

Robert A. Heinlein. *G. P. Putnam's Sons*, N. Y. \$3.95

IN "TROOPERS," Heinlein has penned a juvenile that *really* is not. This is a new and bitter and disillusioned Heinlein.

His story opens with flaming action and then acquaints the reader, via flashbacks, with his hero, set on acquiring a citizen's franchise and voting rights by serving in the armed forces.

From boot camp into combat, from OCS to command, Heinlein's story is well told, crammed with political theory, and of exceptional interest to veterans with battle experience . . . but youngsters will find it melancholy and verbose. Thus my split rating.

Rating for children: **½

Rating for adults ****½

Rating for civilians: ?

STORM OVER WARLOCK by Andre Norton. World Publishing Co., Cleveland, \$3.00

YOUNG, UNEDUCATED Shann Lantee, from the slums of planet Tyr, is one of two human survivors of a Terran survey team on Warlock. Insect-derived Throg beetle-men, with whom Earth has fought to stalemate for years, have wiped out the advance outpost on Warlock, preparatory to interdicting the coming colonist transport.

Miss Norton has again written in an endearing animal team, this time Taggi and Togi, Terran wolverines, to assist Lantee in his vendetta against the Throgs. Her skill in making the incredible believable was never better demonstrated than in this imaginative and adventuresome yarn.

Rating: ****

THE SECRET OF THE NINTH PLANET by Donald Wollheim. The John C. Winston Co., Phila., \$2.50

A HUGE, uninhabited alien installation, high in the Andes, is robbing Earth of solar energy. When discovered and smashed by an archeological expedition, other solar traps are planted on each planet. To destroy them, America's first anti-gravity ship is pressed into an odyssey through the Solar System.

The story is rich in action and mystery — up to the very moment that Wollheim presents his villains. Then? Not good.

Rating: ***

Also recommended: *THE CAVE HUNTERS* by W. E. Scheele. World, \$2.50 . . . *PEOPLE AND PLACES* by Margaret Mead. World, \$4.95 . . . *OFF INTO SPACE* by M. O. Hyde. Whittlesey House, \$2.50.

—FLOYD C. GALE