

create in their own image. If Earth's ruling race had been sentient silica, the program would have provided for the creation of a silica being.

Toward the end the plot gets a bit conventional—a sop, perhaps, to the TV formula. But through most of the book the story moves fast, if not really furiously, and the characters become reasonably real, if somewhat stupid. I still think Hoyle's last book, "Ossian's Ride," is a better story.

EYE OF THE MONSTER by Andre Norton.

SEA SIEGE by Andre Norton. Ace Books, N.Y. No. F-147. 80+176 pp. 40 cents.

"Eye of the Monster," the new section of this Ace Double, is hardly more than a novelette; "Sea Siege" is a reprint of the good Harcourt, Brace juvenile of 1957.

"Monster" is representative Norton, but not by any means one of her outstanding stories. Enough ideas are tossed into it, though, to provide meat for a far longer book. There is the concept, first, of a frontier planet with outposts of different galactic races, there for different purposes. There is the concept of galactic missionaries, as sincere and as stubbornly blind to reality as martyrs have always been. There is the sketched in portrait of the cat people, the Salariki, whom Rees Naper rescues after their station, like his, has been overwhelmed by the blood-thirsty "cros," the intelligent and savage reptilians of Ishkur. There is the theme expressed in the title and never really developed—something unusual for Miss Norton: that to know what a monster will do, one must see with the eye of the monster.

"Sea Siege" proves that this author does not have to use far planets for her settings to write a gripping story. This is laid in the Caribbean, when strange monsters from the bottom of the sea attack a research station and an atomic war simultaneously sweeps over the world. It's every bit as good reading as it was five years ago.

SECRET AGENT OF TERRA by John Brunner.

THE RIM OF SPACE by A. Bertram Chandler. Ace Books, N.Y. No. F-133. 127+128 pp. 40 cents.

If you like adventure on far worlds, this Ace Double is a bargain. The Chandler half is a reprint of the Avalon book of last year, and originally appeared here in Astounding. It is one of the author's "Rim" yarns. The Brunner novel, on the other hand, is a thoroughly enjoyable story of plotting and adventure on a strange world, where descendants of a wrecked ship have produced a tradition-ridden civilization that makes better sense than you'd suppose. Sharpies from a hard-headed world move in to profit from deposits of fissionable elements; agents of the Corps Galactica are there to protect the natives—among them a very determined young woman. And there are the parradises—gorgeous, multicolored, pterodactyl-like creatures, and just a little bit more.

John Brunner's space-adventure stories get better and better. I hope we have a lot more of them.