

the book trade weekly, the *Bookseller*. Looking back to the early nineteen-fifties, when sf publishing was having a boom (followed by a slump which is only now easing up), he thinks that the present slight revival comes when sf standards are higher than originally estimated. 'That,' he goes on 'is why I believe the revival is unlikely to go wrong. For sf—the secret is nearly as simple as this!—is a stimulant, not a soporific. It moralizes, it satirizes, it speculates, using the future alternately as cudgel, rapier, and smelling salts for our jaded present-day wits. Sf is on the up and up again for the obvious reason: you can't keep a good thing down.' Precisely.

S F B C PROGRAMME

September 1958/February 1959

September/October 1958

BEST SF TWO

Edited by Edmund Crispin

(Faber & Faber 15s; SFBC 5s 6d)

Edmund Crispin, most lively and most discriminating of editors, has selected a 300-page bookful of science fiction stories; and has garnished it with stimulating and provocative preface. Among the fourteen authors there are the big names—Asimov, Bradbury, Sturgeon, Clarke, Wyndham—but the editor has cast his net wider to bring in new English writers in this field, such as the bizarre Gerald Kersh and up and coming Brian Aldiss. Takes its place with the best science fiction anthologies.

November/December 1958

SCIENCE AND FICTION

by Patrick Moore, F.R.A.S.

(Harrap 10s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d)

Patrick Moore, astronomer, broadcaster, traces science fiction from its earliest beginning to the present day. He examines books, plays, films, and magazines, naming Lucian's *True History* (A.D. 150) as the first real science fiction story, followed by Johann Kepler's *Somnium* in 1634, and Godwin's *Man in the Moon* shortly afterwards. Verne and Wells, as is proper, are considered in separate chapters. The author asserts that the 'big-eyed monster' type of story acquired for science fiction the evil name that still clings and that the revival in well written science fiction dates from immediately after the last war. He examines juvenile books, magazines, and horror comics devoted to science fiction, and analyses and classifies the plots of their stories. Finally, he gives his views for thinking that science fiction is here to stay, and why he believes it can play a real part in spreading true knowledge and enriching literature. A book of value to every sf enthusiast.

January/February 1959

THE NAKED SUN

by Isaac Asimov

(Michael Joseph 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d)

On the planet Solaria live 20,000 humans, with a luxurious civilization based not on slaves but on countless robots. Each Solarian lives on his own vast estate—they do not 'see' one another, a perfect 'viewing' system has made physical presence unnecessary, and this ban extends even to husbands and wives, parents and children. How then was Rikaine Delmarre murdered—an act unheard of on Solaria