

## WANTED AND FOR SALE

MR K. F. MAWSON, 9 Woodmoor Road, Kettlethorpe, Wakefield, would like to sell a number of his SFBC past titles—Nos. 1–88 in fact.

Mr M. Soder has a number of SFBC past titles for sale: his address is 133 High Road West, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Mr P. Kilmer, 8 Alexandra Drive, Burnage, Manchester 19, would like to sell the following SFBC titles: Nos. 29, 44, 47–53, 55–62, 64–67, 70–74, 76, 77, 79, 81–84, 86 and 87.

Mr B. Allport, 87 Bridlington Street, Hyson Green, Nottingham, wants to obtain a copy of *Spectrum II*, edited by Kingsley Amis and Robert Conquest.

Mr G. S. Plummer, 25 Denmark Avenue, Wimbledon, S.W.19, has the following books for disposal: SFBC past titles Nos. 1–89 (to be sold as a complete set), the SFBC edition of *The Neon Halo*, an early edition of *Last Men in London* (in addition to the SFBC edition), and various other sf books. It must be stressed that Mr Plummer will only dispose of the SFBC titles 1–89 as a set.

All the above members should, of course, be contacted direct.

## LETTER-BOX

FROM Mrs M. C., Coventry:

I wonder if other members could help me with J. G. Ballard's *Four-Dimensional Nightmare*. I've tried very hard with these . . . stories (?) and find myself completely at a loss. I had difficulty with *The Drowned World*, but these were even more unintelligible. Am I a moron, or are we being conned, as in other forms of art? Is there any reason, story or substance in this book, or is it just a list of words?

We have the plays that neither start nor finish, the paintings called 'abstract' or 'action'; we have the sculpture of bits of metal and junk stuck together: at least when you buy these you can see what you're getting, but with a book you have to take on trust the author and the publisher's blurb. Is this the old confidence trick—if you don't understand it, it must be a work of a genius? If so, I deplore it; give me Wilson Tucker, Charles Eric Maine and Frank Eric Russell: I can understand them.

Please, what did other readers think of *The Four-Dimensional Nightmare*?

(Well, what *did* they think? Comments, please.—ED.)

## Moving in the Wrong Circuits?

*The Guardian* recently printed the following paragraph, under the heading 'Homo Sapiengineering':

'Mr Dandridge Cole, a leading United States physicist, said today that he foresaw the possibility of science creating a cross between man and machine to evolve a superior being for space exploration. Such an individual would be called "the closed cycle man".'

"We would take a man and, through surgery, replace his major abdominal organs with a mechanical system that would perform the same general functions—only better," he said.

'The closed cycle man would not need to eat or breathe and could operate tirelessly and continuously in space, or under water, with only occasional pauses to recharge his fuel cells. When he wanted to recharge, he would connect a cord leading from his stomach to an electrical wall plug.

'But as for creating a closed cycle man for either space or under water, Mr Cole said: "I am against it. I think it would be better to find the secrets of how to improve our natural bodies to get greater endurance and health."'

THIS MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**CONDITIONALLY HUMAN**  
by Walter Miller

(Gollancz 15s; SFBC 6s)

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE IS  
**NINE TOMORROWS** by Isaac Asimov

(Dobson 15s; SFBC 6s)