

include Bradbury's books among science fiction at all, and those literary snobs who say that his is the only type of science fiction they can understand. We think that a writer with the quality and conviction of Bradbury can persuade us to suspend our disbelief. For there is in his writing a message for our times and an interest in the human situation which are more important than the lapses from strict scientific possibility in his "background." Which only proves that you cannot fit every writer into a neat category. But in general we agree with Patrick Moore that fantasy provides many traps for the unwary, and only those with the imagination of a Ray Bradbury can hope to get away with it today. Farewell the BEMS, the Martian maidens, and the silver men!

Mr. Moore finally argued that it is the increasing possibility of space flight since the war which offers the most rewarding material for the writer, and that popular interest in science fiction will surely increase as the age of space travel draws nearer to our own lifetime.

THE NEXT CHOICE

No collection of contemporary science fiction would be complete without an example of Arthur Clarke's writing. He is among the acknowledged masters, both here and in the States, and we are pleased to announce as our next choice one of his most recent novels, *CHILDHOOD'S END*. It is not intended to attempt here a synopsis of the plot, nor to quote at length from the very many favourable reviews it received on publication last year. The magazine *Authentic Science Fiction* considers *CHILDHOOD'S END* "a major contribution to science fiction"—we shall leave readers to make up their own minds on this unusual and imaginative story.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

We should like to bring the following Clubs to the notice of readers :

North-East Science-Fiction Society

Founded in March, 1954, for residents in Northumberland and Durham. Its aims are to encourage a greater interest and discrimination in the reading of science fiction by means of lectures and discussions on all aspects of the subject. The Society has an extensive and rapidly growing library of good science fiction books and magazines, including American magazines and pocket books not normally obtainable in England. Meetings once monthly. Subscription 2/6 per year. Further information from the Secretary, Mr. Alan Burns, Goldspink House, 6 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2.

Cheltenham Science-Fiction Circle

This recently formed group invites all local members of the Science Fiction Book Club to come along to one of its Thursday meetings which take place each week in the Lounge Bar of the UMBRELLA INN, Hesters Way, Cheltenham, from 7.30 onwards. The facilities which the Circle offers include trading and exchange of American magazines and books. There are no set subscriptions and all the meetings are informal. Further information from the Secretary, Mr. Eric Jones, 44 Barthridge Road, Hesters Way, Cheltenham.

The Rand Science Fiction Club

Formed about six months ago, this is probably the very first group of its kind in South Africa, and would like to hear from any science fiction readers over there who are interested. It is building up a library, and is about to release the first fan magazine in this part of the world, written entirely by its members. Our very best wishes for the success of this new venture! It is hoped to find a permanent home for the Club shortly, meanwhile further information from Mr. Morris Freeman, 61 Kinauns Street, Sydenham, Johannesburg.

If any other science fiction clubs care to send us information about their activities we shall be glad to pass it on to members of the SFBC.