

THE NEXT CHOICE

The Martian Chronicles

BY RAY BRADBURY

Ray Bradbury is the author of "The Martian Chronicles," the next Club Choice.

Rupert Hart Davis (under the title *The Silver Locusts*) 12/6
Science Fiction Book Club 6/-
for May/June

BUILD THE CLUB

Our numbers are comparatively small but every day sees an increase. Obviously the bigger the Club the greater the benefit to members, whom we ask to pass the word of the Club's existence on to their friends. There is an enrolment form accompanying *Earth Abides*—why not make a member!

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

Many thousands of people have been thrilled by the astronomical paintings of Chesley Bonestell in his books *The Conquest of Space* and *Across the Space Frontier*. They have a breath-taking photographic realism that lingers in the memory. But imagine the Bonestell paintings *animated*! This is what cinema goers will enjoy in an astronomical sequence at the beginning of the new Paramount film version of H. G. Wells's classic *The War of the Worlds*, shortly to be seen in this country. It is a "must" for science fiction fans.

DETAIL

"The Science Fiction Book Club" is a registered business name (proprietors: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd.).

Selection Committee: Arthur C. Clarke; Dr. J. G. Porter; Edwards Shanks; E. J. Cornell.

Science Fiction News is edited by Herbert Jones and published by the Science Fiction Book Club for distribution to its members.

Accounts and Distribution: Dunhams Lane, Letchworth, Herts.

Membership of The Science Fiction Book Club can be arranged at any bookshop. Enrolment Forms obtainable from: 44 Museum Street, London, W.C.1.

Printed by The Ferndale Book Co. Ltd., London, Worcester and Ferndale



No. 1. Vol. 1. March/April, 1953

Club Away!

"Why not a Science Fiction Book Club?" This question, posed a few short months ago at a gathering of enthusiasts, finds its answer in the volume you now have in your hands.

It is quite certain that members of the Club will be asked "What is science fiction all about?" and the following notes may be found helpful.

Under various other names "science fiction" has been with us almost as long as the written word. It became more popular towards the end of the 19th century with the "scientific romances" of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, and from 1898, when Mr. Wells wrote *The War of the Worlds*, until 1930 it was called "prophetic fiction", "pseudo-scientific fiction", and just plain "fantasy".

The present expression can be traced to an enterprising American publisher, radio engineer and inventor, Hugo Gernsback, who, in 1929 pioneered several magazines devoted entirely to stories of scientific romance, with the emphasis on "scientific", and "romance" practically negligible. Seeking a name which would be more identifiable with the ideas he had in mind, he coined the portmanteau word "scientifiction", which was gradually displaced by "science fiction".

Reviewing current science fiction novels recently in the *Observer* Angus Wilson writes . . . "it offers more vitality, a more expanding prospect, than any other branch of fiction to-day. By taking the guess-work fringe of modern knowledge into the foreseeable and unforeseeable future it has liberated Fantasy and the Imagination, the most serious casualties of the stifling breath of middle-brow realism, and