

which I would have liked to have included, and of course there are some excellent new stories which have appeared since the original Harrap edition came out. However, even if you disapprove of almost everything which I say, I hope that you will find at least some points of interest.

THE CURRENT CHOICE IS

### BEST SF TWO

Edited by Edmund Crispin

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

THE NEXT CHOICE IS

### SCIENCE AND FICTION

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

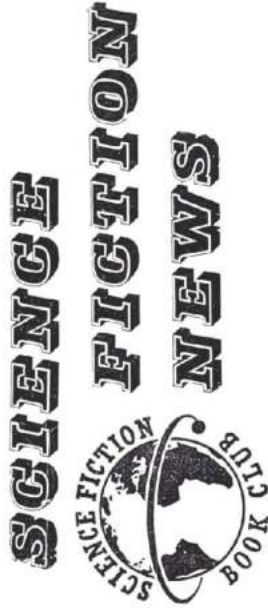
(Harrap 10s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d)

#### DETAIL

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## THE MISSING INGREDIENT

RECENTLY we read a review of a SF novel which condemned the work because there was 'no extrapolation.' And it is of course undisputed that extrapolation, the logical extension of present reality, must be there if writing is to qualify for the science fiction label, but the question could be asked: How much and when? Must the writer reveal it on the first page or on the last? Or anywhere in between? There are no sensible answers to such questions; merely to ask them puts the writer in chains. There are no unalterable rules, no secret formula for successful writing, SF or any other sort.

## WHAT IS SF?

MEMBER Donald Malcolm writes: I agree that it would take a book in which to develop a true definition of what SF is. But, to my mind, any SF story must be credible in that the projected future (if this is the case) background, framework, should be an extrapolation of the possible development of our present-day social structure.