

Speaking of Anniversaries, we take this opportunity of congratulating the sf magazine *New Worlds* on the publication of its 50th Number. The best of luck for the future to its editor (and our editorial colleague) John Carnell.

\* \* \*

Readers of that other science fiction magazine "Astounding" will know well the name of John W. Campbell, Jr., its energetic editor. In an article in the *American Saturday Review*, Mr. Campbell, answering an attack on sf writing, gives an account of a story by Cleve Cartmill he published in his magazine in May 1944—fifteen months before Hiroshima! Entitled "Deadline" the story described the arming mechanism of the atomic bomb more accurately than anything published until the Greenglass spy-trial disclosures. It stated that U-235 could be used as a bomb, producing the equivalent to 50,000 tons of TNT. That exact figure matched perfectly the performance of the Nagasaki bomb and slightly exceeded the performance of the Hiroshima bomb. The story contained a description of an atomic bomb explosion; the one item the author missed was the mushroom cloud effect, that, while visibly spectacular, does not cause damage which was what the author was concerned with. It was, in other words, a prophetic story and Campbell suggests that sf writing must be judged on these lines. (Though not always, we would say.)

\* \* \*

To complete a trilogy of editors, the author of this month's book, ALIEN DUST, is E. C. Tubb, who recently took over the editorship of another flourishing British magazine, *Authentic Science Fiction*. ALIEN DUST is an individual account, unglamorized and remarkably convincing, of what man might really expect when he colonizes the Red Planet—not adventures with strange inhabitants or Bug-Eyed Monsters, but a long hard fight against the forces of nature, the supreme test of endurance and will.

\* \* \*

Response to the announcement of the George Orwell competition has been very disappointing. Why not read the last number of SF NEWS—that £3 could be yours! We have decided to extend the closing date for entries to November 1st.

---

S.F.B.C. Programme, Sept., 1956—Feb., 1957

*September/October, 1956*

## A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS

by Edgar Pangborn (Frederick Muller, 12s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.)  
In disguise, the Martians have long been amongst us, one section seeking to pervert humanity into self-destruction, the other benevolent. This is the theme of Edgar Pangborn's engrossing novel, which won the International Fantasy Award last year. "A Mirror for Observers" tells the story of the conflict mostly through the struggle for the control of the child genius Angelo, whose strange and tragic personality the author depicts in some of the most memorable writing ever contributed to the science fiction field.

*November/December, 1956*

## ONE IN THREE HUNDRED

by J. T. McIntosh (Museum Press, 10s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.)  
Earth is doomed and only those chosen to make the hazardous journey to Mars have any hope of survival. Mr. McIntosh makes a study of a typical small town, population 3,261, from which only ten are to be on the ships. This novel, which *The Star* called "entertaining and thoroughly adult," was runner-up in the International Fantasy Award.

*January/February, 1957*

## BEYOND THE BARRIERS OF SPACE AND TIME

edited by Judith Merril (Sidgwick & Jackson, 10s. 6d.; SFBC 5s. 6d.)

Judith Merril, who has made a special place with her own writing, now brings together 19 stories dealing with the phenomena known as the "psi powers"—ESP, hypnosis, pre-cognition, etc.—to make what Leslie Flood called "a volume of absorbing interest." Asimov, Bradbury, Furnas, Dick, Sheekley, Collier, Wyndham, are among the American and British authors represented.