

COMING IN OCTOBER—

ANOTHER BARGAIN OPTIONAL OFFER

JIZZLE by John Wyndham

(Dobson 13s 6d; SFBC 7s 6d)

Good Wyndhams, like good wines, need no bush. This collection of stories, in which fantasy preponderates over sf, is one that will please everybody.

Wyndham is one of the few, the very few, whose talent for thinking up a good yarn matches his ability to put it on paper; no cardboard backdrops and one-dimensional characters here. Most of these tales are set solidly in the life we know: the tube at rush hour, the photographer's, the office or home. It makes the unexpected seem all the more astonishing.

The characters are only occasionally eccentric, but they are always likable. Wyndham's style is deceptively simple, as it is with all really good short-story writers, and each story is tightly written, beautifully objectified and always entertaining. His touch is as light as a soufflé, his handling of human motives and relationships masterly. And over all his technical skill, his elegance, lies considerable imaginative power.

Make sure you get your copy by ordering from Letchworth NOW (stating membership number or source of supply).

Hizzle can be yours for nothing if you enrol a new member into SFBC.

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS THE CANOPY OF TIME

by Brian Aldiss

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

THE JULY CHOICE IS A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ

by Walter Miller

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson 16s; SFBC 5s 6d)

Many apologies for recent delays, which were (and still are) due to circumstances beyond our control—drat those Aliens, they get everywhere these days! We hope to be back to normal soon.—Editor.

OURSELVES AND 'VECTOR'

SFBC was discussed recently in *Vector*, the magazine of the British Science Fiction Association, and members who do not belong to this organization may be interested to know what was said of us.

The discussion started with a complaint that one of our forthcoming books, *Time out of Joint*, had previously been serialized in the magazine *New Worlds*. We countered this by saying that at the time this title was booked for the club—a long time in advance—there were not many good books to be had, and rather than give our members something decidedly inferior we preferred to risk the fact that some of our members might already have read at least part of this wonderful story. Indeed, we think that many members like to have such recent sf classics in permanent, readable form.

The editor of *Vector* had suggested that we should reprint more books *about* sf than *sf* itself, saying that since science fiction is such a wide field it could hardly be expected that readers should like all its varieties. Of our members who wrote in, two out of three supported us. These were the remarks made: that there were too many reprints of recent novels and not enough early ones; that we don't take members into our confidence (!); that a balance of one collection of short stories to every two novels was preferable.

Our change of policy from six books a year to nine, which took place just after these letters appeared in *Vector*, means that we hope to be able to fit in books to satisfy more tastes. The current programme—counted from this month—includes three recent novels, two recent books of short stories, and one long out of print novel. For the older novel problem: if *you* find it hard to get hold of books that have almost disappeared, so do we. Short stories: in general, we prefer to do more novels. But it often happens that we have to choose between putting a bad novel in the club or a really first-rate collection of yarns—and sometimes the stories are too brilliant to be ignored anyway. We don't think anyone will find any fault with the two collections currently in our list.

It's proverbial that, no matter how hard you try, you just can't please everyone. From past experience we gather that most of our members prefer science fiction to books about science fiction (though we have one in this category on the way), and novels to short stories; and those members particularly who are not within easy reach of bookshops or libraries which deal in sf are just as glad to get reprints of recent novels as they are to get old ones.