BOOKS

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON METEORITES Edited by Harrison Brown University of Chicago Press \$10.00

THIS CHRONOLOGICALLY arranged bibliography covers the world literature on meteorites and related subjects published between 1491 and 1950. It's the first of a three-volume series which will comprise an international catalogue of meteorites.

Harrison Brown. Professor of Geochemistry at Caltech, is editor of the series. Associate editors are Walter Nichiporuk, research assistant in the Division at Caltech, and Gunnar Kullerud of the Mineralogisk-Geologisk Museum in Oslo.

The project is financed by a Rockefeller Foundation grant. Its purpose is to promote international research on meteorites, and to provide a compendium of meteorite data which will expedite research in the field of meteorites.

The second volume in this international catalogue will include alphabetical, chronological and geo-

graphical indexes of all meteorites, and descriptions of stones and stony irons.

The third volume will have descriptions of iron meteorites, the chemical composition of all known meteorites, their trace element content, tables of location of meteoritic fragments, and an index of general subjects relating to meteorites.

Suffice it to say that nothing approaching this work has been done in the field of meteorites before.

SCIENCE FICTION HANDBOOK:
The Writing of Imaginative Fiction
By L. Sprague de Camp
Hermitage House, New York \$3.50
Reviewed by E. T. Bell

Reviewed by E. T. Bell Professor Emeritus, Mathematics

THE AUTHOR of this highly entertaining and authoritative book on the writing of imaginative fiction is a Caltech graduate in mechanical engineering (1930), who has been a patent consultant, draftsman, surveyor, naval officer, technical writer, and author of textbooks. He hit his natural stride in 1939, when he entered the field of imaginative fiction. Since then he has gone far indeed in his chosen profession, in

which his is one of the best known names to innumerable fans. His educational and professional experiences—and above all his own success as a writer—make him the ideal candidate to tell those who wish to write imaginative fiction how to go about it.

This is not a stodgy book, like some of the killers inflicted on would-be writers in college courses on writing by men who have never learned to write themselves. It is, on the contrary, a fast-paced, practical account of such matters-to mention only a few—as modern imaginative fiction, markets and editors, readers and fans, preparation for a science-fiction career, "Where do you get those crazy ideas?", the plotting and writing of an imaginative story, and a scholarly account of the origins of imaginative fiction. In the last, Aristophanes and Plato, of course, are included among the great masters; God, strangely enough, is not mentioned.

Anyone wishing to learn something of this old yet new genre of fiction will find plenty in this fascinating book. Likewise those who may wish to break into a field which is by no means exhausted and sterile.

