

THE NEXT CHOICE

The Voyage of the Space Beagle

By A. E. VAN VOGT
(Grayson & Grayson 8/6; SFBC 6/-)
for May/June 1954

PAST CHOICES

We have some copies to spare of earlier choices of the Club

EARTH ABIDES by GEORGE R. STEWART
THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES by RAY BRADBURY
LAST AND FIRST MEN by OLAF STAPLEDON
TOMORROW SOMETIMES COMES by F. F. RAYER
MINIMUM MAN by ANDREW MARVELL
NO PLACE LIKE EARTH edited by JOHN CARNELL

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DETAIL

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WHO READS SCIENCE FICTION ... AND WHY?

Science fiction is read without doubt by "all sorts and conditions of men"—and women. We are not an odd group standing aloof from the main stream of life; on the contrary we are very much a part of it. We don't know if there are any tinkers left in the country but we have members who are tailors, and soldiers and sailors, not to mention airmen, doctors, lawyers, engineers, actors, a distinguished historian, a BBC compere and the man who supplies the paper on which the Club books are printed. And the fellow next door.

Why they read it is not so easy to decide, but in a recent article in the house journal of a well-known wholesale book-seller Arthur Clarke wrote as follows:

"Science-fiction is often called escapist: this is true only in so far as all fiction is escapist. While not claiming that the authors of *Slaves of the Slug-Men* or *Pirates of Pluto* had any higher aims than the amusement of their somewhat juvenile audiences, much of the best contemporary science-fiction is the very reverse of escapist.

"It concerns some of the problems of the present and the immediate future: it deals with situations which have a nigh