHT BACK TO BE PRESERVED AS MEMENTOES OF THE GREAT CIVILIZATION THAT ONCE EXISTED UNDER A WARM SUN!

THE ASTRONOMERS OF THE SUB-STRATA CIVILIZATION SEE AND CHART ONLY THE ETHERAL STARS WITH THEIR TELESCOPES. THE MOON AND PLANETS ARE NEVER MORE TO BE SEEN WITHOUT THE REFLECTED RAYS OF THE SUN TO LIGHT THEM. THE VANISHED GLORIES OF DAWNS, THE AURORA BOREALIS, RAINBOWS AND COMETS BECOME MYTHS!

MOON FELL TO EARTH