

FSR BOOKSHELF — 3

New UFO books reviewed by...

Janet & Colin Bord

ON January 1979 the House of Lords debate on the question of UFOs was introduced by **The Earl of Clancarty**, who is also Brinsley le Poer Trench, author of several UFO best-sellers, founder of Contact International, and a past editor of this magazine. During the 3½ hours of the debate the noble lords appeared to be as generally uninformed about the UFO phenomenon as might any other assorted collection of individuals. The result was very much a foregone conclusion, and Lord Clancarty's appeal "Is it not time that Her Majesty's Government informed our people of what they know about UFOs?" was stonewalled by Lord Strabolgi for the Government with the customary "...there is a wide range of natural explanations to account for such phenomena. There is nothing to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that such phenomena are alien space craft."

The text of the debate is now available in book form, with the addition of marginal notes by **John Michell** which enlarge upon the UFO references made by each speaker and provide the UFO novice with the background necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the debate. He has added a brief biography of each speaker, and there are also some 20 relevant illustrations of variable quality. Lord Clancarty provides a Preface and an Afterword, and the whole will be a necessary addition to the collection of UFO historians. **The House of Lords UFO Debate** is published by Open Head Press and Pentacle Books, and is available from the former at 2 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 1NN, price £3.30 inclusive of UK postage.

As Hilary Evans observes in the title of his large-format UFO book, UFOs are "the greatest mystery." He has attempted a concise overview of this incredibly complex phenomenon, and has for the most part succeeded well. Short chapters on different aspects are interspersed with data on famous cases such as the Betty and Barney Hill abduction and the death of Captain Mantell. The book is very heavily illustrated with many full-page colour pictures, mostly artists' interpretations of UFO encounters. The danger with these is that they can tend to detract from the reality of the subject matter and give UFOs a science-fiction aura. There are few actual UFO photographs to redress the balance, and the photograph captioned "UFO, ball lightning or camera shake?" looks to us like a street lamp.

Our principal criticism of this book is that there is no list of further reading. Having read the intriguing though brief data in this book, the newcomer will be frustrated by not knowing where to look next. Nevertheless, this is a book we definitely recommend to the newcomer to

ufology. (**UFOS: The Greatest Mystery**, by **Hilary Evans**, Albany Books, 1979, £3.95, 94 pages)

Canadian author **Yurko Bondarchuk** has written an interesting and useful book which documents the Canadian UFO scene: **UFO: Sightings, Landings and Abductions** (published in a large paperback format by Methuen Publications, 2330 Midland Avenue, Agincourt, Ontario, M1S 1P7, Canada at a price of \$7.95 (Canadian dollars). Copies can be obtained direct from the publishers, and purchasers outside North America should send an extra Can\$3.10 to cover airmail postage, or Can\$.70 for seairmail). The scope of the book is shown by a list of the chapter titles: The Photographic Evidence; UFO Landings and Physical Traces; Physical Reactions to Sightings; UFO Occupants; UFO Abductions; UFOs and Military Installations; Military Pilot Sightings; UFOs and Energy Generating Sites; the E.M. Effect and Power Blackouts; UFOs and Radar Sites; Civilian Pilot Sightings; The Canadian Government and UFOs; Future Scenarios. The book is fully illustrated with drawings and photographs which give added interest to a readable text. There are also a full bibliography and index.

Ten years on... **Brad Steiger** has come a long way since he wrote *Flying Saucers are Hostile*. In his latest book **Gods of Aquarius**, subtitled "UFOs and the Transformation of Man" (Panther paperback, £1.25), he states: "I believe that it is an integral part of the UFO phenomenon to lead us to a clearer understanding of our true role in the cosmic scheme of things and to direct us to a level of awareness whereby we might more readily attain that 'state of oneness and self-sufficiency that is equivalent to deity itself.'" (p. 44). This is a far cry from *Flying Saucers are Hostile* with its chapter headings "Someone Up There May Not Like Us" and "Must We Prepare for a War of the Worlds?" What has happened to Steiger since 1967 to change his mind so dramatically?

In his new book Steiger has collected together material on all aspects of the benevolent space brothers as they are interacting with mankind today. He quotes extensively from other people's writings (some essays were prepared specially for his book) and has highlighted some unusual and rarely discussed aspects of ufology, such as the many people who believe themselves to be not of this world. However, the effect is one-sided: there are still many unpleasant cases in ufology, such as abduction and medical examination, harassment and injury, which are surely strange behaviour for benevolent space brothers.

Who will this book appeal to? The "popular" market,

eager for sensationalism, will find it uninteresting; the serious researcher will be concerned at the lack of documentation such as sources and bibliography, though there is an index. But in spite of its faults, there is some interesting material in this book, and ufologists should read it. It may spark off new trains of thought.

Yet another large-format, lavishly illustrated, compendium of enigmas, **Mysteries of the World** (Lyric Books, £4.95) has been published, with a dozen contributors. *John Rimmer*, editor of *Magonia*, tackles UFOs. He starts with a brief overview of the subject, but soon concentrates on his own eclectic approach which sees the phenomenon as a product of modern man's mind, and cites psychoanalyst Carl Jung's theories linking UFOs with mandalas from the collective subconscious. Although inadequate in explaining *all* of the data which the phenomenon provides, this approach merits consideration by all concerned with ufology, and John Rimmer's article is worth reading, but it does not present the broadly balanced view which the enquiring layman, at whom this book is directed, should have been given. Some of the other articles deal with Atlantis, the Pyramids, Stonehenge, King Arthur, the Turin Shroud, and Miracles. Loch Ness researcher Tim Dinsdale writes on "Monsters of Land and Sea," and Robert Rickard,

editor of *Fortean Times*, deals knowledgeably with stigmata (the spontaneous appearance of wounds, which resemble those received by Christ, upon the bodies of the pious).

1979 saw the publication of four new UFO books for children. We have an especial interest in these because we have ourselves written a children's UFO book, **Are We Being Watched?**, which should see publication later in 1980. Ours is somewhat different from those now under review, being for older children and containing only sightings reported by children themselves. Of the paperbacks recently received for review, the most arresting is Bob Rickard's **UFOs** (Scimitar, 40p). It is a small but dynamic book with full-colour illustrations on every page and introduces the young enquirer to the basics of ufology, not ignoring the more frightening aspects like "Men in Black" and "Sinister Abductions." **Exploring UFOs** by Jonathan Rutland (A Piccolo Explorer Book, 60p) is also full of colour, and in fact has more pictures than text. It is a bit more sober than Rickard's book, dealing mainly with physical craft and outer space travel, but UFO entities are mentioned too.

If some children might be distracted by so much vivid colour, there is the less frenetic book by Nigel Baguley,

(Continued on page 29)

THE UFO "GATE" THEORY

Dr. Bernard E. Finch

Dr. Finch is a medical practitioner and former Royal Air Force surgeon who has been associated with *Flying Saucer Review* since the far off days of Volume 1. While this "note" — his description — is very speculative it presents, in the barest form, some interesting ideas.

IT must be realised that the humanoids have a different atomic structure to terrestrials — the "frequency of vibration" of their sub-atomic particles must be different, and the spacing of their molecular structure must be larger — which could explain why some are able to walk through material objects, why some are of greater weight and are much taller, why some cannot breathe our air, and why others can walk on or through water and rocks.

All this points to an origin from a different dimension or universe which is in contact with our universe either close at hand, or far out in space beyond the galaxies.

It would appear there are fixed "gates" or points of entry in space where entry and exit from one dimension to another can be carried out. These "gates" open when in contact with a gravitational field, and thus enable the occupants of one dimension to enter another.

When the earth, for example, in its orbit round the sun, reaches one of these "gates," the latter "opens" and aliens can enter. They only stay open for a short time while the earth is passing through the "gate." As the earth rotates on its axis so the "gate" moves along latitudinally, varying with the tilt and movement of the earth round the sun.

Mathematically the sites of these "gates" could be calculated. The contact of the "gates" with the earth causes various phenomena to occur — hauntings,

poltergeist effects, telekinesis and so on, due possibly to the contact of another dimension with ours. These phenomena persist long after the earth has left the "gate" far behind.

Aliens who enter our dimension through the "gates" via their vehicles have a limited time here as the "gate" sweeps across the rotating earth. They have to wait for its arrival again and they probably leave through it on the "last time round." Otherwise, the "gate" is left behind in space and closes (until in contact with another gravitational field).

Perhaps some of the strange antics of the aliens is due to their waiting, or searching for the "gate's" location as it travels through and round the earth and off into space. Are the strange circles of stones found round the earth old "markers" of the passing "gate"? Again, do some aliens get left behind in their rush to "be on time" with the approaching "gate"?

The location of the gate could be, as well, below ground level as it sweeps through the earth.

This hypothesis would explain many observations of the antics of UFOs and their passengers, and also bring together the phenomena of hauntings, poltergeists and teleportations. The latter could be caused by objects of our dimension, such as cattle, people and so on, being caught up temporarily in the gate and dropping back again.