

gravity star, where weird monsters nearly wreck the expedition and where a disk-ship from another civilization is found. There is a technological theme in the testing of a device which will by-pass the relativity limitations and open the far worlds to Man. There are a number of sociological themes: the ethics of testing this invention without official approval, for one. There is also a good amount of moralizing about the sins of imperialists in the grim old past. By our lights, most of the characters are exasperating—but the book was not written by or for our standards or society. Here Yefremov shows the same evolution and ability to handle adventure, technology and sociology in combination that we expect of American SF. If Wyndham or Clarke can write stories of the variety they do, or Poul Anderson, or many another, why not the Russians?

EYE OF THE MONSTER, by Andre Norton

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

"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 "croc," 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¢

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 enjoy-