

Marvell's exciting novel the newspapers are chary of playing with unexplained stories, for the time is a few decades hence and England is in the grip of a highly efficient, ruthless anti-semitic dictatorship. The story, however, falls into the hands of an out-of-work journalist and is not conveniently dropped. It is tempting to give some indication of what follows, but to do so would be quite unfair to the reader, for the most striking feature of Mr. Marvell's writing is his extraordinary power of suspense. There is no moment, I think, at which one is not straining to know what will happen next and what happens has the provoking quality of being as unexpected as it is logical. *MINIMUM MAN* has all the qualities of good science fiction—brilliant narrative, imaginative skill in dealing with its scientific themes of asexual reproduction and telepathy, and disturbing political speculation. It has, in addition, two qualities less common to the genre, good writing and humour.

S.F.B.C. COMPETITION

"My Favourite Science Fiction Novel"

SINCE the Club was started many members have written to tell us *what* they like but few have told us *why*.

Here is *your* chance to turn critic. Whether you prefer the pure escapist adventure stories of a Van Vogt, the poetic fantasy of Ray Bradbury, the philosophical imagination of Olaf Stapledon or science fiction like John Wyndham's which has this earth for its setting—there must be one book in particular which has left a lasting impression with you.

Members are invited to write not more than 300 words on "My Favourite Science Fiction Novel".

A prize of Three Guineas will be awarded for the entry which is the best in the opinion of the Editor, whose decision is final. Closing date—January 18th, 1954. Send your entry to: Competition, SFBC, 44 Museum Street, London, W.C.1.

BUILD THE CLUB!

Make a new member and get a Free Gift Book for yourself.

We have often, in *Science Fiction News*, asked members to pass on to a friend the Club Enrolment leaflet and a number of new members have joined the Club as a result of this voluntary service.

Now we feel that members should receive some tangible acknowledgment of their efforts. To every member who from now on enrolls a new member we offer a Gift Book, to be chosen from any of the books listed below—all by first-class science fiction writers.

Enclosed with the current Club choice is a copy of the Club Enrolment leaflet. All you have to do is hand this to a friend who you think would like to join the Club and ask him to complete it, mentioning your name and Club number. On receipt of the completed enrolment form you will be advised and you can then choose your book.

Here is a chance for members to help themselves and to help the Club grow at the same time.

These are the books offered free to members who obtain a new member for the Club.

By Arthur C. Clarke

THE SANDS OF MARS
ISLANDS IN THE SKY
PRELUDE TO SPACE

By Robert Heinlein

THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON

By Alfred Bester

THE DEMOLISHED MAN

By Judith Merril

SHADOW ON THE HEARTH

Previous selections of the Club can also be chosen if copies are still available.