

## READERS' LETTERS

'As for the news that from '62 there will be one issue per month, may I be permitted to voice my feelings in a very staid "Whoopie!!!" Congratulations and more power to your presses!' *B. R. Yorks.*

'Once again I would like to tell you how much I admire the choice of books which you are publishing. They are really so comprehensive and I look forward to each one with pleasurable anticipation. It's a pity that sometimes they are novels which have been serialized in the American *Analog* and *Galaxy*, but I don't really mind, as it's nice to have hard-cover books as well. . . . Many thanks for your continued good taste!'

*C. D. W. Southern Rhodesia.*

'Dear Sir/Madam/Extraterrestrial,

'Since I arrived on your planet several thousands of your Earth years ago, I have taken great pleasure in reading the various volumes (under the general title of "Science Fiction") in which Earth authors attempt to depict the life and scene on the other worlds which are found in the Universe and of which I have personal experience. I wish by means of this ("letter" I believe is the word) to express my congratulations to these men of vision at their ability to entertain not only myself (a being of reasonable intelligence) but also their fellow Terrestrials in a way which is peculiar to the writers of sf.

'Ever since I became a SFBC member I have wanted to express my amazement at how the Club is able to issue its books at such a low price and in such a permanent form. For those sf fans who have progressed from the *Galaxy*, *If* and *Amazing Science Fiction* volumes of the early 1950's (valuable though they were and still are in allowing publication facilities for new works by new sf authors), it must be (and in my case certainly is) a source of constant reassurance to know that a group of men are taking it upon themselves to provide this excellent service for them. My congratulations and thanks to the selectors for their good sense and to the SFBC for its service.

For many years I have been getting more and more frustrated at the way in which the Public Libraries seem to look upon sf as a type of undesirable germ, and I have great difficulty in finding new sf books on their shelves even in such a magnificent building as the Central Library in Manchester. The SFBC saved my sanity and long may it continue to issue its volumes.

*C. T. Manchester.*

We have received several letters from members praising our new wrapper design. We hope it is appreciated that the layout will be altered each month to match the book, as has been done with this month's title *Mutant*.

## SIX MONTHS AHEAD

### BEST SF FOUR by Edmund Crispin

'THIS is well up to the level of its predecessors, which is saying something. Of the stories in the Crispin collection the most memorable is Jerome Bixby's appalling fantasy about a village at the mercy of a three-year-old child, or child-like creature, with unlimited power over mind and matter—those with a taste for ingenuity will welcome A. J. Deutsch's notion of a subway network with infinite connectivity, as also Rog. Phillips's consulting-room (or is it spaceship?) confrontation of a psychiatrist and a hallucinated patient (or is it a hallucinated spaceman and a sane spaceman?).

'Daniel Keyes steers clear of sentimentality for nine-tenths of his sympathetic tale of a moron briefly transformed into a genius; Brain W. Aldiss wrings a new and convincing variation from the threadbare convention of thought-transference; J. T. McIntosh deals adequately with a sexual theme—which in this field is to be one man picked out of 10,000.' *KINGSLEY AMIS.*

All of you who have enjoyed earlier books in the Best SF series, will not be disappointed with Best SF 4; for there is little fault to find with Crispin's new choice from amongst the cream of sf. *(Faber 15s)*

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**MUTANT by Henry Kuttner**  
*(Weidenfeld & Nicolson 9s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d)*

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**TROUBLE WITH LICHEN**  
**by John Wyndham**  
*(Michael Joseph 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d)*

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