

a theme certain of failure under less than a master's hand. Heyne is not a master.

ALIENS FROM SPACE by David Osborne. Avalon Books, N.Y., \$2.75

OSBORNE'S (R. Silverberg) last for Avalon, *Invisible Barriers*, was also a smooth job featuring alien invaders. On prominent display here are two sets, violent opposites, with Earth courting destruction whichever side she chooses, though choose she must.

The contrived ending provokes skepticism.

Still, pleasant reading.

THE LANGUAGES OF PAO by Jack Vance. Avalon Books, N.Y., \$2.75

SILVERBERG-GARRETT'S *Shrouded Planet* also concerned the jolting of a static civilization out of stagnation by the undermining of old beliefs. Vance applies the One World Doctrine in reverse instead: the introduction of synthetic, dynamic languages into a monolingual world, thereby changing slothful into active mental characteristics. A good idea well handled.

THE TIME TRADERS by Andre Norton. World Publishing Co., Cleveland & N.Y., \$3.00

MISS Norton's last book, *Star Gate*, employed an alternate-time-sequence gadget. A time plate serves to heat up her present plot of the U.S. in a race through and against time. The Russians have assumed technological superiority with developments so new in concept that they must have come from an alien culture.

The Pentagon-inspired search through ancient time for the fountainhead is clearly a device to enable her to create her usual savage environment for her bloodily unbowed hero. No quibble, though — *Traders* gets Miss Norton back solidly and admirably on her track of excellence.

HAVE SPACE SUIT, WILL TRAVEL by Robert A. Heinlein. Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., \$2.95

ALTHOUGH serialized as adult fare, this is possibly the most unabashedly juvenile of Heinlein's long list.

It concerns a teen-ager who wins an obsolete but serviceable spacesuit in a contest and his adventures with it. Great for kids, chancy for grownups who don't identify readily with adolescent heroes.

UNDERSEA CITY by Frederik Pohl and Jack Williamson. Gnome Press, Hicksville, N.Y., \$2.75