

There still remain a few
copies of

THE NEON HALO

by Jean-Louis Curtis

at 7s 6d

Here are a few Press comments.

'M. Jean-Louis Curtis's five linked stories add up to a savage attack on current materialism. Vulgar publicity, artificial innateness, mass culture, eroticism and the welfare state have been carried, by the end of this century, to monstrous lengths. *The Neon Halo* is not, as the publishers remark, a book for the squeamish.' *The Times*.

'M. Curtis is a sufficiently shrewd observer of tendencies and trends in present-day western society to give his extensions of them both credibility and satirical bite... As he dips further and further into the future M. Curtis's visions become more sombre. The prophecies of the human and humane M. Laurent in section one: "... your scientists will end by killing evil. But they will have killed life with the same blow... you will know nothing of it because you will be spiritually dead, endowed with reflexes and accepted interpretations..."—are gradually all realized. But, however dark the encircling gloom, M. Curtis remains horribly plausible to the end. He has written an intelligent and disturbing commentary-by-inference on our own times.'

The Times Literary Supplement.

15s for 7s 6d—or you can get this book free if you enrol a new member in SFBC. The enrolment form is on the wrapper.

DETAIL

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SCIENCE



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A RUSSIAN UTOPIA

ONE thing the Russians seem to lack is vulgarity. Another and more serious lack is lightness of touch. A Russian sf novel, *Andromeda*, by Ivan Yefremov, has recently penetrated this office and given me much food for thought. Long, pompous, intolerably dull, crammed with scientific detail mainly delivered in unrealistic dialogue, naïve and totally lacking in humour of any kind, the book still proved hard to put down. For this is the future as the Russians see it; this is what the communist dream means.

Any novel about the future, of course, reflects the present, and part of the interest of sf is just this. As I have implied, the novel is not in itself exciting. It concerns two groups of people, one in a space-ship and one on earth, both groups wholly preoccupied with scientific and artistic problems. All the individuals are perfectly integrated into society, having become, intellectually and in every other way, the communist ideal of man personified. Heroic deeds had grown to countless numbers amongst the bold and energetic population of the planet. A tremendous capacity

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE

by James Bligh

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