

SIX MONTHS AHEAD ...

WOLFBANE by Frederik Pohl and C. M. Kornbluth.

Gollancz 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 9d

THE Pyramids, machines that live but show no signs of life, have dragged the Earth from its orbit into chilly space. Masters of the earth, they dominate its shrinking population. And, divided into Sheep, living submissively by rote, and Wolves, who still remain competitive and antagonistic to their mysterious masters, the people of the Earth are afraid. But it is only when Glenn Tropic (part sheep, part wolf) gets 'translated', and manages as part of a supermachine with sixteen hands, to pit his strength against the Pyramids, that real fear and the fierce battle for freedom begin.

'There are enough plots and backgrounds in this novel to make a dozen more.' *Books and Bookmen*.

'Plenty of invention and pace throughout.' KINGSLEY AMIS.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

SINCE 1959 SFBC and its associate clubs have moved headquarters three times—much to the consternation of members who have tried to find us. But now, at last, we have found a permanent home at Aldine House, 10-13 Bedford Street, London, W.C.2, where, in the peculiarly Covent Garden atmosphere of best sellers and bananas, we have a handsome ground-floor showroom and a receptionist ready to show visitors our wide range of books. We welcome visitors, and hope that London members will drop in—Mondays to Fridays, 9-5.30—for a browse round.



Issued by the Science Fiction Book Club from 10-13 Bedford St, London, W.C.2 from whom details of membership can be obtained, and printed by the Aldine Press, Duham Lane, Letchworth, Hertfordshire

SCIENCE

FICTION NEWS



No. 53

September 1961

Selectors: Kingsley Amis, John Carnell, Dr J. G. Porter

TIME OUT OF JOINT

by Philip K. Dick

(J. B. Lippincott (U.S.A.) \$3.50; SFBC 5s 6d)

RAGLE GUMM appears to be living a normal enough life in a small American town; already middle-aged and still unmarried, he lives quietly with his sister, Margo, her husband, who works in a super-market, and her small son Sammy, always playing on the waste ground where his mother does not like him to go.

The only unusual thing about Ragle is that he earns his living by winning the same newspaper contest every day; a contest which consists of plotting Where the Little Green Man will be Next. His sole anxiety seems to be that one day his intuition will fail him and disqualification will follow, and the only complication in his life is that he and the wife of the man next door are attracted to each other.

But secretly Ragle is petrified. A great fear is nagging at him continuously, for he is uncertain whether or not he lives in the real world. Sometimes he sees the drug-stores, the people round him shatter into little pieces, leaving only scraps of paper with incomprehensible messages. Why hasn't he or any of the family ever heard of the famous star, Marilyn Monroe? Why does an old telephone directory found on the waste ground contain the words 'Ragle Gumm Inc.' and beside it eight different exchanges and numbers? How does Sammy manage to pick up mysterious messages from landing planes on his home-made crystal set? Is the man next door spying on them? How does Mrs Keitelbein, a faded widow who runs the local Civil Defence movement, fit into it all? Could his daily solution of the competition be vital to the community? Does the world by any chance centre round him or is it he who is crazy?

But when he tries to escape from the town and the fear, circumstances are stranger still—people seem to be tracking him