

of the changes he foresees in the century ahead of us.

Among the younger science fiction writers, James Blish has already established an outstanding reputation. His long-short story *A Case of Conscience* was very widely admired when it appeared in Edmund Crispin's anthology *Best SF*. (Another of his books is *They Shall Have Stars*.)

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Earthman, Come Home, we are proud to point out, is Volume Number Thirty in the Science Fiction Book Club and with its publication in February next we shall have been in existence for five years. A lot has happened in those five years. *Sf* has been on the crest of the wave, experienced a slump and then up again, after some blows above and below the belt. In our opinion the prospect for science fiction for adults was never better—perhaps *clearer* is the word.

From our memories, from our current reading, from members' suggestions (the most encouraging side of this job) we build up our selection of books for the Club. When we consider what we have yet to do we become both excited and impatient to get on with it. And with your continued approval and support, we will.

DETAIL

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S F B C PROGRAMME

September 1957/February 1958

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THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

by John Mantley

(Michael Joseph, 12s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.)

Five human beings are kidnapped by an alien Intelligence Service. It interviews them 'somewhere in space' and presents each with a weapon 'a thousand times more powerful than the hydrogen bomb'; this weapon, it tells them, will become harmless after twenty-seven days. The five are then returned to Earth, each of them swearing to each other to keep the whole matter secret.

But the Intelligence Service which is testing them has other ideas. It arranges for the story of their adventure—and their names—to be broadcast. What happens then to the nice Englishwoman, the well-meaning scientist, the tragic Chinese peasant, the bewildered Russian soldier and the cheerful young American? How long can they hold out against the power-maniacs in every nation who see in the weapon a chance to make war and dominate the world?

To answer the question at this point would spoil a breathlessly exciting story. Enough to say that it is packed with dramatic incident.

November/December, 1957

FURTHER OUTLOOK

by W. Grey Walter

(Duckworth, 12s. 6d.; SFBC, 5s. 6d.)

The *Snowflake* is perhaps the most ingenious, convincing and magical vehicle yet dreamt of for time-space travel. The events which lead to its appearance in the 1960s, touching down on the rough heather of a Scottish moor, involve the lives of three people—Punch and Simon, scientist and engineer, and Paula,