

(4) Has an American newspaper suggested that there was an unnaturally high rate of sterility, miscarriages, and deformities among the families of men who had worked with a special searchlight unit employed in the Rhine crossing in the last war?

Alas, they are all true; (1), (2), and (4) are taken straight from one issue of *The Times*, and (3) is from the *Evening Standard*—same day. And this sort of thing could be done every day of the year; quite often though one could find extraordinary facts which were less depressing.

★ ★ ★

Wernher von Braun, well known to us old space lags, shot into the public eye when his rocket successfully launched a satellite into an orbit, just as he said he would.

★ ★ ★

The Little Matter of Eating

THERE is a saying: 'Never believe anything until you see it officially denied.' One could alter it to 'Never believe official announcements unless you are sure it's been tested by science fiction.' Once again a sf notion gets an official recognition in the form of a statement issued by the American National Geographic Society in Washington. The British United Press wire was quoted in the *Observer* recently under the heading: 'Food for Moon Travelers.'

'Men travelling to the moon may live on a tiny plant related to the green scum that forms on ponds, said the National Geographical Society in a statement issued in Washington. If scientific research on problems of growing the plant were successful, it might even help to meet the world's food shortage.'

'The Society said that the plant—known as chlorella—might be "harvested" from miniature "farms" inside rocket ships taking men to the moon or Mars. "The plant would absorb carbon dioxide breathed out by passengers, and would give off oxygen to purify the air as well as supplying food," it added. "The food, a green paste, tastes something

THE CURRENT CHOICE IS TIGER! TIGER!

by Alfred Bester

Sidgwick & Jackson 12s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d

THE MAY/JUNE CHOICE IS CHRISTMAS EVE

by C. M. Kornbluth

Michael Joseph 10s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d

like raw spinach. It is one of the richest foods known to man. Grown in the proper solution, a few ounces could supply almost all of a man's daily vitamin needs.'

We've already passed on to the next problem.

★ ★ ★

The Comedy Continues

SEEING the words 'general election' in a newspaper recently we reflected that all political partisans claim that human happiness will be increased only when they control the State. Bearing this in mind, and the 'anxiety and frustration' mentioned in item number (2) in our little quiz above, our thoughts went to the only utterly relaxed individual we have ever known. Born in Germany at the end of the last century he came to England as a young man, liked London, is more of a cockney than the natives; his interests are literary and he is better read than most of us. Made a British prisoner in the Kaiser's war, and, along with his wife and children, again in Hitler's, between wars he enjoys a position of privilege—he is stateless! A civil servant explained to him once, because he lacks papers, passport, and all the rest of it: 'You don't exist!' Our friend tells us: 'It is the only way to live!'

★ ★ ★