

It happens that the next three Club books are entirely by British authors. F. G. Rayer hails from the west country, Andrew Marvell is the pen-name of a Welsh writer, and every story in *No Place Like Earth* (we had to have an anthology sooner or later in the Club) is by an English author.

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Each day brings new members but many more are needed to establish the Club firmly. We ask every member to help build the Club—please use the new enrolment leaflet enclosed with this issue. As we have said before—the bigger the Club the greater the benefits to members. A larger membership may enable us to improve the quality of production and perhaps reduce the price.

The greatest opportunity to make new members occurs with those people who have never read science fiction before. We have persuaded people to read one science fiction book and they have thanked us for the introduction to the subject and asked for more. *Verb sap.*

Now, an appreciation by Arthur Clarke (fresh back from the U.S.A.) of the July—August choice.

## Last and First Men

BY OLAF STAPLEDON

(Methuen, S.F.B.C. 6/-)

### Arthur C. Clarke writes:

*Last and First Men* is probably the greatest work of imaginative fiction ever written. When it appeared in 1930, nothing like it had ever before been attempted—and it is still unique. It describes the story of humanity from our own species (First Men) to a point some 2,000,000,000 years hence, when

item was the first science-fiction Ballet, *First Man on Mars* arranged by Bert Campbell to the music of *The Dance Macabre*.

In an earlier session Leslie Flood, Secretary of the International Fantasy Award Fund, announced that Clifford Simak had won this year's fiction award with *City*. Runner-up was Cyril Kornbluth's *Take-off* and third place was taken by Kurt Vonnegut's *Player Piano*. The non-fiction award went to Willy Ley and Sprague de Camp for *Lands Beyond*.

There were many clever sketches staged in the Main Hall of the Convention which included a *Mad Scientist* act by Bert Campbell and author Brian Berry, and a spaceship play written by two science-fiction readers.

Another part of the Convention which always causes a tremendous amount of interest are the display stands. With such imaginative wrappers and excellent art work, there was any amount of scope for the artistic display man; many of the stands showed that a great deal of thought and work had gone into the presentation of the more serious side to science-fiction.

### OPERATION FANTAST

We have just received a copy of Operation Fantast Handbook 1953. In 64 closely typed pages Capt. Kenneth Slater and his private army of "operators" have packed everything that SF fans want to know. Not only Who's Who but What's What as well. Miss Mavis Pickles, 41 Compton Street, Dudley Hill, Bradford, Yorks, will tell you if there are still copies available and about other Operation Fantast publications.

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### ACCOUNTS ADDRESS

All remittances and enquiries regarding accounts should be addressed to SFBC Accounts Department, Dunhams Lane, Letchworth, Herts. Always quote your membership number.