

those who want yesterday's news the papers are good enough but if you want the news about the day after tomorrow, if you are a little impatient of humanity's slow slow and want a little quick quick, then you must look elsewhere. And where else but to sf? Try this one on your friends sometime.

### A Competition—

## "THE WORLD OF 1984"

When George Orwell's novel "1984" was first published in 1949 it was the literary sensation of its season. Harold Nicolson in the *Observer* described how Orwell "set out to write a cautionary tale, by which to convince us of the terrible results which will follow if through inattention we allow our humanistic heritage to be submerged in a flood of materialism." He found the book impressive but not convincing. V. S. Pritchett in the *New Statesman*, on the other hand, wrote "1984 is a book that goes through the reader like an east wind, cracking the skin, opening the sores; hope has died in Mr. Orwell's wintry mind, and only pain is known. I do not think I have ever read a novel more frightening and depressing." And yet such are the originality, the suspense, the speed of writing and withering indignation, that it is impossible to put the book down. The faults of Orwell as a writer—monotony, mugging the lonely schoolboy shuffling down the one dispiriting track, are transformed now he rises to a large subject. He is the most devastating pamphleteer alive."

The book presumably sold well and eventually appeared as a Penguin.

It received little attention after that until a television version got on the front pages of some newspapers whose readers found it "shocking." Recently it has been made into a film. Thus, one way or another, a lot of people have heard of Orwell's work.

"1984" has often been classified as science fiction, but mostly by people outside sf circles, or so it seems to us. What do members think?

We offer a first prize of three guineas, and two book prizes,

for your thoughts on George Orwell's novel "1984." No limit on length.

Julian Symons, the well-known writer, who was an intimate friend of George Orwell during his later years, has very kindly agreed to judge and report on the entries. His report, and the winning entry, will be printed in September/October SF News.

Pens and paper out! Send your entry before September 1st, to The Editor, SF News, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, W.C.1.

### Back Numbers

Soon, and at least two early Club titles are fetching a good second-hand price, soon our smallish stock of club books will have run out. If there are any gaps you would like to make good, better write to Letchworth.

### Another Love

As if we weren't bringing enough hyper-tension into our life running one book club, we go and start another. And on what subject? We know it will sound mad but to those in the know it will be no surprise—it's Jazz! The Jazz Book Club, that's us, from Congo to Festival Hall. If you are interested a postcard to HJ at Number One Tavistock will bring full details.

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## THE NEXT CHOICE ALIEN DUST

by E. C. Tubb

(*T. V. Boardman, 9s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.*)

For July/August.

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