

## GUESS WHO AND WHERE

A ——— asked : "What was the deposit, in milli-cures a square mile, of the isotope strontium 90 before the first major thermo-nuclear tests we started two years ago ; what was the deposit now and what he estimated the deposit would be in 1964."

B ——— replied : "Before the first major test it was two millicures a square mile. The present deposit was 14 milli-cures a square mile. It was expected that thermo-nuclear tests carried out up to June, 1956, would increase the total deposit to 45 milli-cures a square mile by about 1965."

"A" is Mr. Mikardo, the Labour member for Reading and "B" is Secretary of State for Home Affairs Major Lloyd-George. The place the House of Commons July 18th, 1956, the last you would look for a theme for your short story.

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### DETAIL

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# SCIENCE FICTION NEWS



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## A reason for living

Time, the raw material of many an sf story, is the oddest of all methods of measuring, in as much as while time is all the same, no matter how thin you slice it, different units or sub-divisions are applied to different things as if they had some significance. One speaks of day old chicks (the kind that, eventually, lay eggs we mean), but tortoises think in terms of centuries. Humans stick, conservatively, to the year as a unit for measuring the passing of time. And for celebrating, too, which is most important, taking, arbitrarily, certain numbers, such as twenty-one . . . How's that again ? Twenty-one ? It happens that the current choice, *Alien Dust*, is the twenty-first volume to be issued by the Science Fiction Book Club and therefore an occasion to celebrate. And to give thanks. To the members whose interest and loyalty have brought us this far.

The next three books, details of which are given on page three, demonstrate the fact that science fiction has a wealth of material to offer—a store that is constantly being enriched. The Club too, is very much alive—our correspondence with members, old and new, is proof enough. Our numbers grow and we want more. Will you pass the enrolment form enclosed to a friend ? We would remind you that the offer of a free book for making a member still holds.