

address. Remember the offer of a free book for obtaining new members, details of which appeared in *SF News* No. 5, still applies.

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John Carnell, whose anthology *No Place Like Earth* is now in members' hands, has a more extensive knowledge of science fiction than anyone we know, and as an editor, publisher and above all *fan*, he is snpreremely qualified to undertake the task of selection, as we think the present volume will prove. F. G. Rayer (author of *Tomorrow Sometimes Comes*) comments below.

## NO PLACE LIKE EARTH

Edited by JOHN CARNELL

(T. V. Boardman, 10/6. SFBC 6/-)

F. G. Rayer writes:

NO PLACE LIKE EARTH contains excellent short and not-so-short science-fiction stories of widely-varied type. Here is surely something to suit all tastes—something to interest all. Or dare one go farther, and say that *most* of the stories will be liked by *most* readers? I think so.

The title piece concerns a man, Bert, who is a travelling tinker on Mars. Earth has been destroyed by an explosion of unknown origin. There is no going home . . . This story is a deep character-study, detailed and convincing. There is a good plot—as with the other stories, where unexpected endings arise in unanticipated ways. *Breaking Strain* is unusual and gripping in its development. One of two men in a ship with failing oxygen supply must die so that the other may live to be saved. The situation is full of suspense: the final decision noteworthy. Of endings, that of the third story, *Survival*, must gain a high place among these or any stories, whether S.F. or not. When a spaceship cannot land

## FOR WILLY LEY FANS

Members may recall reading in *SF News* No. 3, that the International Fantasy Non-Fiction Award for 1953 went to Willy Ley and L. Sprague de Camp for their book *Lands Beyond*.

*Lands Beyond* is a sort of geography of those lands of the imagination which figured in the tall tales of travellers and poets—the equivalent of our modern science fiction, perhaps. Some, like lost Atlantis and never-found El Dorado, remained beyond the horizon, but some of them turned out to be rather disappointing facts. The first and most famous of the lands was Atlantis, which Plato described as having disappeared nine thousand years before he wrote about it. Since the Greeks knew the world immediately about them, Atlantis lay to the west, outside the Pillars of Hercules. But by the time of the Roman Empire, people knew all the Mediterranean geography and that of Western Europe, so that the unknown lands moved to the East. Here dwelt the men with heads beneath their shoulders rather than the giants of the earlier stories with one eye in the middle of their foreheads. While modern man has settled for people with the normal number of eyes and location of head, superstitions and beliefs have carried over amazingly into the modern world.

Willy Ley also contributes to *The Complete Book of Outer Space*, a digest covering every aspect of space travel with contributions from all the leading experts.

Arrangements have been made by Sidgwick and Jackson to publish both these books in England early in March.

## DIAMOND COUNTRY

The Pub of the Universe has shifted on its axis from E.C.4 to E.C.1—from the White Horse in Fetter Lane, across Holborn to premises (licensed) vastly more appropriately named The Globe, in Hatton Garden—a minute from Gamage's.

Here, every Thursday evening, a number of science fiction enthusiasts meet under the friendly eye of landlord Mr. Lou Mordecai. If you live in London and feel like spending a pleasant hour with people who share your sf interest—drop in and introduce yourself.