

thetized reader. But the clunk of a hero can't begin to measure up to the Burroughs giants.

By the time page 75 rolls around, it is obvious that ERB, wherever he may be, can RIP, certain that his laurels are still intact.

Rating: **

THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE by Arthur C. Clarke. Harper & Brothers, N. Y., \$4.50

CLARKE'S AUTHORITATIVE 1951 volume is revised to include the very latest information.

Concerning "Luniks," the difficulty of orbiting around the Moon is explained: "It is impossible for the Moon to trap a rocket. It must either crash, or head on out into space. Only if the vehicle is slowed by the use of braking rockets can it remain captive."

The ion drive is explained and a new one, the plasma jet, is outlined. A plasma is a superheated gas such as might derive directly from fusion reactions. It could be the means of harnessing the hydrogen atom.

THE NEW SCHOOL by Howard William Ray. Exposition Press, N. Y., \$2.50

THIS UTOPIAN fantasy by a novelist is at once naive and shocking, earthy and sublime, occasionally expert but more fre-

quently awkward. Author Ray seems aware of the lack of narrative interest in his philosophical talkiness and intersperses his only action scenes, laid in bed, between regular periods of continence. It is not enough.

His "New School" is hardly that. Rather, it resembles the Good Life teachings of the founders of most of our modern religions.

Rating: **½

THE BEAST MASTERS by Andre Norton. Harcourt, Brace & Co., N. Y., \$3.00

MISS NORTON draws mainly on the American Southwest as a background prototype in her latest juvenile, even though Earth has ben obliterated in an interstellar war.

Her young hero, a Navajo youth named Hosteen Storm, is Beast Master of a commando team composed of a hybrid dune cat, an African eagle and two small acquisitive and inquisitive meerkats. At war's end, he and his team settle on the planet Arzor, mainly to collect a tribal debt of vengeance against a rancher formerly of Earth.

Miss Norton writes so skillfully on the two operatic levels of horse and space that her young readers are sure to enjoy complete enthrallment.

Rating for youngsters: ****