

down; in an ordinary house where he finds shelter, he finds his face on the cover of a magazine and on the television screen, and his conversations playing back to him on a tape recorder. Determined to rid himself of this nightmare, he enlists his brother-in-law's help, and between them they slowly discover the horrifying truth.

Time Out of Joint is aptly subtitled 'A novel of menace'. The author draws us with subtle ingenuity into the net of Gumm's bewildering world, leads us up to his denouement with ever-mounting tension and mystery, and with a jolt finally presents us with the solution. It is a terrifyingly possible one.

The perfect normality with which the growing menace is contrasted helps to make this tale a greater nightmare than the conventional stories of atomic war or flights into outer space usually produce. Mr Dick is full of original ideas and his pen never falters.

APOLGY

The past six months has not been easy, either for members or ourselves. Distribution difficulties have plagued our Leitchworth dispatch department, and at one time we were about two months behind. Inevitably many members complained—and with every reason—that our service had slumped from excellent to awful and demanded to know why. The explanation is that late deliveries by printers in the autumn of last year—followed by a complete breakdown of the accounting machinery—had got us into serious difficulties affecting all our six book clubs. When this was explained, members loyally accepted the explanation and we are grateful for their support and encouragement. At the time of writing things are only slightly improved, but we hope, soon, to be back to something like normal.

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS THE DRAGON IN THE SEA

by Frank Herbert

(*Gollancz 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d*)

THE OCTOBER CHOICE IS TIME OUT OF JOINT by Philip K. Dick

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

Never previously published in the U.K.

Next Month's *SF News* will be a Programme Number

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Postage Up 3d but SFBC Price is held

MANY members will be aware that after the 1959 dispute in the printing trade, it was agreed that the further examination of wages and hours should be made in 1961. This has now been done and it has been agreed that wages will be increased and hours reduced. Thus our printing and bookbinding costs will also increase.

Faced with this situation, we at SFBC have been very reluctant simply to pass on the extra costs by increasing our selling price, but it is impossible to avoid making some increased charges and, looking at the whole situation of SFBC costings, this is what we have decided to do:

For some years, indeed since the inception of SFBC, it has been the policy to charge members for the service of posting, packing and insuring their books at a rate rather below what it costs us. We subsidized this service for a simple reason: we did not want the charge of postage to be a disproportionate one in comparison with the selling price of our books. In the light of the new printers' award, however, we have decided that as far as possible the postal charges must now become more fully the responsibility of the members and we propose from next month to impose a charge of 1s for this service. The selling price of Science Fiction Book Club books will remain the same. By removing from our production department the extra load of subsidizing—sometimes to the tune of 3d or 4d—the cost incurred in cartoning and dispatching books, we are able to maintain a selling price which has been unchanged since the beginning of 1956.

We have hesitated long before making this decision; we have done all we could to avert it. But now we are committed and we are sure that members who have stood loyally by SFBC for so long will not resent paying an economic figure for a service which brings, nine times a year, a good book through their letterbox.

DON'T MISS THIS

DON'T miss October's outstanding optional offer—*Jizzle*—the pick of John Wyndham's short stories. Each tale is tightly written and invariably entertaining, and the author writes with a lightness of touch and a constant relish for the extraordinary situation. Order at once from Leitchworth.

Dobson 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d