

bold, if startling, solution, which we leave you to assess for yourselves. We are sure you will agree on one count—that this book loses none of its excitement for being thoughtful.

'Pure science fiction all the way', yet also 'a serious novel.'
Analog. *Random House \$3.95; SFBC 5s 6d*

July

BEST SF 4. Edited by Edmund Crispin

Anyone who has enjoyed the previous books in the Best SF series will certainly not be disappointed by this one. Edmund Crispin had the best to choose from in the first place and he has chosen only the cream from among that number.

Daniel Keyes's *Flowers for Algernon* stands out—the story of a simpleton who is mentally stimulated into brilliance and then slowly slides back again into subnormality. This is a real collector's item and won the Hugo award in 1960's World SF Convention.

Kingsley Amis's comments on the whole collection included these: '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 collectivity . . . and Brian Aldiss wrings a new and convincing variation from the threadbare convention of thought transference. . . .'

'A superbly entertaining addition to the genre.' *Evening Standard.* *Faber 15s; SFBC 5s 6d*

August

SLAVE SHIP by Frederik Pohl

Certainly out of the run of the mill, this book deals not only with the ethical questions of using animals to help win a war against his own race—not just to carry men and supplies or as food, but as *communicating beings* which may one day replace a decimated man power—this book also gives us a glimpse into an almost possible and quite alarming future. In these times the cold war is no longer between Russia and America but between the United Nations and a new and devilish Oriental Power, the Caodais. When the book opens they have, it appears, added yet another deadly weapon to their range—the mysterious Glotch.

Miller, the hero, works in Project Mako, whose headquarters look at first sight like a normal dairy farm, but where in fact experiments in communicating with animals are already well under way. Miller is also a near victim of the Glotch. . . . But what happens when he sets off for enemy waters with a collie, a pack of seals and some chimps, you must wait to find out for yourselves.

'Thoroughly readable and many a true word spoken in jest.'
Analog. *Dobson 11s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d*

September

NEEDLE by Hal Clement

Fifteen-year-old Bob Kinnaird is sheltering a being from an alien planet; at first unknowingly; for Hunter is a symbiote, a jelly-like entity who depends for life on the existence of other organisms, whom it enters, using their food and oxygen and in return protecting them from various injuries and diseases. And Hunter is in pursuit of another symbiote named Killer, whom he believes to have been washed up on the same island's shores and to have entered one of the other inhabitants. The situation is severely complicated when the boy is sent to boarding school thousands of miles from home.

But the fun begins when boy and symbiote agree to work together to catch the criminal, for the whole island's population are suspect 'hosts', and Bob is never careful enough to disguise the fact that neither illness nor hurt affect him.

The end is truly thrilling, and the whole story is written with a convincing authoritativeness which sets one uneasily wondering what aliens one may be harbouring oneself even now.

'Mr Clement's is a rare talent, and the substance of the book is worth further exploration.' *The Times Literary Supplement.*

Gollancz 12s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d

October

GUARDIANS OF TIME by Poul Anderson

Manse Everard is the hero of all the four stories in the book, which are set within the same exciting context—the theory of time travel.

This great secret had been discovered by man 19,000 years in the future, and Manse, an inhabitant of the twentieth century, is chosen as one of the guardians of time—to be in fact a member of the Time Patrol, whose job is to see that no-one tampers with the past. Shuttling to and fro down the time corridors, Manse and his colleagues manage to involve themselves in some hair-raising adventures.

One assignment leads him into the Persia of Cyrus the Great, another into the court of King Hengist in England and the final episode to an entirely different twentieth century from the one Manse left, but in the grip of an international situation just as frightening as the one he knew of old.

The whole idea is fascinating, and Poul Anderson juggles with time in a splendidly ingenious and entertaining way. The four episodes are as varied in their historical period and plot as they are admirably alike in the extreme liveliness with which they are told.

'Eminently enjoyable reading.' *New Worlds Science Fiction.*

Gollancz 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 6d

APPEAL

Mr W. E. Stiles of 88 Chiltern St, Sunnyside, Brisbane, Australia, is very anxious to secure a copy of the sf edition of *Last and First Men*. Can any member oblige? Please write direct.

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY
by Arthur C. Clarke

(Gollancz 15s; SFBC 5s 6d)

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE IS
NEW MAPS OF HELL
by Kingsley Amis

(Gollancz 16s; SFBC 5s 6d)