

## **In this issue . . .**

. . . the second Edgar Pangborn story about Davy, who appeared here last month in "The Golden Horn." The setting is an area near New England, and the time is some point in the future after an unspecified traumatic change in our present way of life. In one sense of the phrase, this is science fiction . . . but let us listen to a word from the author:

"These stories—I don't quite think of them myself as science-fiction—deal with a world that doesn't require a true suspension of belief. Conditions like these could come into existence, simply as a result of factors operating in today's world: the mutations, change of climate, destruction and disappearance of modern culture after a time of upheaval in which atomic war was only one element, human beings thrown back into a primitive (call it medieval) way of living with a latent possibility of staggering up and trying again some time. Civilizations have perished before; personally I don't think ours will perish in this way, but it could. These stories are fantasy; I'd like to call them fantasy used as a special lens for looking at present reality."

We particularly wish we could have squeezed more stories in this issue than we were able to—because we feel some of the items we'd hoped to include are especially suited to an All Star Issue. However, there is always next month, and the month after that. In which connection . . .

## **Coming next . . .**

. . . a new editor, and regretful as we are to step down from the chair, the change is made enormously easier than it might well have been because matters are being turned over to a man as varied and able as Avram Davidson. Mr. Davidson's name has shown up regularly on F&SF's contents page—as it does again this month—and even semi-regular readers are surely familiar with his wide range of interests, deft, sure command of the language, and extraordinary erudition. We leave this magazine, after being associated with it from its first issue in the fall of 1949, solely because the demands of other professional responsibilities no longer leave enough time to do the kind of job on F&SF we feel should be done. We are confident the magazine will flourish under Mr. Davidson, and wish it and him the very best.

—ROBERT P. MILLS