

and *Last Men in London* is an outstanding novel, to be judged by the highest standards. It is a great pity that it should have been unobtainable for so long—we had real difficulty, in fact, in getting hold of even one copy to reproduce for this SFBC edition, but the success was worth the effort. It is impossible to do justice to Stapledon's work in any of the usual glib phrases of publishing; he was an innovator, a writer who helped to create a new dimension in literature, and his books are essential to any wide and serious collection of sf.

'Today we should welcome, and even study, every serious attempt to envisage the future of our race; not merely in order to grasp the very diverse and often tragic possibilities that confront us, but also that we may familiarize ourselves with the certainty that many of our most cherished ideals would seem puerile to more developed minds.' OLAF STAPLEDON.

*Methuen, o.p.; SFBC 5s 9d*

September

## **TIGER BY THE TAIL** by Alan E. Nourse

A terrifying journey across the scorching, bright side of the planet Mercury . . . a strange invasion from another dimension . . . a disastrous mining operation in the Venusian mud . . . a frightening training course for a future star-ship pilot . . . a whole nation thrown into panic by a cure for the common cold—this collection of stories abounds with original and lively ideas, used with the skill of a really notable writer. It proves once again that the form of sf can be as broad and as varied as any other literary convention, can contain excitement, suspense, reflection and humour, often in unexpected and extremely interesting ways.

'Mr Nourse's gimmick is to have the humans make the fatal error, mostly of scientific judgment. . . . However the unexpectedness of this excellent collection ensures that in three stories man at least holds his own against extra-terrestrial trickiness. . . . But Nourse is at his best in dealing with a tremendous exploratory task . . . which is full of that old sense of wonder.' *New Worlds Science Fiction*.

*Dobson 13s 6d; SFBC 5s 9d*

October

## **THE BEST FROM FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION—9th Series**

*Edited by Robert P. Mills*

A first-class collection of some of the best writing which first appeared in the well-known magazine of *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. The sixteen short stories here are each good enough to whet the appetite for more and more of their kind. Many famous authors are included: Robert Heinlein in 'All You Zombies' gives skilful and exciting proof of his mastery of the paradoxes of time travel; William Tenn in 'Eastward Ho' draws an amusing and biting picture of America recovering from an atomic war and dominated by Red Indians; Daniel Keyes's 'Flowers for Algernon' is the moving and entirely believable diary of a moron whose intelligence is increased tremendously by drugs, but only temporarily; Alfred Bester in 'The Pi Man' portrays a man, driven by inexplicable forces, to create patterns in his own life, in finance, in politics, even in love; Theodore Sturgeon's 'The Man Who Lost the Sea' is a sensitive and tragic study of the death of the first explorer on Mars. These are only some of the outstanding writers whose work helps to make this an exceptionally well-planned and satisfying book.

'An unusually varied and stimulating collection.' KINGSLEY AMIS, *Observer*.

*Gollancz 18s; SFBC 5s 9d*

This programme does vary from the list of forthcoming titles we have given in recent advertisements. We do apologize to members for the alterations, but they were unavoidable.

## **... and a new Optional Choice for October MEMOIRS OF A SPACEWOMAN**

*by Naomi Mitchison*

It is pleasant to be able to announce a double occasion: the first work of sf from an author who is already famous for her writing in other fields, and a welcome new addition to the number of SFBC optional titles. The world of sf has been very much a man's preserve until now, and it is extremely interesting to find new ground being broken by a novel written from a woman's point of view, by a woman whose life has been spent in a thoroughly scientific environment. (Mrs Mitchison belongs to the famous Haldane family.)

'... Mrs Mitchison's [novel] seems to me among the best-written and most intelligent sf produced here since the war,' wrote the *New Statesman* reviewer. 'Her spacewoman, an expert at establishing communication with new forms of intelligent life, becomes herself involved in the laws governing their existence, which Mrs Mitchison (not a Haldane for nothing) equates with their morality. She pities gentle beings which are preyed on, and comes to loathe a race of Calvinistic butterflies which murders those of its caterpillars who show artistic talent, the token of original sin. Yet the iron rule for Terrans is 'Non-interference': hard for a woman to observe, even though, in this remote time, the convention is to be cool and polyandrous.'

This is a book by a writer especially well equipped to bring science and fiction together in a really successful partnership, and the skill behind its theme and its characterization make it immensely enjoyable. We have been encouraged to issue it as an Optional title by members' response earlier in the year to *Eight Keys to Eden*, and we hope that orders for this book will be as good, or even a little better. As soon as you decide to add it to your own collection, will you please write to Letchworth, giving your membership number or source of supply.

*Gollancz 15s; SFBC 8s 6d post free*

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**TIME IS THE SIMPLEST THING**  
by Clifford D. Simak  
(*Gollancz 16s; SFBC 5s 9d*)

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**A FALL OF MOONDUST**  
by Arthur C. Clarke  
(*Gollancz 16s; SFBC 5s 9d*)