

IND

DRUG THAT CONQUERS FEAR

SIR!

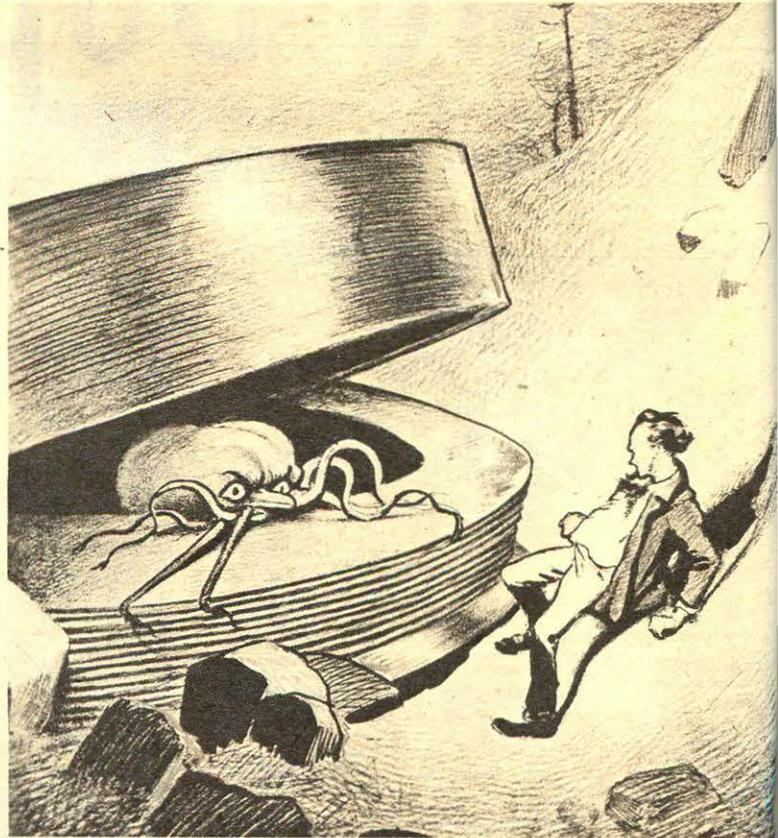
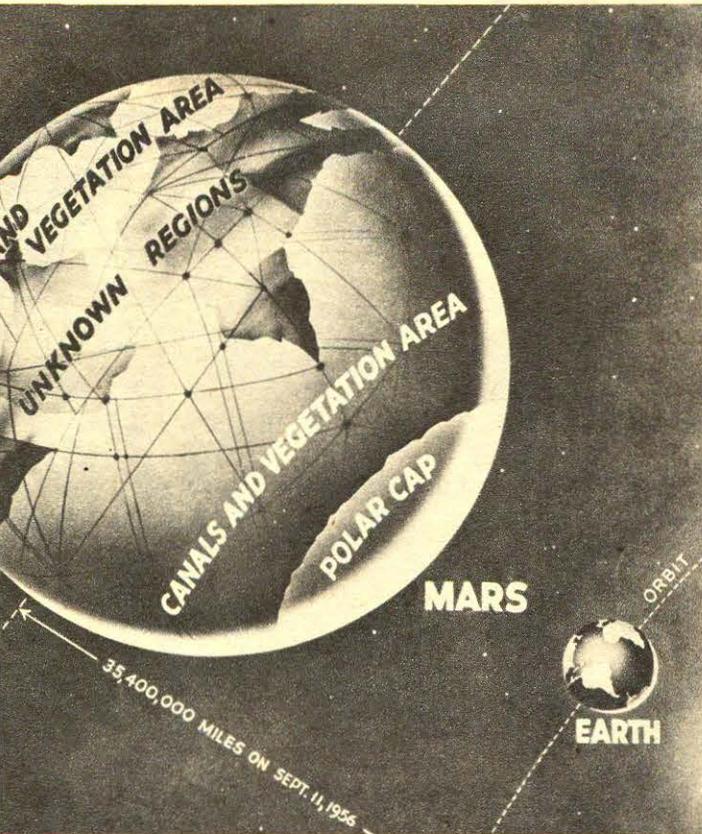
A MAGAZINE FOR MALES

SEPTEMBER 25¢



THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN AGAIN SIGHTED!
NEW MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION REPORTS THE AMAZING FACTS

A world-famous astronomer compiles all the facts and tells his impression of what we can expect from Mars



Mars has a longer summer than we do: 182 days. A great deal of vegetation is visible at this time.

Formerly many astronomers thought the only life form the Martians could take would be giant insects.

What the MARTIANS Really look like

OF all the controversial mysteries confronting modern science, perhaps the most heatedly debated hinges around this question:

"What is the highest-developed form of life on Mars?"

The controversy has become sizzling now that Man harnessed atomic power and has proven that interplanetary travel is not only possible but achievable. Also, repeated sightings of "flying saucers" have led to the widespread conjecture that the saucers might be interplanetary space-ships from Mars. What kind

of life guides the "saucers?"

Most recent of the astronomers to express himself on this enigma was Dr. Gerard de Vaucouleurs, a French-born member of the staff of Australia's Commonwealth Observatory and author of several scientific books, including *The Planet Mars*.

Writing in the May, 1953 issue of *Scientific American* Dr. de Vaucouleurs agreed with many others that life on Mars is probable. This in itself is highly significant.

But with true scientific caution, he was very careful

By PROFESSOR A. L. D. NORBERT-HALL, PH.D.
 (Director, Mannheim Foundation Observatory)



H. G. Wells thought Martians lived in a machinery casing.

not to hint that any higher form of life—comparable to our own or even more highly advanced—might exist on Mars. Instead, he was content with the observation that such lowly forms of life as algae, mosses, and lichens were most likely.

However, many other scientists take the opposite viewpoint—that life on Mars not only exists—as de Vaucouleurs himself believes—but has attained a very high level.

For example, Dr. W. E. Duckwall, writing in *Popular Astronomy*, not only stated that life on Mars was “certain” but added that evolution there “may have been more rapid so that there are fewer races but with a high level of development.”

And he goes on to add that the dominant race there “. . . may not be manlike but such a form is as probable as any other.”

Reason for the supposed rapid development of Martian life is that

(Continued on page 48)



Most logical form the Martian would take is above: he stands 10 to 15 feet tall, has thin legs but enormous chest and braincase.

AMERICANA

In Pueblo, Colo., Councilman Charles Housed let out a last piercing wolf whistle—then voted with other councilmen for a law providing fines and jail sentences for men who got too fresh with women on the town streets.

During the discussion of a highway bill, Representative Albro Avers, of the South Dakota legislature, offered this definition: "A culvert is a hole under a highway. A bridge is a highway over a hole."

All members of the Moorehead, Minn., Kiwanis Club were present for a scheduled meeting—except the five members of the attendance committee whose job was to make sure everybody attended the meeting.

A rabid Moultrie, Ga., baseball fan announced publicly that he would pick out a creditor in the stands each night and pay what he owed. "The creditor who's not there," he declared, "won't get paid."

Watching a wrestling match on television, 11-year-old William Dillow of Portsmouth, Ohio, became so excited he jumped up and grabbed a stranglehold on his mother. She would up with a fractured jaw.

A man under consideration for a responsible government job was being given a nice send off by an acquaintance to a FBI investigator. "Doesn't he write poetry?" the professionally skeptical FBI man asked. The friend quickly assured the FBI man, "Have no fear. It's bad poetry."

A Chesapeake Bay oysterman walked into the Norfolk, Va., Social Security Administration and asked how much he owed in social security taxes. "What was your net income?" he was asked. The oysterman scowled and said, "Even a Government man ought to know you don't catch oysters with a net."

Writing to a federal bureau in Washington about a pending matter, a citizen added this postscript: "I haven't made up my mind on this issue, but when I do I will be very bitter."

A bet between the mayors of Englewood, New Jersey, and Englewood, Calif., ended with the New Jersey mayor packing in dry ice and airmailing to sunny California 14 snowballs.

It wasn't getting shot in the arm that made the sergeant with the 45th Division in Korea mad. The bullet ruined some personal art of his. "I've had that tattoo for 16 years," he declared bitterly.

WHAT THE MARTIANS REALLY LOOK LIKE

(Continued from page 39)

Mars is a much smaller planet than Earth (diameter 4,216 miles as compared with our 7,918), with the result that it has cooled faster while life appeared sooner and presumably evolved more rapidly. The idea that dominant life-forms may be similar is based on the cosmological fact that stellar radiation, the speed of light, gravitation, atomic structures and other phenomena are basically identical throughout the macrocosmos. Universes, stars, and planets have much more pronounced similarities than they have differences, so why shouldn't high-level life-forms, too?

Dr. Forest Ray Moulton also agrees in the existence of life on Mars. Dr. William H. Pickering comments that the famous "canals" indicate a knowledge of spherical trigonometry and a high degree of engineering skill. Dr. Percival Lowell, first to photograph the canals and a close observer of Mars for many years, was firmly convinced of the existence of a high-level civilization there.

Many other authorities might be cited. But the clincher is that events have recently been observed on Mars that—entirely aside from the phenomenon of the canals which de Vaucouleurs himself points out is unique in astronomy—could only have been produced by a mighty civilization.

Two of these are:

The frequent observation of enormous geometrical designs on the planet's surface which are obviously signals.

The Martian atomic explosion of January 16, 1950, which was observed by astronomer Tsuneo Saeki of Osaka Observatory near Tokyo, Japan (see SIR! March 1952 issue).

Many believe that the "flying saucers" — if they are of extraterrestrial origin at all—can come only from Mars. They point out that Mars and Earth are the only two planets in our Solar System with atmospheric oxygen, and that oxygen is essential to all known forms of life.

There seems to be an almost hysterical effort in some quarters to prove that the flying saucers are cases of mistaken identity, hallucination, and so on. But, according to the Air Force itself, investigation always reveals a substantial pro-

portion of such reports that cannot be explained by conventional means. So we may safely assume, along with such authorities as Major Donald Keyhoe, that the saucers are "interplanetary space-ships."

THE objections of de Vaucouleurs and certain others to the assumption that high-level life may exist on Mars—or their reluctance to assert outright that it does—are based primarily on the rigors of the environment there.

Let us briefly survey that environment.

Mars is much farther from the Sun than is Earth, and consequently receives much less warmth. Its average distance from the Sun is 142 million miles as compared to Earth's 93 million miles, but its orbit is much more eccentric. At its greatest distance from the Sun it receives less than four-tenths the intensity of solar radiation than does Earth; even at its closest approach it receives only a little more than half.

Astronomers who tend toward conservatism conclude that the average temperature of Mars must be very cold—probably around 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Temperatures as high as 80 degrees above zero F. have, however, actually been measured at the height of the long Martian summer, which can range up to 182 days in length as compared to our own of 91.2 plus. Some astronomers who point out that Mars—due to its thinner atmosphere—actually receives at its surface a much higher proportion of radiation than does Earth—believe that the average annual temperature of Mars may be considerably above freezing!

However, life does not need a high average temperature to survive. The basic requirement is that the temperature periodically rise *above freezing* long enough to permit the life processes to function; after which it may fall to great depths without endangering life that is adapted to the condition.

On Earth, for example, there is a form of worm that lives in ice at the pole caps; it is dormant when the temperature is below freezing

but revives with the summer's warmth. Many other examples of cold-adaptive creatures might be given, such as the highly developed hibernating mammals.

Thus cold—even if it is as extreme as some believe—is no barrier to the existence of much higher forms of life than algae, mosses, and lichens. It is certainly inconceivable that creatures capable of constructing the Martian canals are also incapable of constructing heated, year-around shelters!

That the Martians have such shelters—perhaps huge domed cities

dwarfing any cities on Earth—is indicated by the frequent presence of circular dark spots at the juncture of the canals. These spots are largest where several canals—often including one or more “double canals”—merge. At their vast distance, they bear an uncanny resemblance to Earth cities that are focal points for many railroads, such as St. Louis.

Some of these “cities” may be observed on the Martian maps in the *Eumenides Orcus, Lux, Elysium, Hellas, Zephyria, Candor*, and a multitude of other regions. (Note

OUR TIMES

Two circus lions who slipped out of their cages into a downtown Memphis street were so appalled by the uproar and confusion of civilization that they went back to the auditorium where the circus was being featured and nervously welcomed recapture.

You can tell now when an Akron, Ohio, school girl feels a romantic attachment toward a certain swain. She wears a dog collar around an ankle.

After playing “The Star Spangled Banner,” Sarah Hagerty, San Francisco teacher, asked her first-grade class to identify it. A student in the back piped up: “I know—that’s the song they play Friday on TV before the fights.”

Fitchburg, Mass., police announced that henceforth people suspected of inebriated driving would be required to say: “Around the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran.”

Sign in a Cleveland theater: “Free candy bars to all children leaving before 6 p.m.”

Telling her grade school class about George Washington, Mrs. Johnnie Hamilton, Post, Tex., asked, “If you had cut down the cherry tree, what would you have said?” The voice of a little boy boomed out, “Timber-r-r-r!”

The radio program, “Gangbusters,” was banned from the Stillwater State Prison in St. Paul because the prisoners didn’t like it. The warden explained, “They hate to see the gangsters get caught or shot.”

St Louis University announced a course in the problems of space travel.

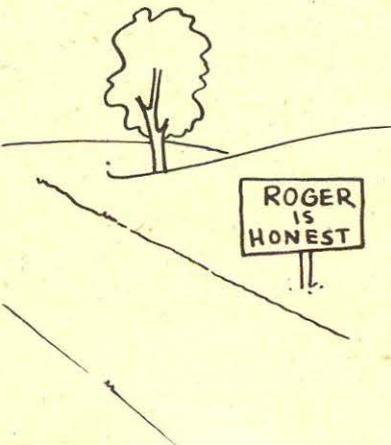
When Ozzie, the ostrich in the Chester, England, zoo, was not feeling well, the army was called in with a mine detector and a cage padlock was removed from Ozzie’s stomach.

Figuring there’s exciting times ahead, a typewriter company has added an “!” key to the standard model.

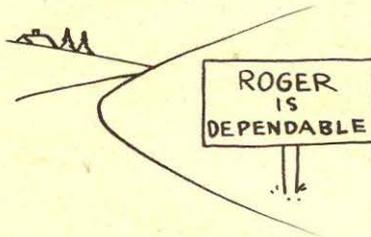
St. Louis civil defense officials were set up to record the wail of an air raid siren, but they didn’t get the sound on record. The siren made so much racket the testers had to put their fingers in their ears and nobody was able to switch on the recorder.

A Memphis family had so many relatives constantly dropping in to visit that it finally had to stick a “No Vacancy” sign on its trailer home.

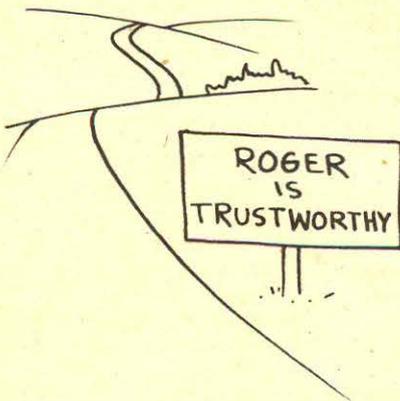
1.



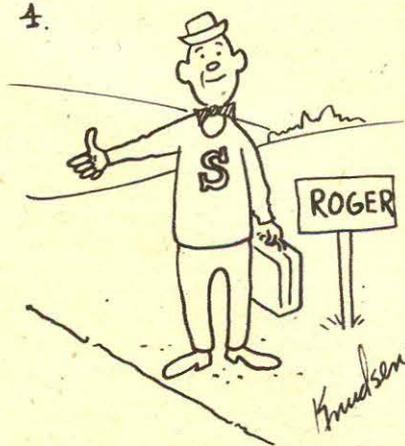
2.



3.



4.



the application by astronomers of classical names to Martian geographical features.)

Despite this evidence there are other objections to the existence of high-level life on Mars. They are based principally on the fact that Mars has a very scanty atmosphere containing very little oxygen, and very little water.

Probably the Martian atmosphere contains less than one-thousandth the oxygen as ours, and one-hundredth the water vapor. The density of the atmosphere at ground level is about the same as that on Earth *six miles above the peak of Mt. Everest!*

Admittedly, humans could not exist for an instant under such conditions. But does this necessarily mean that some other form of high-level life absolutely could not?

Let us examine what we know about life on Earth. All Earth life originated in the sea, and to this day the sea harbors more life and more forms of life than the land ever did, ranging from the giant whales and squid to the tiniest protozoa. The sea contains very little free oxygen in proportion to the atmosphere. Yet fishes of high complexity have developed special breathing apparatus which enable them to extract oxygen from the water and conserve it for future use; many are equipped with oxygen bladders which, when cut open, are found to be full of almost pure oxygen.

If fish could develop this capacity over millions of years, why couldn't the Martians who live in an oxygen-scarce atmosphere?

The sea also offers the most amazing contrasts in pressure. At the surface, a man can swim in it without discomfort. But at a depth of one mile the pressure is one ton per square inch, and it increases at the rate of about one ton per mile of descent until a pressure of seven tons per square inch is attained at the greatest depths. Creatures dredged up from the ocean bottoms literally explode from internal pressure before they reach the surface, yet life still teems at all levels.

Life, as a matter of fact, seems to survive and develop almost everywhere, even though the most rigorous conditions prevail; the main deterrent seeming to be merely a shortage of food. And the proof is overwhelming that there is plenty of vegetation for food on Mars.

Many Earth animals—such as the iguana lizards—can get along on very little water. Is there any reason to believe that Martian high-level creatures—acclimated for

thousands of generations to conditions of extreme aridity—cannot do the same?

Finally, a very important point is that many astronomers believe the typical reddish color of Mars is due to the fixation of atmospheric oxygen in the soil. If this is the case, Nature would find a way for Martian creatures to extract and use it. Life is the most adaptable phenomenon in the universe.

IT therefore seems probable to many that highly developed life exists on Mars today. It may even be viewing nearby Earth—with its plentiful supplies of both oxygen and water—with a view to conquest. What form is this life most likely to take? What, in other words, does a Martian look like?

We are not speaking now of the lower forms of life conceded to exist there, but only of the "ruling intelligences."

In the first place, gravity would have little limiting effect on their size as compared with Earth creatures. It is significant that the largest Earth creatures—the present whales and the prehistoric brontosaurus—were water-dwellers; out of the water they would be helpless due to their own weight. Compared to them, the three-ton elephants are pygmies.

Mars has a gravity only .38 that of Earth. A person weighing 150 pounds here would weigh only 57 pounds there. So Martians might be assumed to be considerably larger than Earth creatures with comparable characteristics.

Their bone structure would also be much frailer by comparison. They would not need the heavy bones (consider the elephant, for example!) to support their weight.

This does not mean that the most highly developed Martians would be gigantic. Nature tends to favor efficiency over size; the largest creatures here have either died out or are in process of dying out. One reason is that muscular efficiency becomes less, proportionately, after a certain size is passed. On Earth, man is far more agile and powerful, pound for pound, than the elephant.

Probably the maximum size for peak mammalian efficiency on Mars would be in the neighborhood of ten to fifteen feet tall.

Because there seems to be some factor limiting the size of invertebrates—such as insects—and also, naturally, the size of their braincases, the ruling species on Mars would undoubtedly be vertebrate like ourselves and not insect, as some have speculated. Martian in-

sects, however, are probably considerably larger and possess more brain cells than comparable species here.

The Martians would unquestionably be four-limbed, again like ourselves. There is a profound reason for this. The most efficient manner of supporting a weight and also providing means of locomotion is on four legs, one at each corner. All our mammals evolved in this way. A few progressed further, and developed means of supporting themselves on one pair of limbs alone—a very involved balancing and structural process, incidentally. By freeing one pair of limbs to pick up and manipulate objects, they increased their ability to learn, and consequently the size of their brains. We are the outstanding species to do this.

Conversely dogs—members of the same *phylum* as ourselves—concentrated on learning through developing their sense of smell while keeping all four feet on the ground. Though they learn much more through their noses than we do through ours, their field of information is much more limited, they manipulate objects very poorly by comparison, and hence their sum total of information is far less varied while their brains have developed largely in one direction.

Due to the shortage of oxygen, the Martians either have enormous chests or breathe with extreme rapidity. The former is more likely; inertia of the organic structures themselves prevent large mammals from breathing—or making any other movements—as rapidly as do small ones.

Because of the thinness of the atmosphere, which transmits sound poorly, the Martians might be expected to have very large ears, perhaps of bowl-shape and movable on ball-and-socket joints.

They would not have tentacles, as many science-fiction writers assume. Tentacles are developed by relatively boneless and cartilaginous invertebrates, such as squid, that live in a buoyant environment such as water. How many bones in the Martians' limbs, however, or in their feet and hands is a matter of sheer guesswork, although more than two to a limb are mechanically superfluous while a four-fingered hand with many bones in each finger and all the fingers opposed is a much more efficient and delicate arrangement than our "opposed thumb" setup.

Due to the fact that their skeleton is internal, they would not be armored, like the insects, since the weight of both an internal skeleton

and external armor would be too great a handicap. They would probably have a very heavily furred skin as a protection against cold and an insulation against warmth. The skin itself would be almost if not entirely poreless to conserve internal moisture.

WITH these factors in mind, now let's take a look at our Martian.

He is a huge biped, standing ten or fifteen feet tall and covered with fur from head to toe. As we speak to him, his ears swivel attentively in our direction like furry membranous bowls. His limbs are pipe-stem thin, almost spidery, while his abdominal area is equally slender, due to the fact that his metabolism is at a very high level of efficiency and his water content is much less than ours. Only his chest and braincase are truly gigantic—enor-

mous to the point of grotesqueness.

As he examines things we show him—perhaps the mechanism of a watch—his long, multiboned fingers writhe like slim serpents.

His mouth is little more than a tiny orifice in the center of his furry face. He has no teeth or lower jaw; he has lost the need for them millions of years ago. His breathing orifice, too, is only an opening, set flush in his face and protected against the Martian sandstorms by a furry valve that opens and shuts as he breathes. Lacking enemies on his own planet, he has no need for a long snout like a dog or a wolf.

But it is his eyes that are strangest. They project on stalklike antennae at least six inches from the sides of his head and he can turn them in any direction, which gives him spherical visibility at all times. They too are provided with furry lids.

Despite his size, he is not formidable physically by our standards. On Earth, he weighs no more than 75 pounds; he is mostly brain, skeleton, protective coating and lungs.

It is his brain—developed over millions of years during which our ancestors were still swinging in trees and acquiring opposable thumbs—that make him formidable. It is his brain that has conquered his own planet and may yet conquer ours.

This, then, is a reasonably accurate estimate as to what a Martian looks like, according to many astronomers and biologists. In many ways he is grotesque by comparison to Earthmen, but the resemblances are far greater than the differences.

Study of the Martian canal system and perhaps the phenomenon of the flying saucers indicate that he has a highly developed civilization and a science superior to our own. Perhaps our wisest course would be to attempt to contact him as a potential friend and not as a potential enemy because he might whip the daylights out of us before we even got started!

THE END



"Pardon me, sir—I'm a psychiatrist! What seems to be your trouble?"

FACTS ABOUT THE NEW PROSTATE CANCER CURE

(Continued from page 15)

prostate cancer begins more than a decade ago. Then a relatively youthful graduate of Harvard Medical School (he is now fifty-one), he decided to concentrate on cancer as his life work; particularly cancer that seemed to be stimulated by sex-hormone production.

He was fully aware of the close association between the endocrine glands—including the pituitary and the adrenals as well as the gonads—on growth, the development of sex characteristics, and various forms of cancer—including breast cancer in women and prostate cancer in men.

The prostate has rightly been dubbed a "mysterious gland." It is