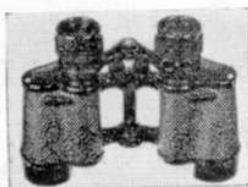


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FLYING SAUCER

REVIEW



MAR.-APR. 1962
Vol. 8 No. 2

Carroll

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INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 8 No. 2

MARCH-APRIL 1962

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Flying Saucer Review

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Publicity

IN our November-December, 1961, issue, General L. M. Chassin declared that success was in sight for our efforts to bring the truth about flying saucers to the notice of the public so that we could outflank the obscurantism of orthodox scientists and the silence of government departments. He suggested that our best policy would be for each one of us to persuade ten influential people in our immediate circle—a not impossible task. We believe the General was talking sound common sense, and we have never thought that there was any shorter cut to success, though we have always been prepared to try any route that might lead us to it.

All over the world there are groups of enthusiasts who have banded themselves together out of a common interest in the subject of flying saucers. Their aims have been diverse. There are some, for instance, who will have nothing to do with contact claims, while others believe in pure research. Some hold that the key to the lock can be turned by bringing pressure on a particular government. It is idle to pretend that these groups do not quarrel among themselves and often rude things are said, but, on the whole, this is a healthy tendency. However, the best way to bring pressure on the die-hard scientists and the government departments who may, or may not, know more than they are willing to tell, is through publicity. To those who complain of silence in the press our best advice is: Break it! And it can be broken.

For every ten people in our movement, taken as a whole, who devote their spare time to research there is only one who takes the trouble to broadcast the results of that research. Research is invaluable and nothing we say must be taken as an intention to disparage it, but what use is it if it merely collects dust on our files? The facts accumulate, but the general public remains in almost total ignorance of the fruits of our labour.

What can be done? Well, a splendid example of successful endeavour in the right direction is to be found in a letter which appeared in the correspondence columns of the London *Daily Mail* on December 4, 1961. One of our readers, Mr. G. Berrisford, replied to an earlier correspondent who had said that since the advent of sputniks and space flight, flying saucers had ceased to appear. This misstatement was publicly exposed by the expenditure of one short letter and a threepenny stamp. Hundreds of influential people must have read Mr. Berrisford's letter, and if only ten have pondered his reply, then he will have accomplished the task which General Chassin set him. Would it not be possible for the various saucer groups all over the world to consider some joint effort, this time bringing their energies

to bear on the question of publicity rather than just on research? After all, we have collected facts in plenty, but it is high time that they were broadcast with the same enthusiasm that went into their gathering.

Besides writing to the press in an attempt to reach the masses there is also the attempt to persuade the private individual. The editor of a local paper is an influential person: so is one's doctor. We are certain that General Chassin in his reference to influential people did not mean exclusively national figures, though if the exalted come within our orbit we know that he would urge us to try our powers of persuasion on them.

The need for publicity is very urgent. One of the strongest arguments in our armoury is the discovery of orthoteny, as General Chassin pointed out. In spite of all our efforts, Michel's book has never appeared in an English edition. Copies of the American edition have been imported so that flying saucer enthusiasts can buy the book, but that is not the same thing as having an English edition available. For one thing, no review copies have been sent to the newspapers in Great Britain. For another, the book cannot generally be obtained from any public library. As a result, the sceptics remain completely in ignorance of Michel's important discovery and continue to argue as though the visitations in France in 1954 had never occurred. Here is a prime example, in this country at least, where research has been almost completely wasted. We have tried more than once to interest a book publisher in England: the reasons for rejection have been various, but the commonest excuse is that books on flying saucers do not sell any more. So far we have failed to persuade a publisher that the interest is there but that it needs the sort of stimulus that the publishing of Michel's book would provide. In other words, we are in a

vicious circle. Publishers and newspaper proprietors think that interest has faded, while the slumbering public is convinced that the subject has died a natural death because of the absence of any fresh discovery. It is the conviction that the public has lost the interest it displayed in 1953 and 1954 that keeps the subject out of the magazines and newspapers of the 1960s: it is the silence in the press that restrains the public interest.

Only the readers of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* and the members of the saucer groups all over the free world can hope to break through this stupid impasse. One or two of our recent attempts have met with some success. Our open letter to the Prime Minister was reported in a number of newspapers throughout Great Britain. A number of our readers, whom we now take the opportunity of thanking, wrote to their Members of Parliament to warn them of the dangers that a misinterpreted UFO might cause. The least that can be said is that those M.P.s now realise (if they had failed to before) that there exists a seriously-minded journal devoted to the exploration of the greatest mystery of our time. We make no apologies for appealing once again to our friends to help us bring the *REVIEW* and the message it carries to a wider circle of readership.

There are two ways of achieving our objective. A breakthrough can be forced by some sensational news—Robert Chapman in our January-February issue gave as an illustration a saucer landing in Hyde Park. Failing this degree of cooperation from those who are visiting us, we must fall back on the alternative. Re-iteration of the truth has a cumulative effect and even if a letter to the press does not appear in print it serves as a reminder to the editor that the saucers have not been buried after all. Silence, not ridicule, is the enemy to be feared.

A FLYING SAUCER TIE?

One of our readers has asked whether it would be possible for us to provide a distinctive saucer tie so that wearers might advertise to others of a like mind that they are interested in the subject and thus stimulate discussion. We have made enquiries to this end and we find that it would be possible to have such ties made available if a sufficient number could be ordered.

The design would be a discreet silver on blue and the estimated selling price about 15s. Would those readers interested in this proposal kindly write to us signifying their interest? If we receive a sufficient number of enquiries we could then proceed to have the ties manufactured and made available to our readers.

Towards a generalisation of Orthoteny and its applications to the North African sightings

by Jacques Vallee

Under the direction of Aimé Michel, a group of young scientific researchers is at present attempting to enlarge the field of investigation into UFO problems and to discover the general laws of Orthoteny. We are privileged to be able to print one of their preliminary studies.

1. A double generalisation of the research method is necessary.

In his well-known work, *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, Aimé Michel, for the first time, discovered the laws regulating what one can call "the organisation" of the waves of saucers. These laws appeared to him when he plotted on a map of *one single country* (France) all the observations of one *single day*.^{*} However, the saucer phenomenon is limited neither in time nor in space: throughout history, observations of discs, cigars, formation flights, etc., have been reported and these in the same terms which we now use. Also, it is well known that the saucers, far from limiting their appearances to well-demarcated zones, have surveyed some of the remotest regions of our planet with such care that one astronomer in Kenya affirmed that their pilots were engaged in drawing a map of the earth. The first conclusion we can draw is that the phenomena known as saucers, when separated from what we will call the local laws of Orthoteny, *should be studied on a planetary scale*.

It follows that a certain number of problems will now confront the researcher. For instance, what becomes of an alignment such as the direct Bayonne-Vichy of September 24, 1954, if one

prolongs it outside the limits of France? The graphic research method of alignment, which consists of pinning tacks on a map for each place of observation and in tracking all the straight lines thus obtained, no longer justifies itself, and this is why Aimé Michel says himself in his work:

"If in the future it is resolved to make a real scientific study of the saucer phenomenon on an international scale, one must pass on to other rules. One will no longer be able to identify the real geodesic on the straight line of the Lambert projection, without incurring thereby considerable alterations in the distances, angles and localisations."

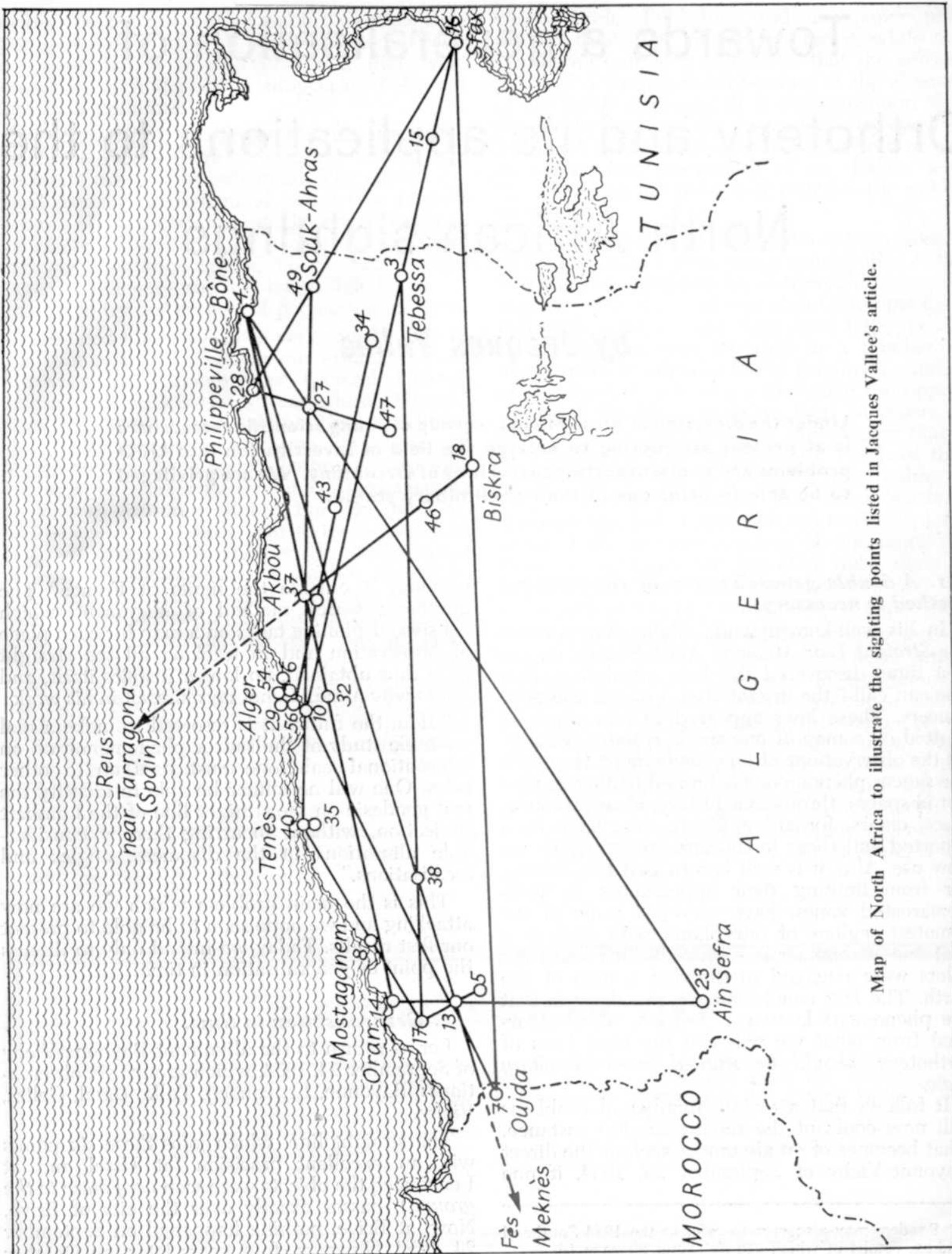
This is the main problem which we are now attacking and we hope soon to be able to present our first results. Today we intend only to discuss the point of generalisation in time.

2. Generalisation in time.

Let us return to the alignment Bayonne-Vichy of September 24, 1954, which groups six observations: Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Ussel, Gelles, Vichy.

The straight line, which joins these six points with an excellent precision (at Ussel and at Lencouacq the objects were seen *very close to the ground*), passes exactly over the city of Brive. Now, at Brive, nothing happened on September 24, 1954. However, four years later, on October

^{*} Readers may also care to refer to the 1954 Southend landing, details of which can be found on page 16.



Map of North Africa to illustrate the sighting points listed in Jacques Vallee's article.

24, 1958, Brive received the visit of a saucer. By chance? ON THE SAME DAY USSEL IS OVERFLOWN ONCE MORE! An egg-shaped form of small dimensions lands at Gelles on October 18, 1954, nearly a month after the alignment! But this is not all: *Vichy was again visited on October 2, 1954, and Tulle on January 25, 1959!*

Even better, a big cloud-cigar was observed at Dôle, at the beginning of the 1954 wave, during the night of August 18-19: this very precise testimony was shown on the map without ambiguity and places itself exactly on the alignment. So was another observation in the region of Dôle, at Paray-le-Monial.

These repeated returns to the alignment drawn on September 24, during the first days of the wave, this extraordinary insistence incontestably makes "Bayonne-Vichy" one of the most captivating problems in the saucer study and demonstrates to us that not only the observation of one and the same day align themselves, but so do the observations made after long intervals of time.

We are not yet ready to study the "timing" which rules these waves. *But there is no reason why the day of 24 hours should be the only basis, even if this seems to play a particular rôle in periods of great activity.*

An illustration of this idea is given by the following study, where we have been able to show alignments of observations made on widely different dates.

3. Orthotenic alignments of the Maghreb.

Why have we chosen Maghreb as the field of study for this experience? Because we have at our disposal a number of observations sufficiently great to hope to find alignments (in fact, when too small a number of observations comes to our knowledge, there is the risk that they appertain to different alignments which masks the general law) and at the same time sufficiently limited so that they can be assembled on one map. These documents give 56 observations of which the list is given hereunder and among which 30 have been retained for their precision. Then they have been drawn on a map of Algeria-Tunisia (Carte Michelin No. 172). The result is that 25 of these points belong to alignments, five observations remain "virgilian." We have thus been able to determine the following 15 alignments:

1. 5 points. 600 km. Ténès - Blida - Akbou - Constantine - Souk-Ahras.
2. 4 points. 740 km. Blida-Tébessa-Sidi Bou Saïd-Sfax.
3. 4 points. 410 km. Boufarik - Maillot - Sétif - Aïn Beida.
4. 3 points. 1160 km. Oujda-Biskra-Sfax.

5. 3 points. 900 km. Aïn Sefra - Constantine - Bône.
6. 3 points. 815 km. Bou Hadjar - Palikao - Tebessa.
7. 3 points. 780 km. Sidi Bel Abbès-Palikao-Bône. . . . Fès, Meknès?
8. 3 points. 765 km. Oran-Champlain-Bône.
9. 3 points. 475 km. Oujda-Sidi Bel Abbès-Blida.
10. 3 points. 325 km. Oran-Sidi Bel Abbès-Aïn Sefra.
11. 3 points. 240 km. Bou Hadjar-Mostaganem-Ténès.
12. 3 points. 210 km. Akbou - Barika - Biskra. . . . Reus (Spain)?
13. 3 points. 170 km. Bône - Souk Ahras - Tebessa.
14. 3 points. 165 km. Batna - Constantine - Philippeville.
15. 3 points. 90 km. Bou Hadjar - Sidi Bel Abbès-Bertholot.

Here are two further alignments which are possible but not certain:

16. Souk Ahras-Aïn Sefra-Barika.
17. Ténès-Champlain-Tebessa.

It should be noted that for this whole region *not one daily alignment* is found. This would therefore justify a global examination of the phenomena in time, in relation with the "daily" orthotenic network already obtained.

4. Complementary remarks on the alignments in North Africa.

It seems that certain alignments reported here by Antonio Ribera join the Moroccan observations which we have not yet been able to study in detail, due to lack of time and maps of sufficiently large scale. Notably, the line Algorta-Madrid-Torredonjimeno could end at Fès. We would therefore be very glad to have the opinion on this subject of those who have already studied these regions and notably that of Antonio Ribera himself.

It is to be noted that the greatest part of the observations mention objects *leaving trails*. Would this be a question of climatic conditions?

It is also to be observed that several places of observations have known an exceptionally high number of "visits":

Constantine was visited five times as well as Barika and Bône. Casablanca was visited four times. Oujda, Sétif and Petitjean twice.

List of Observations Used

1. Quallen (Sahara). Between April 4 and 20, 1942. Small brilliant white circle, slow gyrations during two days.

2. Anfa (near Casablanca, Morocco). Night of March 15-16, 1944. Luminous circle dividing itself in two lozenges, each of which go their own way.
3. Tebessa (Algeria). January 18, 1950, 6.07 a.m. Various objects, luminous trails.
4. Bône (Algeria). End-January, 1950. Luminous object of many colours.
July 6, 1952, 8.30 p.m. Luminous sphere and halo.
September 17, 1952, 7.00 p.m. Luminous sphere, white trail.
July 20, 1955, 11.20 p.m. Enormous egg-shaped, trail.
October 6, 1952, 6.32 p.m. Blue cigar—very luminous.
5. Berthelot (Dép. d'Oran, Algeria). February 8, 1950, 3.00 p.m. Three spheres, trails.
6. Rouiba (Algeria). January 9, 1951, 7.15 a.m. Luminous point going up, then going down.
7. Oujda (Morocco). May 13, 1952, 9.30 a.m. Two brilliant discs and trails.
8. Mostaganem (Algeria). May 27, 1952, 8.30 p.m. "Giant Skate" and luminous trail.
9. Meknès (Morocco). June 9, 1952, 1.00 p.m. Object leaving a trail.
10. Blida (Algeria). June, 1952 (by night). A sphere illuminated inside by two sources of colours—blue and clear green. Long red trail.
11. Casablanca (Morocco). June 18, 1952. Perfect circle.
July 14, 1952, 9.25 a.m. Luminous cigar.
November 24, 1957. Bright yellow gleam. Slow.
April 5, 1956 (evening). Luminous object. Colour becoming yellow.
12. Taorit (West Morocco). June 19, 1952. Luminous circle, trail.
13. Sidi Bel Abbès (Algeria). June 25, 1952, 10.00 a.m. UFO.
14. Suburb of Oran (Algeria). July 4, 1952, 7.00 p.m. UFO.
15. Sidi Bou Saïd (Tunisia). Night of July 6-7, 1952. Big blue sphere terminated by orange luminous cone.
16. Sfax (Tunisia). A bit later. Elongated object, very luminous.
17. Bou Hadjar (Algeria). Same night. "Agitated Cumulus" and disc.
18. Biskra (Algeria). July 7, 1952, just after 0.00 a.m. Long red flame—green reflects.
19. Cap Malataba (Gibraltar). July 11, 1952. UFO.
20. Beach of Skirat, near Rabat (Morocco). July 14, 1952, 9.25 a.m. Green object, prolonged with luminous flashes.
21. Neighbourhood of Asni (Morocco). July 14, 1952, 10.00 p.m. Very luminous disc.
22. Oukaïmeden (South Marrakech). July 14, 1952, 10.00 p.m. White sphere, apparent diameter equalling that of the moon, divided itself in many parts.
23. Aïn Sefra (Algeria). July 14, 1952 (at night). Very luminous disc, giving off little yellow masses.
24. Beach of Dehdya (Port-Lyautey, Morocco). July 19, 1952, 2.45 p.m. Luminous disc, followed by an aeroplane.
25. Region of Daï-el-Aouagri (Morocco). July 20, 1952, about 0.30 a.m. Luminous object on the ground—diameter about 20 metres, rapid flight with white sparks, odour of "carburated sulphur."
26. Blida (Algeria). September 16, 1952, 7.30 p.m. UFOs: formation flight.
27. Constantine (Algeria). October 6, 1952, 6.27 p.m. Brilliant point, orange trail.
October 14, 1952, 7.29 p.m. Enormous egg-shaped green gleam, before dazzling white.
September 5, 1955, 7.28 p.m. Yellow orange object and trail.
September 10, 1956 (about). Red circle.
September 11, 1956, 0.15 a.m. Luminous circle, stop times.
28. Philippeville (Algeria). October 6, 1952. Cigar with long luminous trail.
September 5, 1955, 7.20 p.m. Circle diameter moon.
29. Cheragas (Algeria). October 14, 1952, 5.45 p.m. Luminous cigar.
30. Oued-Hammimine (Algeria). October 14, 1952, 7.28 p.m. Luminous circle.
31. Aïn-el-Arab. October 14, 1952, 7.30 p.m. Blue cigar, phosphorescent outline.
32. Champlain (Algeria). November 4, 1952, 6.10 p.m. Big red sphere with luminous trails.
33. Ouarsenis, Chelif, Montenotte (Algeria). November 5, 1952, 3.30 p.m. Cigar, sudden turn, trail.
34. Aïn Beida (Algeria). November 17, 1952. Trail.
35. Montenotte (Algeria). About November 23, 1952, 3.50 p.m. Cigar, turn, trail.
November 5, 1953, 1.00 p.m. Cigar leaving trail.
36. Between Ampère and Bordj-Bou-Arréridj (Algeria). May 9, 1953, 6.45 p.m. Green sphere, incandescent trail.
September 5, 1955, 7.35 p.m. UFO.
37. Akbou and Maillot (Algeria). May 11, 1953. Green glimmer becoming orange, then red, sudden disappearance.

38. Palikao (Algeria). May 13, 1953, 8.00 p.m. Big "fire spheres."
39. Oued Zem (Morocco). September 2 or 3, 1953 (at night). Cigar, multicoloured lights, deafening noise—material damage not stated.
40. Ténès (Algeria). November 4, 1953, 2.00 p.m. Cigar.
41. Algiers. November 5, 1953, just before 1.00 p.m. Cigar letting out "smoke."
42. Timhadit (Morocco). January 10, 1955, 10.30 a.m. Brilliant yellow circle, variable diameter, vague outline, immobile for hour and a half.
43. Sétif (Algeria). January 10, 1955, 11.00 a.m. Brilliant white point.
December 5, 1957. Disc diameter $\frac{1}{4}$ moon, blue trail.
44. Petitjean (Morocco). About March 18 or 19, 1955, at sunrise. Big silver disc, blue and orange trail.
March 28, 1955, at sunrise. UFO revolving.
45. Azrou (Morocco). March 20, 1955. Luminous object 30 minutes.
46. Barika (Algeria). Between March 21 and 25, 1955, 8.00 p.m. Glimmer going up and down between clouds and the ground.
March 23, 1955, 0.30 a.m. Very brilliant disc.
March 24, 1955, 3.30 a.m. Red sphere, zig-zags.
July 20, 1955, 11.35 p.m. Fire sphere, diameter half moon—white trail becoming green, variable speed.
December 5, 1957. Circle quarter moon, blue trail.
47. Batna (Algeria). March 24, 1955, 4.00 p.m. Three discs, immobile 10 minutes.
48. Fèc (Morocco). March 28 or 29, 1955, 8.00 a.m. Silver disc, black central point, spontaneous disappearance.
49. Souk-Ahras (Algeria). September 5, 1955, 7.15 p.m. Luminous orange circle.
50. Levasseur (Algeria). About September 21, 1955. Two discs, one silver, the other one striated (grey stripes), disappearing vertically in the clouds.
51. Tangier (Morocco). About August 24, 1956. Various luminous discs. Stop.
52. Tétouan (Morocco). About August 27, 1956. Green glimmer, red flashes.
53. La Fayette, Mac Donald (Algeria). September 11, 1956. White yellow circle very luminous, trail of the same colour, with sparks.
54. Alger-Maison-Blanche. December 5, 1957. Blue sphere, trail.
55. Ben-Smin (Morocco). March 20, 1955. Luminous object, terrifying aspect.
56. Boufarik and Birtouta (Algeria). About December 5, 1957. Brilliant red sphere.

Acknowledgment: The testimony which appears at the end of this article is drawn from a catalogue of sightings prepared by M. Guy Quiney, whose help I most gratefully acknowledge.

Saucers and the Press

THE alleged conspiracy of silence and the attitude of the Press towards flying saucers seems to be a very popular topic with our readers. The article contributed by Robert Chapman to our November-December, 1961, issue has attracted considerable interest, but no proof has been produced to indicate that editors of newspapers are under any constraint: the evidence brought to our notice could as readily be explained by the "will-not-to-believe." However, arising out of a number of letters about this matter we think we can detect a confusion of thought that has arisen.

While it is true, as Robert Chapman points out, that "flashes in the sky" are no longer news and even if printed attract very little attention, the real complaint against the newspapers is not that they ignore *incidents* but that they ignore the *subject*. While they will give publicity to a "burying" of the saucers or their treatment as

"bilge" by one Astronomer-Royal after another and to the flat disbelief of Sir Bernard Lovell, they will not afford similar space to a reasoned argument to counter such downright rejection. The mass circulation papers, as Robert Chapman clearly indicated, will publish anything if it is sensational enough (his example was a saucer landing in Hyde Park), but will not apparently allow discoveries like those of Michel and Fontes to be brought to their readers' attention. As a result, even when these papers do report "flashes in the sky," the readers do not connect them with our subject. The "quality" newspapers like *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*, whose readers could be expected to follow a reasoned argument, will not as a rule print anything about our subject at all! The result, it must be admitted, is that there might as well be a conspiracy of silence. The situation is, however, slightly improving and we hope to be able to report progress in the near future.

EXTRA-SOLAR UFOs

By **WADE WELLMAN**

One reason why the contact stories arouse so much distrust is that many of them claim that the visitors have come from one or other of our neighbouring planets. According to the majority of astronomers whose views are respected in the world of science, this is an impossibility and we must, therefore, look farther out into space to discover the flying saucers' place of origin. The extra distances involved would seem to present even greater difficulties, but this article offers an hypothesis which could resolve them. In fairness to the contact claimants, however, it should be stated that some astronomers do not rule out the possibility of life on our neighbour planets and we would refer our readers to "Do Flying Saucers Originate from Mars?" by Aimé Michel (March-April, 1960, issue) and "Venus as an Abode of Life" by V. A. Firsoff (July-August, 1961, issue).

The author of this article is 22 years of age and a student at the University of North Carolina, U.S.A.

AS the Russo-American space race nears its climax, the time of meeting between a terrestrial civilisation and the power behind the UFOs draws upon us. Within a few years—unless the UFOs pull out swiftly and inexplicably—we will come into contact with them, and will find, I am confident, that another race has navigated to us from the stars.

Modern astronomical theory, in approaching the question of planetary origin, has moved far away from earlier theories which regarded planetary systems as freak accidents. Typical among current views is that held by Gerard P. Kuiper, whose theory comes closest to satisfying all the needed criteria. Kuiper sees the newly-born sun as a central condensation of hydrogen surrounded by a slowly rotating, somewhat flattened gaseous disc. The distribution of heavier elements throughout the disc gradually produced instability, causing it to segregate into masses known as proto-planets. Gradually the heavier elements became centralised in each mass, the lighter ones forming atmospheric mantles around the globes. The larger masses clung to equatorial gas rings, out of which satellites were formed just as the planets themselves had condensed from the original, wheeling disc.

If the Solar System was created roughly along this scheme—and there seems to be remarkably little doubt about it—then we can safely assume

that planets are a matter of common experience. Kuiper's opening premise is a strong one; the observation of starfields, in regions of high gas content, makes it plain that stars begin as extreme condensations of hydrogen, with envelopes of heavier gases around them. If Kuiper's theory is correct for our Solar System, then the same pattern of events should logically follow in the history of almost any star.

Confirmed by observation

The theory of multiple solar systems is buttressed by direct observation of our immediate stellar neighbours. Careful measurements indicate that two nearby stars, 61 Cygni and 70 Ophiuchi, are somewhat disturbed in their paths by the gravitational effects of dark, invisible companions. The companion of 61 Cygni is estimated at 15 times the mass of Jupiter, while that of 70 Ophiuchi is only slightly less bulky. Even so, these enormous worlds are far too small to be stars of any kind now recognised.

In other instances, planets have been deduced from the periodic eclipsing of the starlight by invisible bodies, and altogether there is fairly conclusive evidence that several of our immediate stellar neighbours have dark worlds circling them. Now obviously the theory that solar systems are exceptional must be discarded. To have several

such rare phenomena in a restricted part of the galaxy is too great a coincidence to be accepted.

Since we have virtually established that planets are an everyday matter, the next task is to calculate the frequency with which life can be expected on them. Biochemists, observing that life arises even in the most improbable corners of the earth, nowadays assume that life of some sort will develop wherever conditions permit. When we speak of life, incidentally, we must mean life as we understand it—that is, a population of organic structures that sustain themselves by moisture, gas intake, and solid nourishment, and procreate their species. To talk about life as we don't know it is a contradiction in terms; we might as well talk about matter as we don't know it, or mind as we don't know it.

Life is commonplace

If this definition is acceptable, life on other planets is probably commonplace. Let's assume that nine or ten planets constitute the average number for a system. In that event, it seems that at least one world in any given system will be at the right distance from the star to receive enough light and heat for the beginning of life. If modern theories about terrestrial life hold any truth, we may also believe that the first living beings are micro-organisms in the primordial seas; then come more complex structures, one species finally emerging on to land. Evolution and natural selection eventually create land-based organisms which can move freely, contemplate themselves, conquer the air, and finally venture into space.

The theory of relativity, in its extended form, holds that all parts of the universe are governed by the same laws of nature, and whatever holds true for the earth should also hold true for other planets, given equal circumstances. Evolution of organisms on a planet of roughly the earth's composition, at about the earth's distance from a star, would generate a race of beings closely resembling humanity in physical structure. But what of the case of a planet which differs radically from our world in gravity, atmosphere, and other conditions? Isn't it logical that evolution there runs a different course, producing beings vastly different from the inhabitants of earth?

If one of the races observing us comes from a very different sort of planet, and has progressed further along the evolutionary scale than we, logically we should expect beings altogether dissimilar to us in form and structure. They might even have a completely different set of emotions. Under these circumstances, one tends to be dubious about contact stories that tell of beings with humanlike forms. Even the Papua case

seems difficult when we remember that the figures reported aboard the saucer were described as human. It would really be remarkable if terrestrial conditions could be duplicated on another world, or if different conditions could still produce a humanlike race.

A survey of our neighbour planets makes it fairly plain that our visitors come from another star. Measurements with the thermocouple show a maximum surface temperature of 780 degrees at perihelion on Mercury. Similar studies yield figures of -200 for Jupiter, -235 for Saturn, -260 for Uranus, -310 for Neptune and -380 for Pluto. The four giant planets are viewed either as structures of pure hydrogen, or as three-stage globes made up of rocky material, ice layers, and vast hydrogen atmospheres. In any case, these planets have no distinct surfaces. Pluto seems to be a small, massive spheroid, possibly covered wholly or partly with a sea of liquefied methane.

This leaves Venus and Mars. Leading authorities agree that the surface temperature of Venus exceeds boiling water; measurements at Jodrell Bank give a figure of 585 degrees. Unless they can get along without moisture, our visitors do not come from Venus. Mars, the only one remaining, cannot be entirely discounted, but it seems most unlikely that any advanced native life forms exist there. The atmospheric pressure at surface is negligible, roughly equivalent to one-third of the pressure at the summit of Everest. All the water on Mars would about fill Lake Erie—not nearly enough to justify artificial canals the size of those claimed by Lowell. Oxygen is so scanty that it can't be detected by the spectroscope. At the equator, temperature varies from 80 degrees to -150 in a period of one rotation. It's almost impossible that an advanced race could survive these drastic changes.

The watchers from space

Almost beyond question, the races now watching us come from extra-solar planets. The appalling distances to even the closest stars once made the whole concept of interstellar flight seem ridiculous. Travelling just below the speed of light, a round trip to Alpha Centauri would take about nine years; who could be prevailed on to try it?

The solution comes with the theory of time dilatation, now generally accepted by mathematicians and physicists. According to this argument, time is greatly compressed for the crew of a spaceship approaching the velocity of light. A lapse of centuries on earth would thus seem only a few years to the passengers. It is true that, on

returning to earth, they would not see the world they'd left behind. They would find that generations had gone over in their absence. But a civilisation that could accomplish interstellar travel could probably adjust to this sort of experience.

That another race has solved this problem, and has navigated from another star to keep watch on the earth, now seems beyond dispute. We have already seen that if the UFOs are extra-terrestrial—and I marvel that anyone who has studied the evidence can think anything else—we are driven almost inevitably to the conclusion that they come from outside the Solar System. Probably interstellar travel is as commonplace to them as interstate travel is to us. In addition to the loophole offered by time dilatation, it seems logical that more advanced races would have a greater longevity than man, and perhaps the time-lapse is not as serious for them as it would be for us.

The best opinion holds that our visitors originate from one of the nearer stars. If they came from a remote star, one distant by hundreds or thousands of light-years, they would not be expected to stay in the sun's vicinity for long. Even a superior race with an immense life span would find it difficult to adjust to the radical changes they would see on returning to home base. It seems a safe guess that their home star is one of those in our immediate district. With this in mind, let us look at a certain field of contact stories.

In my judgment, the most credible stories yet reported are the contacts claimed in Venezuela during 1954, detailed by Major Donald E. Keyhoe in chapter 16 of his *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*. Keyhoe has never committed himself to these stories, but powerful arguments can be adduced in their favour, and I think there is a better than even chance that these particular stories are authentic. And they furnish definite leads.

The beings involved in them were described as "hairy dwarfs," creatures about three feet in

stature, covered with a stiff hairy substance. In one case, transparent helmets were reported. A claimant told of breaking his shotgun when he clubbed the dwarf who had grabbed his companion. In another case, when someone approached one of these visitors too close for comfort, the dwarf gave him a shove that sent him flying fifteen feet. Several cases mentioned that the creatures ran swiftly and nimbly, and in general they seemed hostile to the people who came near them.

Take note of four things:

- (1) The diminutive stature;
- (2) The astonishing hardness;
- (3) The enormous strength;
- (4) The swift running.

All these characteristics can be expected of beings from a planet with powerful gravity. Evolution, under the strain of the heavy tug, would supposedly develop short, closely-built skeletal frames. Extreme bodily hardness might arise as nature's way to avoid damage in falling. And on a planet with far weaker gravity—such as the earth—the strength and speed of such creatures would be frightening.

Granting the stories are true, our visitors, or at least one race, may be assigned to a huge, massive planet circling a nearby star. Planets of this sort are attributed to 61 Cygni and 70 Ophiuchi, as noted. These appear to be the only nearby stars that have companions large enough to reveal themselves in gravitational disturbances.

One of the Venezuela dwarf stories described the creatures' efforts to drag a man into their saucer, and it may be that the 1959 Papua case was an instance of human passengers, or prisoners, waving from the deck of a UFO that had taken them for scientific study. Be that as it may, there's a pretty good chance that when the origin of the saucers becomes known, 61 Cygni or 70 Ophiuchi will emerge as the home star of at least one of the visiting races.

A NEW FACT

A new fact is battling for your ears. A new aspect of the universe is striving to reveal itself. But no fact is so simple that it is not harder to

believe than to doubt at the first presentation.

Lucretius—*The Nature of the Universe*
quoted in *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*
by Charles A. Maney and Richard Hall.

FOO FIGHTERS

by **GORDON W. CREIGHTON**

In many books and articles about flying saucers, there will be found references to the "Foo Fighters" which dogged the paths of allied pilots on operations over enemy territory, both German and Japanese. It is also reported that German and Japanese pilots saw similar objects. Under war conditions the secrecy surrounding our subject was even closer than it is today. The author relates what is known about these objects and we reproduce an early clipping referring to them. The article concludes with some fascinating personal experiences prior to 1947 before the expression "Flying Saucers" had been coined as a result of the classic Kenneth Arnold sighting.

ONE finds among some of the newer converts to the subject today a tendency to think that the current chapter of intensive UFO activity around our planet began only in 1947—two years after the end of the Second World War. Many of the earlier students in this field will, however, recall that there was in fact a preliminary phase, covering the years 1944 to 1945, that is to say while the war was still in progress, and that the sightings during this phase were not so much of what we would now call saucers (though there were certainly some of these about) as of the strange little red or golden or silver discs or balls which the American Air Force dubbed "Foo Fighters" (from the French "feu"), or "Krauts," or "Kraut balls."

Those who wish to learn something about these discs or to refresh their memory cannot do better than refer to Chapter II ("The Coming of the Foo Fighters") of Harold T. Wilkins's book *Flying Saucers on the Moon* (Peter Owen, London, 1954).

Wilkins opens this chapter as follows:

"It was in the war year, 1944, when both British and American pilots had singular experiences; but not a word of it has ever appeared in any British newspaper. In that year, censorship was stringent; but though other mysteries have been revealed since, this one has never had the veil of silence removed from it, so far as Britain is concerned. It is not my business to advance any reason for this silence.

"I happen to know that two British war

pilots reported to Intelligence Officers, after a flight, that strange balls of fire had suddenly appeared while their own 'planes were on high-altitude flights. These mysterious balls had seemed to indulge in a sort of aerial ballet dance and had, so to speak, pirouetted on the wing tips of the 'planes. When the 'planes went into a power dive, these balls followed them down and outdistanced them, despite the fact that the 'planes were biting into the air with a strident scream at the vertiginous speed they were making. Other pilots reported that they had seen strange balls of blazing light flying in precise formation. The crew of one British bomber reported that fifteen or twenty of these balls had followed their bomber at a distance." Wilkins then goes on to describe in detail the first sightings of the "Foo Fighters" by American night-pilots flying over the Rhine, in the area north of Strasbourg, and particularly over the sector of the Allied invasion front between Hagenau and Neustadt. Both these places lie to the west of the Rhine.

It seems that the first encounter occurred at 10 p.m. on November 23, 1944, over the Rhine, near Mainz, when Lieut. Edward Schluter, a fighter-pilot of the U.S. 415th Night-Fighter Squadron based at Dijon, noticed some eight or ten balls of fire, flying in formation at immense speed. The sky was clear, with light clouds, the moon was in the first quarter, and visibility was good. Schluter and his companions, Radar Officer Lieut. Donald J. Meiers and Intelligence Officer Lieut. F. Ringwald, were able to see them with

the greatest of ease, particularly as they themselves were flying with their cockpit darkened in order to eliminate dazzle. Getting in touch at once with one of the American ground radar stations, Schluter reported that he seemed to have about ten German night-fighters chasing him. But the U.S. radar post replied: "You guys must be nuts! Nobody is up there but your own 'plane. 'Aint seein' things, are you?"

Lieut. Schluter and his companions realised that their story would not be believed but would be attributed to hallucinations or neurosis, and so they made no official report about the matter on their return to their base at Dijon.

The next encounters by members of the U.S. 415th Night-Fighter Squadron were on November 27, December 22 and December 24, small numbers of the balls being seen each time, but it was not long before a U.S. pilot, flying a P-47, encountered fifteen of the "Foo Fighters" in broad daylight over Neustadt.

And I have read somewhere or other a detailed account of how on one occasion one of the balls got in through an open hatch on the top of an American bomber and slowly flew up and down inside and then out again, to the astonishment of the crew.

By this time, of course, the pilots had begun to hand in reports of what they had seen, and the Air Force authorities were obliged to sit up and take notice. It was no longer sufficient just to wave the reports aside with a smile or with half-serious references to hallucinations or combat-neurosis. But, nevertheless, the inevitable "explanation" from the experts was soon forthcoming, for in January, 1945, it was stated by American scientists in New York that the red and golden balls were nothing more than St. Elmo's Fire.

The Far East, too

The war in Europe ended, but it was not long before the St. Elmo's Fire began to appear over the Pacific theatre of operations. Over Truk Lagoon, in mid-Pacific, and over Japan, the crews of the American B-29 bombers began to see the balls shooting up from below, hovering over the tails of the bombers, and changing in colour from red to orange and then white and back to red. Here, too, in the Far East, as over Germany, the weird balls were inoffensive, just "nosey" and exploratory. When going all out, at top speed, the B-29s could not outdistance the balls. On one occasion, at night, a B-29 rose up into a cloud in order to shake off one of them, but when it emerged from the cloudbank there was the ball,

still following close behind. The pilot reported later that it had appeared to be about 3½ ft. wide and that it glowed with a strange red phosphorescence. It was spherical, with no signs of any kind of mechanical appendages, such as fins, wings, etc.

Just as, over Germany, the Germans themselves had seen the balls and had thought they must be some new Allied device, so likewise in the Far East bewildered Japanese pilots encountered them and thought they must be secret devices of either the Americans or the Russians.

When the Allies had overrun Germany, however, no more "Foo Fighters" were seen there. And when the German experimental stations were seized, and their secrets examined, nothing so far as we know was ever found to indicate that the Germans had hit upon so astonishing an invention as glowing red or silver or golden balls which could fly for hours in formation and could be made invisible and then visible again in an instant. If the "Foo Fighters" were German or Japanese or Allied devices, why has nothing more been heard of them in the past fifteen years? Whoever heard of any secrets remaining secrets for so long as that!

An early report

Now, of course, it has been suggested to me more than once that all this is mere hearsay, purveyed to us only by Harold Wilkins. Why, I have been asked, was nothing ever published about it in the papers? According to Wilkins, it was not until January 1, 1945, that the U.S. press heard about the "Foo Fighters," while in the British press, still heavily censored, nothing appeared until later in the same year, when the Reuter ticker tapes did begin to carry brief reports about UFOs, *but not about "Foo Fighters"* (And these UFO reports, he adds, soon vanished as suddenly as they had appeared, from which one may deduce that the censorship was at work.)

It so happens, however, that I had by that time been transferred to the United States, where I was in charge of the British Consulate-General at New Orleans in the years 1944 and 1945, and I can show that, although Wilkins is not entirely accurate when he says that the first American press references were on January 1 and 2, 1945, for I still have in my files the original clipping which I cut from the *New Orleans Item* of December 13, 1944, nevertheless Wilkins's story is entirely correct in substance. Here is my clipping of December 13, 1944:

"(Associated Press) Paris, Dec. 13. As the Allied Armies ground out new gains on the

Silver Balls Floating in Air Nazis' Newest War Device

(The Associated Press)

1944

Paris, Dec. 13.—As the Allied armies ground out new gains on the western front today, the Germans were disclosed to have thrown a new "device" into the war—mysterious silvery balls which float in the air.

Pilots report seeing these objects, both individually and in clusters, during forays over the Reich.

(The purpose of the floaters was not immediately evident. It is possible that they represent a new anti-aircraft defense instrument or weapon.)

(This dispatch was heavily censored at supreme headquarters.)

Photostat of actual clipping.

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According to Wilkins, the following is the official release which appeared in the *New York Herald-Tribune* for January 2, 1945:

"(From a U.S. Night-Fighter Base in France.)

On December 13, 1944, newspapermen were told that the Germans had thrown silvery balls into the air against day raiders. Pilots then reported that they had seen these balls, both individually and in clusters, during forays over the Rhine. Now, it seems, the Nazis have thrown something new into the night skies over Germany. It is the weird, mysterious "Foo Fighter" balls which race alongside the wings of Beaufighters flying intruder missions over Germany. Pilots have been encountering this eerie weapon for more than a month in their night flights. No-one apparently knows what this sky weapon is. The balls of fire appear suddenly and accompany the planes for miles. They seem to be radio-controlled from the ground, so official intelligence reports reveal.

"There are three kinds of these lights we call 'Foo Fighters,'" said Lieutenant Donald Meiers, of Chicago. 'One is a red ball which appears off our wing tips and flies along with us. No. 2 is a vertical row of three balls of fire, flying in front of us. No. 3 is a group of about fifteen lights which appear in the distance, like

a Christmas tree up in the air, and flicker on and off.

"The pilots of this night-fighter squadron, in operation since September, 1943, find these fiery balls the weirdest thing they have yet met. They are convinced that these "Foo Fighters" are designed to be a psychological weapon, as well as military; although it is not the nature of the balls to attack a plane. . . .

"A 'Foo Fighter' picked me up recently, at 700 ft., and chased me 20 miles down the valley of the Rhine," says Meiers. 'I turned to starboard, and two balls of fire turned with me. We were going at 260 miles an hour, and the balls were keeping right up with us. On another occasion, when a 'Foo Fighter' picked us up, I dived at 360 miles an hour. It kept right off our wing tips for a while, and then zoomed up into the sky. When I first saw the things off my wing tips, I had the horrible thought that a German, on the ground, was ready to press a button, and explode them. But they don't explode, or attack us. They just seem to follow us, like wills-o'-the-wisp!'"

Such, then, were the first press reports in America about the balls, and it seems probable that, had it not been so heavily censored, my clipping from the *New Orleans Item* of December 13, 1944, would have turned out to be identical with this statement that was finally released on January 2, 1945.

Other explanations

At this point we may pause to note that, just as happened later with all the saucers, we are given by the pundits entirely different and mutually exclusive explanations of what the things are. "St. Elmo's Fire," say the New York scientists. "Psychological weapons," says this American night-fighter radar officer, doubtless because that is what his own authorities have told him to think. (The Germans, as we know, are eminently capable and practical people, and ruthless fighters when it comes to it, and I cannot for the life of me imagine them wasting their time and energy on so completely innocuous a device as this, without putting their brilliant invention to some more concrete use against the enemy.) And how much these explanations remind us of what was to happen later in connection with some of the saucer sightings, where one and the same UFO would be solemnly talked away as Venus, a weather-balloon, the illuminated nose-cone of an aircraft and a high-flying bird!

It may well be that my clipping of December 13, 1944, and the *Herald-Tribune* story of

January 2, 1945, are in fact the only press reports that ever did get out on the subject of the "Foo Fighters." And readers of the REVIEW will be interested to see the photostatic copy of my clipping, which appears on page 13. It is possible that there is no other copy to match it anywhere in amateur UFOlogists' files. At any rate, it is the only one that I have ever seen.

Readers of the REVIEW may wonder why it is that I extracted my clipping in the first place. The answer is simple. I had already seen a flying saucer, in daylight, fly over Chungking, Chiang Kai-Shek's wartime capital, in the autumn of 1941, when I was serving in the British Embassy there. I did not, of course, say to myself: "There goes a flying saucer!" But I did make a mental note of the fact that I had just observed something paranormal, something "out of this world." When, in the U.S.A. three years later, I read the story of the silver balls in the New Orleans paper, it rang a bell in my memory. And when, three years later still, I was stationed in N.E. Brazil, at H.M. Consulate in Recife (Pernambuco) and I began to read in the Brazilian papers of the wave of saucer-sightings over the U.S.A. in 1947, it rang another bell. The result is that I have accumulated, over the years, a stack of saucer files which is now more than a foot deep. The north-eastern part of Brazil dealt with in Dr. Olavo Fontes's fascinating account (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for July-August, 1961) lay within my Consular district. Although the really intensive UFO activity over Brazil has taken place in the years since I left that country, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that the circumstances, such as place-names, etc., given in Dr. Fontes's articles seem to me to be meticulously correct, and that I give the fullest credence to his accounts of what has been happening over Brazil, because, although I saw no actual Brazilian press reports of UFOs at that time, I did hear several stories of sightings in the interior before I left that country in 1950.

A Chinese sighting

My glimpse of a saucer in 1941 over the medieval city of Chungking, in the remote hinterland of China and not far from Tibet, was to have a rather strange sequel, and because I think that readers of the REVIEW will find the episode interesting, I will end this article with a word or two about it, without being so indiscreet as to reveal more than I should.

It happened that, a good many years after I had seen that saucer in China, some friends of mine, indulgent as always towards the queer interests which I seemed to pick for myself, hap-

pened to tell an officer of the American Air Force that they knew a madman named G. W. Creighton who was so far gone that he even believed in flying saucers. The officer, who at the time occupied an important position, said that that was indeed interesting, and he enquired—to their surprise—where he might find me. This officer did in fact go to some trouble to look me up, and I spent a very pleasant half-hour chatting with him. He wanted to know everything about the saucer that I claimed to have seen, and I obliged. But he seemed disappointed when he learnt that it had been so long ago as 1941. He then told me that he had seen one, too. It had been a small fiery disc, which dived at the aircraft that he was bringing in to land on an airfield in Japan during the Korean War. When close to him, the disc had suddenly exploded, and although the terrain below was gone over very carefully by a large number of people, not a scrap of it was ever found. (We have, of course, heard of many sightings of these small and evidently expendable discs, though I do not know whether it has ever been established that they are identical with the "Foo Fighters." Personally I think that they *are* identical, and that they are some type of sensitive tele-monitoring device which for all we know may include not only some sort of television but also a method of reading our minds.)

An American's curiosity

The American officer then asked me what I thought about the saucers, and I replied without hesitation that I saw no alternative to accepting them as extra-terrestrial craft. He was naturally careful not to commit himself by any expression of opinion. It is true that he did not produce any forms to fill in, but I have the feeling that, had my sighting been more recent and had it taken place nearer home, he might have done so. For, you see, I know a young Englishman to whom this did happen not so long ago here in this country. He saw a saucer near an airfield, and when he told the American authorities about it, they at once sent a man to interview him—with forms to fill in.

Perhaps what is significant in my story is that the American officer went out of his way to hear a madman's tale.

Postscript. Since the above article was written, we have been able to discover another newspaper reference to "Foo Fighters" (though with a different spelling). The London *Daily Telegraph* on January 2, 1945, reported as follows: "Alsace, Monday (January 1, 1945). NOW THE PHOO FIGHTER. Phoo fighters are the big topic among

our intruder pilots. These are strange orange lights which follow their planes, sometimes flying in formation with them and eventually peeling off and climbing. Some have come within a few yards and have been shot out. Another type of phoo fighter appears under the wings, making a series of dull flashes. (Express News Service.)”

A very early report has reached us through the courtesy of Miss O. M. Beaton, of Vancouver. Pilot Officer Roman Sobinski, later Captain of a bomber aircraft in 301 R.A.F. Squadron and now living in Richmond, British Columbia, states that on March 25, 1942, at midnight he saw for about

five minutes a round disc or sphere that was following his aircraft over the Zuider Zee, Holland, when returning from a bombing raid on Essen. His tail gunner reported it first and when Sobinski had confirmed the sighting and saw that the object was closing in on his aircraft fast he gave instructions to fire on it. Several rounds appeared to enter the object, but made no impression on it. The object was of a glowing-orange colour. It appeared at 15,000 feet about 100 to 200 yards away. Its speed was estimated at 180 m.p.h., but disappeared at an estimated speed of 1,000 m.p.m.—Editor.

DR. LEON DAVIDSON'S CIRCULAR LETTER

WAVENEY GIRVAN writes: “I have heard from Dr. Davidson that he would like to withdraw his allegation that the publication of *Flying Saucers Have Landed* was assisted by agents of the U.S.A. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). In the January-February issue I explained that as the original publisher of the book I was in the best position to deny the truth of his assertion.

“Dr. Davidson now wishes to amend his original

remarks and to substitute ‘publicise’ for ‘publish.’ This new statement is equally false and must be similarly denied. The publicity in England was organised solely by myself and my assistants: in America it was organised by the British Book Centre. They, too, received no help from the CIA or from any other similar government agency. Dr. Davidson’s attempt to evade my charge of one inaccuracy has merely led him into another.”

Sighting reports . . .

From ENGLAND, SCOTLAND,

SOUTH and EAST AFRICA

and the UNITED STATES

. . . in this issue

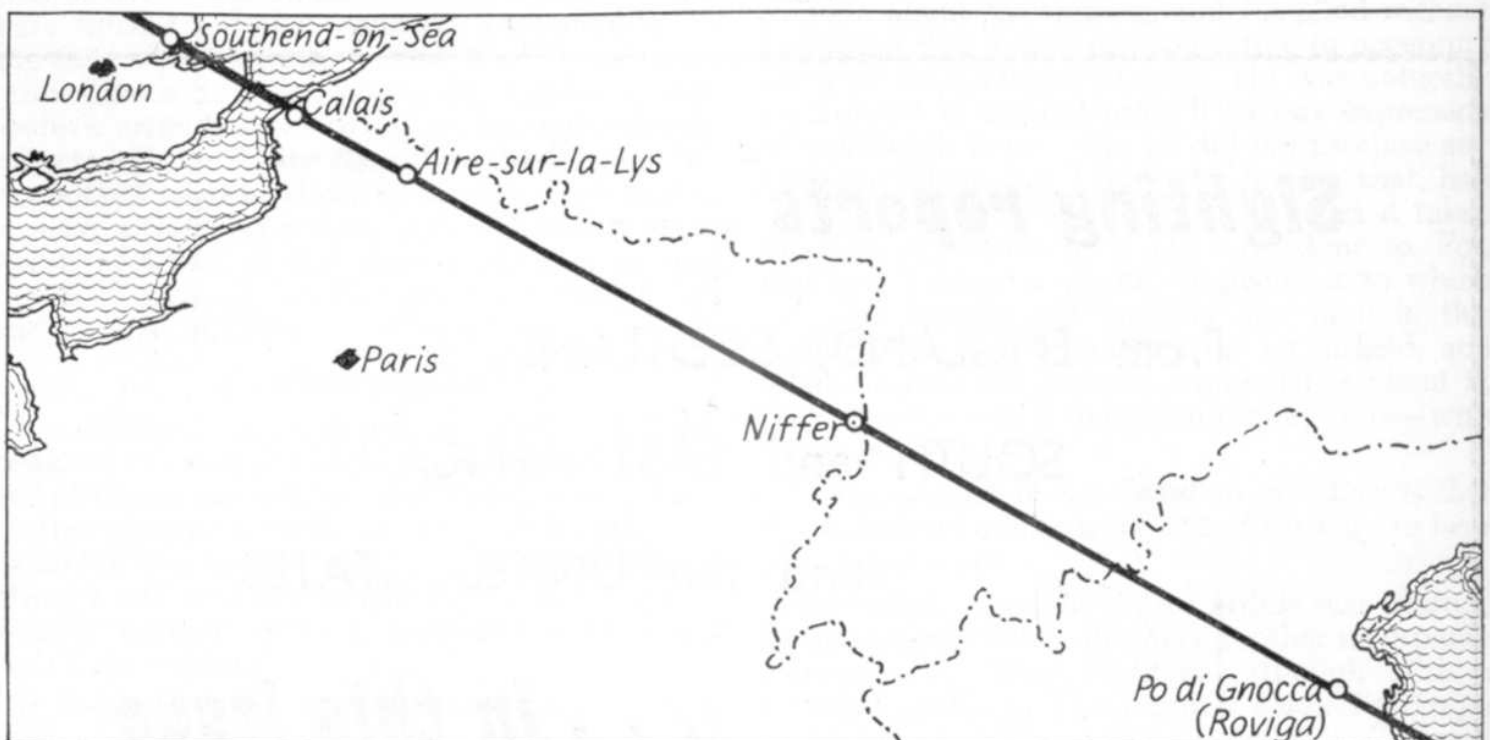
Proof for a sceptic

The landing at Southend

READERS of Aimé Michel's *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* will recall that section of it which was headed "From Italy to England—October 15." It begins on page 180 and on the following page there is a map which locates the sightings at Po di Gnocca (Rovigo), in Italy, Aire-sur-la-Lys and Calais, in France, and Southend, in England, all of which occurred on October 15, 1954. The Italian sighting was remarkable and is worth quoting: "At Po di Gnocca, several Italian peasants saw a circular object floating along slowly, which then landed noiselessly on the ground, remained motionless for a few minutes, and finally took off straight up. Where it had landed there was a crater almost twenty feet in diameter. As at Poncey on October 4, the earth had been torn out as if by powerful suction, and scattered around the edges of the hole. What is more, six poplar trees standing nearby had been carbonised. An investigation was at once ordered by the military authorities."

All the places mentioned by Michel in this section of his book lie along a straight line. It is of the highest possible significance because three countries were involved and a sceptic could not possibly contend that mass hysteria had spread in a matter of hours from Italy, through France and finally across the Channel to Southend. The Italian landing left physical evidence behind. It is pertinent to ask those who claim that the evidence offered in favour of flying saucers is insubstantial; what more do they want by way of proof? This section of Michel's book alone should satisfy any reasonable person. However, it has become most noticeable that those who attack the flying saucers completely ignore Michel's findings.

On October 15, what happened at Southend? Before this question is answered, it is worth mentioning that nobody in England had heard of orthoteny in 1954. Nobody living in England knew that he or she was on a straight line that extended from Italy to Southend and that this



Map adapted from Michel's Book.

town was one of five places where saucers had been seen that day. Michel's book was published in 1958 and even now not many copies have circulated in Great Britain. The young lady whose testimony we are about to quote could have no inkling how important her testimony was to become: we doubt whether even now she realises the full significance of what she saw.

The fullest account of her experience is to be found on the files of the now defunct *News Chronicle*. Its issue of October 16, 1954, carried the following report: "Twenty-three-year-old Patricia Hennessey is scared. She is convinced that she has seen a flying saucer—on the ground. It terrified her and sent her running home trembling with fear. At first she would not talk about it, but gradually her family and friends persuaded her to tell what she saw.

"Miss Hennessey was walking in Park Lane, Southend, on her way home to nearby Chase Road on Thursday night when she was confronted by The Thing. She said: 'Suddenly something made me look up. In the road five yards away by the kerbside was a silvery object

about 12 ft. high. It was domed and cylindrical—about 10 ft. across. A pipe the thickness of a human body and rather like a gas mask tube came from inside the thing. It was attached down one side and went back in again at the bottom. It had no legs or wheels. There were no markings. It seemed as though The Thing had a pale light shimmering from inside. I began to tremble. I turned and ran.'

"The spot is by the gates of Southchurch Hall Park. At the nearest house a woman was asked if she had seen any strange object the night before. She did not ask why she was being questioned. 'I kept my curtains shut close last night,' she answered, and would say no more.

"Only 100 yards away in Cheltenham Road a woman reported seeing an airborne 'saucer' a few months ago. It was also seen and logged at Southend Airport as 'an unidentified object'."

We should be grateful to any of our readers who may be living in or near Southend if they would help us to trace Miss Hennessey. It is possible that she might now be able to add to her testimony.

THE CALLOW EARTH

Salvation from outer space?

THE suggestion that there might be intelligences wiser and more tolerant than ours is a message made familiar by many, if not most, of the contact claimants. Recently, however, a similar suggestion has been made in all seriousness by an astronomer, the German Sebastian von Hoerner, writing in *Science* and quoted in the American magazine *Time* on December 29, 1961.

The American weekly comments: "Time was when all talk of communication between earth-bound men and creatures on other planets seemed like a product of far-out science fiction . . . von Hoerner demonstrates with intricate mathematical logic that planets suitable for life may be fairly common among the stars. On some of these planets, says

von Hoerner, there may well be creatures intelligent enough to transmit messages across the enormous distances of interstellar space."

Von Hoerner is convinced that if some highly cultured creatures are actually trying to communicate with us, earth's astronomers could, by concerted effort, detect and interpret the incoming messages. He further reasons that other planets may have been through crises similar to ours: they may have survived catastrophic wars and have learnt lessons from bitter experience. They may, he argues, be able to teach us how to avoid disaster. Von Hoerner believes, *Time* continues, "that the earth's young civilisation is now approaching its first great crisis because of its

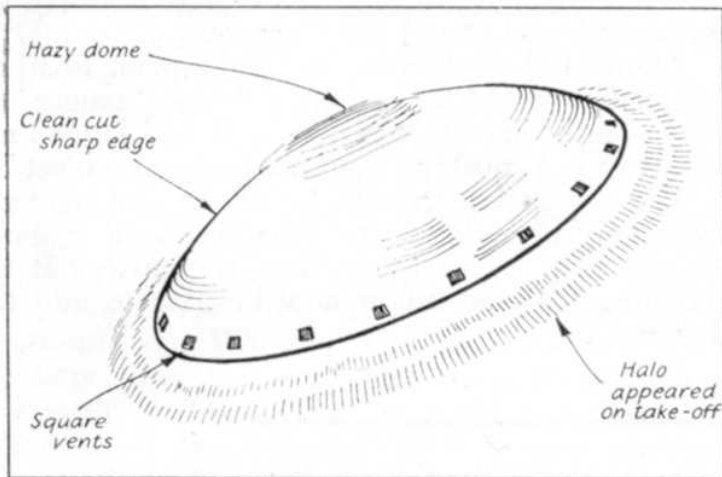
newfound powers of self-destruction. He feels that man's best hope of avoiding disaster is to listen hard for radioed advice. Far out in starry space, perhaps, is an old, wise civilisation that has survived many crises and is trying to warn the callow earth against the mistakes of its own youth."

The most extraordinary aspect of von Hoerner's statement is that he should be looking into outer space for messages of salvation. Why cannot the astronomers regard the evidence nearer home? A concerted effort to open their minds and to weigh the evidence that abounds in our own atmosphere would be a much simpler exercise and should provide more immediately profitable results. Has von Hoerner never heard of flying saucers?

THE IIVINGHOE FLYING SAUCER

Mr. Ronald Wildman's sensational story

IN a letter to the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Mr. Ronald Wildman, of 42 St. Margaret's Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire, tells in his own words the story of his amazing experience while delivering a new Vauxhall car in the early hours of February 9:



Sketch of flying saucer drawn by Mr. Wildman.

"I left home at 3 a.m. to proceed to Swansea with a new estate car from the factory. I had driven through Dunstable and was approaching the cross-roads at the end of the deserted Ivinghoe road at Aston Clinton, the time now being 3.30 a.m. approximately. Then I saw something—it was oval shaped and white with black marks at regular intervals round it, which could have been port-holes or air vents. It was about 20 or 30 feet above the ground and at least 40 feet wide across—which in my estimation was fantastic.

"As soon as I came within 20 yards of it the power of my car changed, it dropped right down to 20 m.p.h. I changed down into second and put my foot flat on the accelerator—nothing happened. I had my headlights full on and although the engine lost revs. the lights did not fade. The object, which was silent, kept ahead of me by approximately 20 feet for 200 yards, then started to come lower—it continued like this till it came to the end of the stretch—then a white haze appeared around it, like a halo around the moon. It veered off to the right at a terrific speed and vanished; as it did so it brushed particles of frost from the tree tops on to my windscreen.

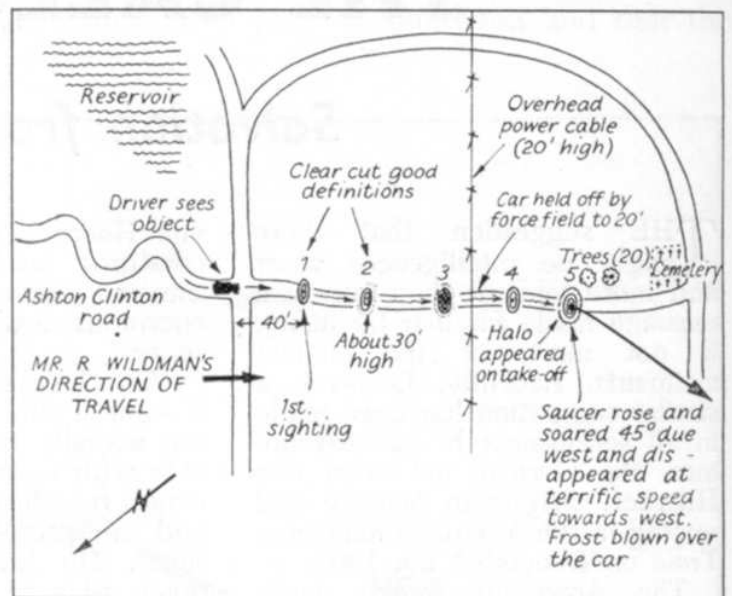
"It was definitely a solid object because the reflection of my headlights was thrown back from it."

In his letter, Mr. Wildman makes the point that prior to this experience he was a sceptic on such matters, "but this encounter of mine has completely changed my outlook."

On behalf of the REVIEW, three investigators travelled down to Luton on February 10 and interviewed Mr. Wildman while the experience was still fresh in his mind. The investigators were Dr. B. E. Finch, a regular contributor to the REVIEW, Dr. J. Doel, a radiologist, and Mr. Russell, a photographic expert. We append their signed report:

"We travelled to interview Mr. R. Wildman, of 42 St. Margaret's Avenue, on February 10. During the interview and after we were convinced that Mr. Wildman had a genuine sighting, that he was not hallucinated and that he was trustworthy and honest.

"We also came to the conclusion that until this incident occurred he knew nothing of flying saucers and the like. There were no commercial aspects involved. He was a straightforward, intelligent man, a car delivery driver for Vaux-



Sketch map of the area.

hall's and a skilled mechanic. We made a tour of his house and no literature concerning saucers came to light.

"After the interview he accompanied us to the scene of the sighting. We investigated the area for magnetic and radio-active changes. Although

(Continued on page 4 of cover)

SAUCERS OVER BOLTON

Many local witnesses

ON January 5 the following comments appeared in the *Bolton Evening News*: "Quite a lot of unidentified flying objects have been seen in this district since 1954, when a Farnworth couple saw a flying saucer when they were on the Holcombe Brook to Haslingden road. In September, 1955, a yellow ball of fire was seen over Rivington by Mrs. D. Owen, wife of the Vicar of Rivington. This brought forth the story of Mr. Wilkinson, of Horwich, who said he had seen a light high up in the sky, which gave off a humming noise, as far back as November, 1956. Similar manifestations were seen at Affetside in May, 1957, and from Tonge Moor Road a few days later. Radcliffe had several visitations in August, 1957, and Daubhill in November. In the same month a Little Lever housewife was terrified by a green semi-circle which disappeared into the mist. In 1960 a silver bullet which made no noise and left no trail was seen streaking over Bolton.

Bolton, perhaps, is on a main route to—somewhere?"

As if in response to this open-minded approach to the mystery, further activity was reported a fortnight later and the same newspaper, on January 19, devoted a generous amount of space to the subject of flying saucers. A reader, Mr. Bernard Sutcliffe, of 21 Starcliffe Street, Great Lever, had written to enquire about a strange flying object he had seen over Bolton as people were going to work on Tuesday morning, January 17. Mr. Sutcliffe received an immediate reply from another reader, Mr. Jimmy Gee, of Longcauseway, Farnworth. Mr. Gee was making early-morning deliveries in his butcher's van in Grosvenor Close, Walkden, when he first saw the UFO.

"At first it looked like a slice of the moon," Mr. Gee told a reporter. "The long, bright, yellow strip, not unlike a bright fluorescent light, turned, dropped down horizontally and began to move in the direction of Walkden. Then I realised it couldn't be the moon." Soon afterwards, Mr. Gee saw a man with two children and one of the children shouted: "It's a flying saucer!" And the man agreed. Mr. Gee turned

his back on the object as he continued his journey towards Farnworth, but only two minutes later he again noticed the object "travelling at tremendous speed towards Manchester." On arriving at a petrol filling station in Worsley Road, an elderly attendant's notice was drawn to the object and he also agreed that "it was certainly a flying saucer."

These two witnesses next saw vapour "jets" coming from underneath the saucer, and with a streak of flame it zoomed high into the atmosphere and out of sight.

The *Bolton Evening News* report continues: "But that isn't all. About ten minutes later they saw a fast-moving jet plane travelling from where the object had disappeared across a quarter of the horizon to the spot where Jimmy had first seen it. 'It seemed to me as though the Air Force had detected something and were checking up,' said Jimmy. Another Farnworth man, hardware salesman Mr. Walter Orrell, of Kildare Street, saw the 'flying saucer' but didn't realise at the time what it was. 'When Mr. Gee mentioned it, I realised that it was the same thing that I saw,' he said."

These reports and comments are both interesting and encouraging to saucer students. Despite the official hostility and disregard, the ordinary people all over the world not only continue to see these objects in the sky above their towns and villages, but they are also becoming more and more prepared to admit that what they have seen has been a flying saucer. The elderly attendant at the petrol filling station, on the other hand, seems to have been so certain of what he had seen that he was determined to keep his mouth shut! The Bolton sightings tend to show that the official attitude to saucers is failing and although many newspapers still do not realise that its readers are not all fools, the *Bolton Evening News* is a notable exception. It deserves congratulation for having printed the news fearlessly and without regard to fashion. Other papers, please copy.

(We are grateful to Mrs. Bonney for drawing our attention to the *Bolton Evening News* issue of January 19.)

FLYING SAUCERS ARE POLITICS

By JOHN LADE

A NOTABLE addition to the growing list of flying saucer literature has just been published in the United States.* The joint authors of this work, *The Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, are Professor Charles Maney, head of the Department of Physics at Defiance College, Akron, Ohio, and Mr. Richard Hall, Secretary of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) of Washington. Professor Maney is also a board member of NICAP.

Professor Maney contributes most of the articles which constitute the chapters of the first two parts of the book: "The UFO Mystery" and "A Scientist Looks at UFOs," and these articles can only increase his stature in the eyes of serious students of our subject. He presents enough scientific evidence concerning electromagnetic phenomena, the fall of those evanescent filaments called angel hair and other side-effects associated with the appearance of flying saucers to convince an open-minded sceptic. He concludes Part II thus:

"The problems presented by UFO phenomena are of such difficulty and of such tremendous significance that the study of them should be a wide-open worldwide programme. The challenge presented by these navigated objects from outer space needs to be met by the world's best technological and scientific talent, unhampered by government restrictions, secrecy, red tape, and inefficiency."

The book has a foreword by Charles P. Oliver, who is President of the American Meteor Society and Emeritus Professor of Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Oliver objects to ridicule and suppression and recommends that the subject of UFOs should be studied scientifically. His hope is to help to dispel official secrecy and "he can personally testify that his friend Dr. Lincoln La Paz (the famous astronomer) was unable to furnish him with information because it was classified, and that, on trying to get it from Washington, the attempt failed. And these data refer to certain fireballs, not UFOs. This indicates to what extent censorship of data can go."

The third part of the book, under the heading

"A Philosopher Looks at UFOs," contains articles by Richard Hall pleading for serious attention to be given to the subject. On page 166 he writes:

"There is nothing in the problem of UFOs which could not be resolved if all scientists had access to the data and citizens were kept well informed on the progress of the study. In science, it is essential that all relevant data be exchanged freely. In a democracy, it is essential that the populace be well informed so that it may prepare intelligently for any event. This necessary information is not available today, but it could be if the Air Force and the government are sincere in their desire to resolve the issue. The UFO problem would then be what it should be—the responsibility of science and society.

On page 140 he concludes "The UFOs and Proof":

"Regardless of why this is so, the Air Force is (at least publicly) explaining UFOs away instead of examining the crucial reports for signs of consistency and intelligible patterns. Independent studies have shown that these patterns exist; but, it will take a full scientific study to *prove* anything. The question is: When is the phase of glib explanation going to end, and an attempt to obtain scientific proof begin?"

These two quotations serve to illustrate the approach which Mr. Hall shares with NICAP, of which he is the Secretary. For our part, we believe this approach to be a weak one and we think Major Keyhoe would do better to enlist support from those Navy sources which, as mentioned in the review of his *Flying Saucers: Top Secret* (May-June issue, 1961), refused to accept censorship by the U.S. Air Force. If it has to be a case of, in pugilistic style, "On my left the Silence Group; on my right Mr. Richard Hall (or Major Keyhoe, or NICAP)," the result is not worth waiting for, but if it is "On my right the U.S. Navy," then we may get somewhere. There is good popular appeal in a contest advertised as "The Silent Service versus The Silence Group" and seconds, out of the ring, can make the fray general. So general that silence disappears altogether.

It is no use expecting fair play from militarism. We are reminded of an instance in the play "Ross," by Terence Rattigan: Lawrence of Arabia, disguised and in hiding from soldiers who seek him, is chatting with a soldier and embarks upon a philosophical discussion, ending with an appeal to logic. "Logic?" says the soldier, whipping out his gun and arresting the unfortunate Lawrence.

Of course, one knows that there are always reasons for security: even data about fireballs may have been obtained by the use of advanced instruments, possession of which it is thought can be concealed from all but professional spies; in-offensive spacecraft from other planets might weaken a will to resist the forces of (here, insert the appropriate cold war enemy). It is almost as though the god of war existed and feared to lose his power, feared lest his image should diminish in the eyes of simple yokels enticed by the Queen's shilling into vast and impressive barracks, to be imprisoned, drilled and regimented. We recall that Cromwell, whose army is said to have been the finest the world has ever seen, needed no palatial barracks or *esprit de corps* and merely ensured that every soldier knew what he was fighting for and that he was willing to fight for it, or he was not accepted into the army.

I support war in a righteous cause, but I am in favour of control of the military by the civilian power at all times and I am convinced that, in time of peace, it is the duty of the civilian power to foster science in furtherance of peace, to restrain the military, to proceed without fear and to confide in Providence.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Hailsham, Q.C., Lord President of the Council and Minister for Science, in the eighth Fawley Foundation Lecture on Science and Government given at the University of Southampton on November 9, pointed out that the problem of freedom was the most important of those facing the Government with regard to science: science primarily sought truth and was therefore disinterested in power, while Government sought power and was therefore intrinsically motivated by it. There was a danger of corruption on both sides, "... corrupting to science because it turns what should be a liberating and constructive force into a destructive influence perhaps at the service of tyranny; corrupting to Government because it places in its grasp irresistible power which the masses can neither control nor begin to understand. No-one could claim today that this question has been solved."

In his peroration Lord Hailsham had this to say about science:

"In its origin and nature it was a liberating and constructive force. In its marriage to political authority it has reached unexampled success. But in the process it is becoming corrupted, a means of destruction, a servant of tyrants as well as of the true interests of mankind.

"Its future depends less upon its relationship to the humanities, philosophy, ethics, or religion, than upon the extent to which its lower self is subordinated to its higher. At the higher level science is a humane study. It cannot be studied in isolation from the rest of culture. It is part of ethics and religion and philosophy and art. There are not two cultures; there is one, and science is part of it. At the lower level it is a servant of humanity and not its master. Its value is equal to the value of the end, and of the people, it subserves. If scientists and Government do not realise this truth, there will be no peace in the cities of the earth."

Mr. Hall has this to say (page 135):

"Until UFOlogy has as its image the scientific spirit, it will not attract scientists. Until it attracts scientists, it will not be a science. Until it is a science, it will not provide the answers about UFOs. If UFOlogy is unable to become a science on its own, it has to persuade orthodox scientists to investigate UFOs. In either case, it must eliminate the unscientific elements which have obscured the issue."

Let us repeat to these unscientific elements the ringing words of Cromwell to the Long Parliament: "You have sat here too long for any good that you have been doing. In the name of God: Go!"

* Privately printed and obtainable from Mr. Richard Hall at 1916, 17th Street, N.W., Washington, 9, D.C., U.S.A. \$3.50.

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BRAINS TRUST—panel includes Desmond Leslie Caxton Hall, London: March 17, 7.30 p.m. (Further details from Hon. Sec., LUFORO, 59 Marlborough Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.)

World round-up

of news
and comment
about recent
sightings

ENGLAND:

Colchester mystery

The *Colchester Express* on December 14, 1961, reported that 26-year-old Mr. Peter Green, of Mill Road, West Mersea, when travelling to work on Wednesday morning, December 13, saw a dark grey object about 18,000 or 20,000 feet above Colchester. It remained stationary with a smaller object of the same colour suspended from it and at first he thought it might be a balloon with something attached to it. Then, as if travelling directly away from him, the shape gradually became smaller and then almost suddenly disappeared.

After having read a report in the previous issue of the *Colchester Express*, Mr. Green told a reporter about what he had seen and how it resembled slightly the spaceship described as having been seen hovering over Halstead by Mr. A. J. Watts, lecturer in Physics, who lives at Elmstead.

Colchester flare

The *Colchester Express* on January 4 carried the following report: "A mysterious red flare which shot into the sky on New Year's Eve night nearly—but not quite—resulted in the Walton lifeboat putting to sea. It was spotted by several people, including the crew of a boat at Hythe Quay, Colchester, and seemed to be a ship's distress rocket yet, strangely, it appeared to come from inland. Whether it came from a boat on the river is not known. On Monday a Walton coastguard said that it seemed to

have been an emergency rocket, and pointed out that even when the Army fired red Verey lights they always informed the coastguards. So far nothing has been discovered which could have had any connection with the mystery light."

(Credit to Mr. A. Haughey.)

Over the Malverns

The *Worcester Evening News* in its issue of January 3 reported: "Several people reported seeing a strange 'comet-like' object descend from the sky over Worcestershire yesterday. Mr. Alfred John Davies, a gardener, of 63 Cotswold Road, Malvern, said he saw the object while in Richmond Road, Malvern Link, about 8.15 a.m.

"It was the most wonderful sight I have seen in my life. It seemed to be about three yards long with a shimmering ball of bright green light on the end. I only saw it for a moment but it seemed to disappear over the North Hill of the Malverns. Just before I lost sight of it, it exploded, the ball coming away from the tail. It looked to me like a comet," he said.

"A woman living in Victoria Avenue, Worcester, also reported seeing the 'flying object' in the sky towards Malvern about the same time. She described it as 'bright blue with a long tail.'

"Similar objects have been seen over Malvern in the past—the last about a year ago. The meteorological office at R.R.E., Pershore, could not explain the phenomenon. Objects reported in

the past usually turned out to be radio sondes (balloons with radio transmitters attached), said a spokesman, but it was unlikely that the object seen over Malvern was one of these as the nearest radio sonde offices were at Liverpool and Camborne, Cornwall. Apart from this, the time it was seen did not tie in with the times the balloons were sent up—6 a.m., midday, 6 p.m. and midnight."

Perplexity in Durham

Mr. M. Danby, of the College of the Venerable Bede, Durham City, wrote to the *Evening Gazette*, Middlesbrough, and his letter was printed on January 18: "I witnessed a strange happening at 12.25 a.m. on Saturday, January 13. While walking home along the A1 road at Nevilles Cross, Durham, I saw a green object with a long orange 'tail' extending behind it, pass quite quickly across the sky from S.W. to N.E. In the middle of this orange 'tail' was an intense cone of flame, not unlike the burning exhaust gases of a rocket motor.

"The object was quite low in the sky, and the glow lit up the sky with its orange brilliance. It appeared as though some motor was driving the object through the atmosphere.

"Since then, I have been informed that several people living in the Tees-side area have also seen what appears to be either the same object, or one similar in appearance to the one which I saw. Evidently they have written to the *Evening Gazette* telling of this.

"I would be grateful if some authority was to offer an explanation as to what the mysterious object might be."

"Authority" will probably tell Mr. Danby that he was either hallucinated or that he witnessed some conventional object in an unusual light. What he saw remains a complete mystery, but the report suggests that it was a flying saucer—which "Authority" will have nothing to do with. So if Mr. Danby cannot be controverted he will just be ignored. (Credit to Miss C. M. Toothill.)

Southport visitor

The *Southport Visiter* on December 14, 1961, reported as follows:

"While travelling from Liverpool on Monday (December 11) at 10 to 11 a.m., Mr. Aubrey Fishel, of Memlove Gardens West, Liverpool, believes he saw two flying saucers. Mr. Fishel, who is the proprietor of Sheltons, the wallpaper shop in Chapel Street, Southport, said as he was travelling by car near Stanley Road the objects were to the north.

"I saw them for about 15 seconds. They were stationary at first and then one whizzed away in a parabola and left a black smoke trail. Buildings obscured the other one," he said.

"Both objects had a silver perimeter with a dome of fluorescent green colour. The weather was on the dull side at the time. They certainly were not meteorological balloons and I am wondering whether anyone else saw them."

Ice falls at East Sheen

A Mr. J. E. Southern, writing from The White Cottage, Colston Road, East Sheen to *The Times* on January 22 complained that there was no fund from which he could be compensated for the damage resulting from ice falling on to his property. He claimed that the ice had become detached from an airliner flying overhead. Mr. Southern suggested that the Ministry of Aviation should set

up a fund to indemnify householders and others who had suffered similar damage.

Although Mr. Southern stated categorically that the ice had fallen from an airliner, we wonder whether he could, in fact, support this assertion. It sounds, indeed, as though he had placed too ready a reliance on this explanation for his misfortune. Falls of ice from an otherwise innocent sky are not at all uncommon: they have often been reported in the days before man had achieved heavier-than-air flight. The accident to Mr. Southern's house may well have been caused by a phenomenon which we just do not understand. Human vanity, however, must have an explanation for everything and the airliner explanation is better than nothing. But do airliners shed ice weighing as much as 12 or 14 pounds?

Saucers over Darwen

We take the following account from the *Blackburn Evening Telegraph* of November 29, 1961:

"Strange objects in the sky over Darwen have been seen by many people besides Mr. John Whittaker, of Greenway Street. Since Mr. Whittaker's story of seeing something like a very bright star with a white trail appeared in the *Telegraph* on Monday (November 27, 1961), reports of other similar sights have been received.

"The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Albert Barnes, says: 'On a recent Sunday morning I was on my way to church when I watched for several seconds a very bright object curving across the sky. It had the same trail behind it and looked like an illuminated lizard.'

"Four boys from Spring Bank Secondary Modern School—Brian and Geoffrey Lambert, of Anchor Grove; Frank Almond, of Olive Lane; and Leonard Jackson of Anyon Street—testify to a similar spectacle. They were walking down Roman Road from the playing fields last Thursday afternoon (November 23, 1961), when they saw what looked like a silver triangle with a white trail behind

it crossing the sky. They say: 'It seemed to disappear for a few moments, then it came back looking a fiery colour and much bigger. It was travelling very fast. We guessed all sorts of things—a helicopter, a weather balloon, a delta-winged aircraft, but none of them came anywhere near describing it.'

It is interesting to note once again that when human beings are confronted with the super-normal they immediately try to relate it to something mundane. Incredulity, and not credulity, as the sceptics would have it, is the usual reaction to a sighting on the part of those who have been unprepared for the occurrence.

Cumberland meteorite?

The Times (London) on January 15 carried the following report: "A suspected meteorite caused a violent explosion over Whitehaven, Cumberland, early on Saturday. Police received many telephone calls from people thinking an aircraft had blown up.

"One large piece of greenish-grey rock, which gave off a sulphurous smell, was found on open ground in a chemical plant at Kells, Whitehaven.

"Mr. H. B. Ridley, director of the meteorite section of the British Astronomical Association, said: 'This is exciting news. Only four or five meteorites fall in the world each year and it was back in 1949 when we had the last one in Britain.'

"He said he had some reservations about the report. There should not have been a smell—certainly not of sulphur anyway, he said. Neither should it have been hot to touch (as had been reported). They are usually quite cold, having cooled in the last few thousand feet."

From outer space to Surrey?

Miss Margaret Stone, of Cedars Road, Beddington, wrote to the *Wallington and Carshalton Times* on November 23, 1961: "On Monday afternoon (November 20, 1961), about 4.20 p.m., I was

coming over Duppas Hill and saw a light in the sky. It was like a candle flame but not flickering. It remained stationary for perhaps five minutes, but I had no watch to be certain of time. Then it increased in length and bent over to the left, assuming a head like a caterpillar, and stretched out like a spring behind it, the colour fading to a lemon yellow. It then moved on in a straight line across the sky, getting fainter and fainter until it finally disappeared. I should say I watched it for about ten minutes. I should be grateful if you or any of your readers could explain this phenomenon." The newspaper added that several of its reporters also witnessed this strange apparition in the sky and calls for a scientific explanation.

(Credit to Mr. J. A. Hunter.)

Triangular object over Eyres Monsell

Mr. E. Adkins, who lives at 4 Grant Way, Eyres Monsell, told the *Leicester Mercury* (see issue dated November 8, 1961) that at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, November 3, he saw an object like a brilliant star with an orange centre flying about 600 miles per hour due south. It was triangular and appeared to be about three times the size of a Vulcan bomber. Mr. Adkins states that a woman with a young child also saw the object.

Noise over Dursley

The Gloucestershire *Dursley Gazette* on November 4, 1961, reported that a noisy object passed over Wotton-under-Edge in the early hours of Sunday morning (October 29) and that two hours later it returned. At 3.30 a.m. local people were disturbed by the sound of a rocket-type craft which could be heard passing very slowly over Synwell. On its return its speed was sufficiently slow to enable people to get out of bed and peer from their windows in an attempt to see what it was. An investigation carried out by the *Dursley Gazette* failed to discover anybody who had actually seen the

machine. Several experienced persons, however, were convinced that the sound had a rocket source and that it was not a jet-plane.

One of our area investigators received reports of "bangs" having been heard in the early hours of Sunday morning. Whatever caused these noises remains a complete mystery.

EGYPT:

Cairo "air raids"

The London *Daily Express* on January 29 carried the following report: "A new air raid by an undisclosed number of unidentified planes was reported from Suez tonight (January 28). Ack-ack guns fired during the 15-minute raid. No details are known. Yesterday (January 27) there was a two-hour blackout when a 'handful' of unspecified planes flew over Suez." On February 1, the *Daily Express* again reported an "air raid" over Suez, this time on January 31. This report added that the Middle East News Agency had stated that "hostile aircraft" tried to infringe Egyptian airspace. It also claimed that ack-ack guns had opened fire again.

SCOTLAND:

Space-ship over Fintry

Last November, a number of correspondents wrote to the *Dundee Courier and Advertiser* about a remarkable sighting witnessed over Fintry. Mr. J. A. Walker, who lives at 286 Broughty Ferry Road, Dundee, confirmed that the mysterious object had been seen by several members of the Craigiebank Church Dramatic Association when leaving the church after rehearsals. In his own words, "the object was seen at a height of about 15,000 feet in a northerly direction. It was of no determinable shape, but carried a large red light, which flicked on and off. There was also a bright white light on the body, which remained constant. The flying

object was moving very slowly in a south-westerly direction, rapidly losing height, and eventually disappeared behind some houses." The object was also seen by a Mr. G. Cunningham, of 44 Lansdowne Square, Dundee.

SOUTH AFRICA:

Search for crashed UFO

The *Diamond Fields Advertiser* on October 11, 1961, carried the following report: "The unidentified object that crashed to the ground high up in the Zoutpansberg, 40 miles from Louis Trichardt, in the Northern Transvaal, at 7.45 a.m. on Monday was definitely not a satellite or rocket fired from the American rocket range at Cape Canaveral, a U.S.A. Embassy spokesman said in Pretoria yesterday (October 10, 1961.)

"The object has not yet been found, nor has further confirmation of any such object been received. Sergeant J. B. Haasbrook, station commander at Mara, told Sapa in an interview here last night. Sergeant Haasbrook said that the search would continue.

"Officials at Cape Canaveral telephoned the missile test liaison officer at the Embassy, Major B. L. Spivey, on Monday night—a few hours after news of the phenomenon was flashed overseas. They told him it was not anything launched by them, and asked him to report back his findings immediately."

Sky objects over Natal

On December 24, Mr. C. A. Cilliers, a local weather observer of Prieska, reported that he had seen seven unidentified flying objects travelling at great speed and shining brightly. Mr. Cilliers testified that the objects "moved in a loose formation at about 60,000 feet and were shining brightly even though the sun was behind them." Other people in Prieska confirmed Mr. Cilliers's observations.

(See the *Natal Daily News*, December 26, 1961. Credit to Mr. Philipp J. Human.)

EAST AFRICA:

Superstitions aroused

The *East African Standard* on December 12, 1961, printed this letter from a reader: "I submit this letter in response to the Mines and Geological Department's request for eye-witness accounts of the mysterious light that appeared in the sky on Monday at 9.10 p.m.

"The heavenly object in question appeared in the sky above the Kikuyu station moving in a south-westerly direction, and at an angle of inclination of about 60°. It then headed in a north-easterly direction, falling slightly below the horizontal, as it proceeded on its course.

"The object had a head and a conical-shaped tail. The latter had alternating rays of bright and duller amber colour that converged at its tip and was being lashed about in wave-like motion, as the object continued in its course.

"Then came the change. The object gave out a lot of sparks with great suddenness; the tail disappeared, and its great luminosity diminished, leaving the sky almost as dark as before.

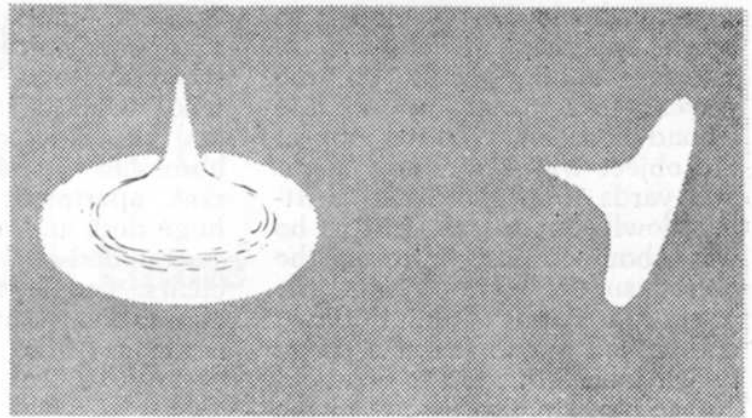
"This was immediately followed by a counter-change of great rapidity. The now roundish object rose vertically at great speed, increasing in luminosity as it did so, and disappeared into the scanty clouds.

"After the time it takes a man to walk for 50 yards at a normal speed, there came an audible noise from the far north, similar to that of dynamite detonated in a quarry. This may or may not have been thunder—I will leave that to your opinion.

"As, perhaps, it may appear from my account, my opinion is that a satisfactory explanation to the public is urgently required, as most people are still semi-hysterical about the matter, and the superstitions of many have been roused. — Kenneth Mangara Waiyaki. Kikuyu, December 8, 1961."

Mr. Waiyaki is not the only person who would like an ex-

Mrs. Rydon's impressions of what she saw.



planation. Whether he gets one is another matter. (Credit Mrs. M. H. Svedlund.)

Tanganyika sighting

E. M. Clendenein has kindly forwarded to us the details of a remarkable occurrence witnessed by Mrs. Rydon of Duluti House, Arusha, Tanganyika. We give the account in her own words: "On December 5, 1961, at 8 p.m. a large star-shaped object, the size and brightness of Jupiter, was seen by myself, my son and a friend moving south-east across the sky. It did not scintillate and looked like a planet. It was between Jupiter and Saturn when we first saw it and we watched its progress for about fifteen minutes when the light grew dimmer and we finally lost sight of it.

"At 10 p.m. we noticed a peculiar shaped black cloud in the form of an immense crook. This was well above the horizon on the Mt. Kilimanjaro side of Lake Duluti. It looked as though soot had been brushed on the sky with a very wide brush. Frequently flashes of light shone from behind it as if a giant torch was being flashed on and off. The rest of the sky was clear of cloud and the stars very bright. After about an hour it faded out, not breaking into wispy clouds but retaining its crook-like shape until it was no longer discernible.

"The following evening, December 6, at 7.30 p.m. I and my son and a servant saw a white disc-shaped object with a blue rim. When first sighted it was hovering over the house. It was not so large or bright as the

object seen on the previous evening, but it moved off in the same direction, south-east, and disappeared in a dark cloud."

U.S.A.

Grounded saucer

Under this heading, the Scottish *Daily Express* reported from New York that the Pentagon had decided to scrap the secret project to build a troop-carrying saucer. According to the newspaper, the Army had spent more than £2,500,000 on the project and had decided that no more funds would be available, and this decision has been notified to Avro Aircraft of Canada.

The *Daily Express's* comment is worth recording. It introduces the above news item by remarking: "Flying saucers are strictly for science fiction, with the emphasis on fiction." Presumably, this meant that now the Avro Saucer was to be abandoned, all other saucers must be regarded as unreal. Somebody is in for a shock.

Red sphere

Although this bizarre incident occurred some time ago it has several unusual features and is worth recording. It is taken from *A.R.O. Bulletin* for July, 1961, recently published: "On April 29, 1961, at about 4 p.m., John P. Gallagher, a Newport, R.I. contractor was working at a home adjacent to Bailey's Beach. He observed something that, at first impression, seemed to be the head of a very red-faced man out for an early season swim. Closer

scrutiny, however, revealed it to be a spherical object, red in colour, bobbing lazily on the waves. John went up to the second floor for a better look at the object which was now about 200 yards from shore and drifting slowly out to sea. Just as he was about to lose interest, the object suddenly rose from the water to a height of about 60 feet and moved out to sea at a speed which John estimated to be about 100 m.p.h. He also expressed the opinion that the object was definitely controlled for it seemed to rise abruptly to a chosen altitude and move out at high speed in an unwavering straight line."

Saucers and Spaceville

The story of the boom that came to Cocoa Beach as the result of the proximity of Cape Canaveral, the famous American satellite launching base is told in the *London Observer* on January 14.

Two Americans, who foresaw what would happen as soon as Cape Canaveral really broke into the news, were responsible for the development. They are referred to in the *Observer* article as Jake and the Man from Cincinnati. The latter's story is amusingly related, as follows:

"The Master Sergeant and the Man from Cincinnati both belong to the romantic tradition of

American capitalism. Jake goes in for flamboyance, like all the old tycoons. He is a corpulent man who wears a big diamond ring and has a watch with diamond numerals. His office in the Astrocrat apartment block holds a huge desk and a conference table surrounded by leather boardroom chairs. People say of Jake, with admiration, that he has always acted as if he owned even the enterprises in which he was simply a small shareholder. Yet everyone agrees that 'Jake started it all'; some think his bowling alley should one day become a national monument.

"The Man from Cincinnati is of a different order—handsome and full of nervous energy. He insists now that this is pure coincidence, but he has been devoted to Outer Space ever since he first read H. G. Wells and other masters of science fiction as a boy. He believed it all and sometimes went to bed in tears because the others in his family were sceptics. He joined the British Interplanetary Society and pored over its journals, rarely understanding a word.

"The real test of his convictions came when he set out to raise the wind for the Sea Missile Motel. The millionaire he went to asked a series of nonchalant questions, probing his credit and reliability. Then, as if changing the topic, the millionaire wanted

to know if he believed in flying saucers. The Man from Cincinnati drew in his breath to declare how ardently he did—and stopped abruptly, fearing a trap. But the faith of a lifetime was too strong to be denied and he confessed it stonily, expecting to be dismissed as some kind of a nut. But the millionaire replied with flashing eye that he believed in flying saucers, too, and at that moment the countdown began that was to put the Sea Missile Motel in business. The Cocoa Beach boom was on."

AUSTRALIA:

Father Gill re-affirms

The Rev. William Gill, the principal witness to the amazing Papuan sighting in 1959, is now Social Studies and English master at Essendon Grammar School, Melbourne. He flew to Brisbane on September 4, 1961, to discuss the matter publicly at the City Hall. When interviewed by a reporter of the *Brisbane Courier Mail* (see issue dated September 5, 1961), he said: "I did not believe in flying saucers or unidentified flying objects beforehand. Now I believe the existence of something out there, according to my own definition. I am still speculative about the origin of it."

THE U.S. AIR FORCE STRIKES AGAIN

Just as we were going to press, the United States Air Force have once again issued a statement to the effect that all flying saucer sightings for the last fourteen years have been caused by misinterpretations of conventional objects or

natural phenomena. Why the U.S. Air Force should think it necessary to make such a pronouncement every few years is a matter of some interest which will be fully discussed in our May-June issue.

Is there life on Earth?

The Martian point of view

By Alexander Emme

A Russian biologist puts himself into the shoes of a Martian scientist regarding possible life on the mysterious planet Earth. As the feasibility of life on Mars and Venus is the subject of much debate—the *Flying Saucer Review* has printed a number of sharply conflicting articles on the topic—we feel that this contribution helps to put the question into a fresh perspective. It is taken from the English language *Soviet Weekly* of October 5, 1961. According to the author, the Martian records refer to the Earth as "Third Planet," but he explains that he has translated the phrase for the convenience of terrestrial readers.

We have reprinted the article exactly as it stood, and our readers will discount the tendency to insert Soviet propaganda into this otherwise amusing satire. For instance, Russia is not alone in sending a man into space and atomic energy is not used by the Soviet solely for peaceful purposes. What is significant, however, is the evidence of the Russian preoccupation with the question of life on other planets.

THE experiments connected with thrusting a silver alloy powder into the atmosphere have proved most promising. A cosmic mirror focused the Sun's rays and directed them towards the surface of our planet, Mars. It was hoped by this method to raise the temperature four or five degrees. The icecaps at the poles will then melt, there will be more water, and vegetation will cover the barren areas. Our Martian scientists dream of fields that will give birth to succulent, tender fruit which, as yet, grow only in the hothouses. But what would happen if the temperature rose not by four or five but by forty or fifty degrees?

In order to estimate the possibilities we found it necessary to examine the conditions on other planets. An all-Martian Congress of Scientists was devoted to the possibility of life on Earth. Earth is nearly 50 million miles closer to the sun than we are and therefore its climate is considerably hotter. Can there be any life there? If so, what would it be like?

. . . The biologist's speech was listened to with close attention. "No," he declared. "It is unlikely that there is any highly organised life on Earth. Just imagine our plants having to put up with temperatures of 80 or 90 degrees—yet these are quite common in many regions of Earth.

"In such conditions our plants would wither

and die immediately. Indeed, in the region of Earth's equator, our vegetation could survive only in the water. On the surface of the Earth, therefore, there could be abundant vegetation only in the vast regions close to the poles. But can vegetation exist without the short-wave ultra-violet rays? So far, we do not know of pigments that catch the long-wave ultra-violet rays, and especially visible light.

"Let's assume that there are such pigments on Earth. It still remains highly doubtful if it is possible to achieve plant life at such high temperatures, and when there is a tremendous content of oxygen, that poisonous and most active gas which oxidises all things. Oxygen constitutes a fifth part of Earth's atmosphere and should burn up everything. Very likely the plants there live only for a few days and there must be frequent fires on the surface of the planet. Any flash of lightning would cause tremendous explosions.

"As for animals, the hypotheses that have been advanced here border on the fantastic. Our respected colleagues have forgotten that Earth is ten times heavier than our planet. If animals there are not to be crushed by the force of gravity they must be gigantic, with thick external and internal skeletons, with dozens of pairs of feet, and with devices for cooling the body and using a small quantity of oxygen. If an oxidizer penetrated

their blood in the same quantity as it is contained in the atmosphere, the animals must be very mobile. It is possible that most of them live in the waters, thanks to which their bodies cool off. As for thinking beings, their usual abode could only be in very high mountain areas."

The congress passed the following decision: "As a working hypothesis we will consider that life may exist on Earth, but only in its initial stage of development. The existence of animals and thinking beings has not been proved. However, a number of facts pointing to the appearance of new water basins require explanation."

The author also managed to intercept a broadcast by a Venusian scientist.

"We have been shown the high honour of representing the developed civilisation of the system of our star. All the experience accumulated in the 230 years of my scientific work evidences that there can be life only on a few individual planets of the entire Universe. Within the limits of the planetary system of our star we alone have enough warmth, water, and the mildest and most constant climate, with sharp changes.

"Just note Earth. It is only about 25 million miles from us, but that is sufficient for its poles and mountains to be covered with eternal ice, and for the existence of tremendous daily, seasonal and zonal drops in temperature. At the poles it drops to nearly 150 degrees of frost, while at the equator it rises to almost a hundred above. At an average daily temperature of under 60 degrees plants cannot develop quickly. If they do exist there, then they can be only in the region of the equator and they probably blossom in the 10th to 15th year of life, thanks to the presence of a tremendous amount of oxidising gas in the atmosphere. They must live in water, for on land they would perish from the ultra-violet rays. And animals, too, could only live in water there.

"The atmosphere of Earth has an amazing feature. It contains less than one-tenth of one per cent. of carbon dioxide, our basic vital gas. Very likely it continually returns to the atmosphere as a result of respiration and the decomposition of organic remains. Living plants would have used it all up already and have made life impossible.

And now a few words from Earth itself:

Passionate disputes have been and are continuing to be conducted about the question of life in the Universe. Sometimes very fantastic hypotheses are advanced. Ancient thinkers, back in their day, admitted two possible solutions.

Life originated on Earth in its soil, water, and air, some said. No! protested others. Life has a cosmic beginning, and its embryos populate interstellar space.

The theory that world space is populated with spores and bacteria is a very unlikely one. The short-wave, ultra-violet rays of the Sun destroy protoplasm even at the super-low temperatures that prevail in outer space. The streams of rapidly flying charged particles are a great danger for life. But the earth is not the only habitation of life. Life originated and will originate and develop on planets where suitable conditions exist for it. What are these conditions?

In the first place, life requires a constant influx of a specific amount of warmth. Its excess excludes the existence of the forms of life which we know of, just as does an insufficient amount of it. The planet itself must also satisfy certain, definite demands if life is to originate on it. It must not be too small to be able to retain a gaseous envelope. Its atmosphere must permit the visible rays of the Sun to pass through. There must be no high degree of radioactivity and there must be large open reservoirs.

There are 42 stars among the close neighbours of the solar system. But life can exist on the planets of the stars Epsilon and of the constellation Eridanus and the star Tau of the constellation Cetus. And that is where man is now sending the signals of his powerful radio-telescopes in the hope of receiving an answer.

Within the limits of our own solar system life may exist on Mars and Venus, in addition to our Earth. There may possibly be traces of it on the Moon. Therefore, when sending their gift Soviet scientists took measures to ensure the chemical purity of the experiment. The pennant was sterile.

Should any organic substances be discovered on the Moon, then we can be certain they were not brought there with the gift. There can be an infinite number of inhabited plants in the endless Universe. Our Galaxy alone contains about 100 million of them. And in this tremendous number of inhabited worlds which are scattered about in our Galaxy, life is always coming into being somewhere in its primitive form as little lumps of protein.

And on innumerable worlds, millions of light years from our Earth, live thinking beings. The most fantastic dream of all times has now come true on Earth: a man, a Soviet man, has been in outer space.

Tremendous rockets capable of sending sputniks into their orbits, a reliable automatic system of controlling the space ship at a great distance, which ensures its return to a precisely predetermined place, hermetically sealed cabins with devices for regenerating the air, enriching it with oxygen and clearing it of carbon dioxide, a sys-

tem for landing the space pilot, electrophysiological, radiometric recording and TV devices that enabled us to know exactly how organisms behave and feel during a space trip—such are the stages of that long path, which have now ended in the flights of Yuri Gagarin and Herman Titov.

The peaceful use of atomic energy and the conquest of outer space are two gigantic twins born of the genius of our generation. Atomic energy can carry man to other worlds. It also enables

man to obtain the power needed for life on other planets. With its aid it will be possible to provide a planet with water, oxygen, and carbon dioxide.

The bacteria which are placed there will, as time goes on, themselves create their own medium of life and change the climate, and fertile soils and green forests will appear. The achievements of technique and science will gradually increase the number of inhabited planets and extend the boundaries of terrestrial life.

FROM G. W. CREIGHTON

MYSTERY OF HAMMARSKJOELD'S PLANE CRASH

Flashing lights reported

MR. TIMOTHY KANKASA, an African official, was a witness at the official inquiry into the circumstances of the United Nations Secretary-General's death when his plane crashed on September 18, 1961, at Ndola, Southern Rhodesia. Mr. Hammarskjöld and 15 other passengers were killed. The aircraft carrying Mr. Hammarskjöld and the other victims was large, with lights, and looked like a passenger plane, Mr. Kankasa affirmed. In addition to this plane, he saw another in the sky at the same time. It was smaller, showed no lights and was flying above the larger aircraft and in the same direction. Mr. Kankasa continued: "Then it seemed as if the smaller plane was beaming lights on the large aircraft. It was like a beam from a flashing torch."

Mr. Kankasa said he saw the small plane flash a white light two or three times before flying off to the north-east. The larger aircraft continued to the north-west.

Joan Jones, a nurse, told of a "spark in the sky" shortly before the aircraft, which was taking Mr. Hammarskjöld from Leopoldville to Ndola to meet President Tshombe, crashed last September. The nurse looked after Sgt. Harry Julian, an American security guard, the only survivor of the crash, who later died. Nurse Jones said: "It seemed to me he said something about a spark he had seen in the sky." When asked what happened then, Julian said: "There was a crash. . . . There were lots of explosions all round. I pulled the emergency tab and I ran out."

It is interesting to note the

familiar attempts at a conventionalisation which were made by a surgeon, Mr. Donald McNab, who ascribed the flashing lights to uraemia from which Sgt. Julian was said to be suffering. The independent evidence of Mr. Kankasa, who confirmed the flashing lights from the ground as well as reporting an unidentified plane, seems to have been overlooked by the surgeon. Nor does it seem to have occurred to Mr. McNab that a person suffering from uraemia would be accustomed to seeing flashing lights and would surely have discounted them when giving evidence on his deathbed to Nurse Jones. Sgt. Julian was able to give the name and address of his wife and to recognise her before he died.

(See London *Daily Telegraph*, January 20.)

WAITING

The Universe is full of magical things, patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.

EDEN PHILPOTTS: *A Shadow Passes.*

Still pressing for a flying saucer inquiry

U.S. Air Force under attack

THE following story was released by the North American Newspaper Alliance last October and was given wide publicity (though not in Great Britain). It appeared in the Durban *Sunday Tribune* on October 29, 1961, and references to the release have been found in a number of newspapers outside the United States. We reprint the full account as it appeared in the Durban paper:

"Flying Saucer enthusiasts who think it is up to Congress to find out whether we are being watched from outer space, as some scientists believe, are in for a rebuff at the hands of the new Chairman of the House 'Space Committee,' California's George Millar. 'The Air Force is the expert on that subject,' Miller said. 'But if the civilian groups think it is trying to silence inquiry, let them bring us the evidence, and we'll consider it.'

"This refers to a running feud between the Air Force and several civilian groups interested in unidentified flying objects. They say that every time an official investigation gets under way the Air Force uses its influence to squelch it.

"Earlier this year the House Science and Astronautics Committee, more commonly called the 'Space Committee,' was on the verge of starting an inquiry. It named a sub-committee on unidentified flying objects headed by Joseph Karth, of Minnesota. Karth made preparations to hold public hearings. Spokesmen for such organisations as the Unidentified Flying Objects Research Centre (UFORC) and the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) made preparations to move in

with their evidence. But at the mention of public hearings, the committee chairman said 'No.' And that ended the matter.

"The explanation given by the chairman was 'The Press will make fun of us. Anyhow, our committee has much more serious business on hand.' But the UFO fans are not taking a 'No.' They announce they will be back when Congress re-convenes, to press for a hearing.

"Could it be that some of these flying objects are really a new secret weapon which the Air Force wants to hide from a potential enemy? 'If so,' retorts a former admiral, 'they are the best-kept secrets in our history.'

The admiral, R. H. Hillenkoetter, who headed the Central Intelligence Agency from 1947 to 1950, says: 'These UFO seem to be under intelligent control. They have had plenty of time to be hostile and they have not shown any hostility. If they had, they might be the invention of some other nation. The public has a right to know the facts. Congress is the body to investigate.'

"One man who thinks it 'absolutely certain' that we are being watched from outer space is Albert Chop, former Air Force official, whose job was to evaluate UFO data.

"And Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, the man who discovered the planet Pluto, reports: 'These things, which do appear to be directed, are unlike any phenomena I have ever observed. Other stars in our galaxy may have hundreds of thousands of habitable worlds swirling about them. Races on these worlds may have been able to utilise the tremendous amounts of power

required to bridge the space between the stars.'

"Rear-Admiral D. S. Fahrney asserts that 'reliable reports indicate that there are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds. The way they change position indicates that their motion is directed.'

"We believe that the above account provides an excellent illustration of the obstacles in the way of flying saucer research. It would seem that the Space Committee's Chairman was telling the simple truth when he gave fear of ridicule as the main reason for his silence. The Space Committee's primary object is to help America reach the Moon before the Russians: flying saucers are, no doubt, an irritating distraction. It is an unwise attitude, but we are certain that here is the complete explanation of the "conspiracy of silence" that many UFO researchers are so fond of invoking. Those organisations which specialise in bringing pressure on their governments may even be helping to close the doors against themselves when their obvious duty is to spread the gospel to the public. If it were possible to persuade people not to laugh at flying saucers the inhibitions of the various governments would vanish overnight.

It would also appear from this report that the United States Air Force, while it may possess much more evidence than is available to the general public, is still far from certain as to the origin and purpose of the flying saucers. Until it is more certain, it feels, not unreasonably, that silence is the wisest course. The most that saucer organisations can hope to accomplish is to persuade its gov-

ernment into setting up a civilian investigative body. It is unfortunate but true that saucer enthusiasts are, at the moment, in

too small a minority to be able to bring any real pressure on a government department. General Chassin's advice was the soundest.

If each saucer enthusiast were able to interest ten influential people in the importance of the subject the battle would be won.

Awards for Essays on Gravity

THE Gravity Research Foundation Trustees are offering five Awards for short essays for the purpose of stimulating thought and encouraging work on Gravity. The stipulations follow:

(1) These Awards will be made on June 1, 1962, for the best 1,500-word essays* on what Gravity is, how it works and how it may be controlled.

(2) **The First Award will be \$1,000.00; the Second Award will be \$300.00; the Third Award will be \$200.00; the Fourth Award will be \$150.00; the Fifth Award will be \$100.00.**

(3) Essays must be received before April 16, 1962. One essay only will be accepted from anyone who is seriously interested in the application of Gravity to practical uses for the benefit of humanity.

(4) All essays must be typewritten, double

space, in English on paper $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches, *with two carbon copies.*

(5) The decision of the Judges will be final. No essays or copies can be returned, but writers are free to publish after June 1. Preference will be given to essays written especially for these Awards.

(6) Please write a title covering the area of thought expressed in your essay; and a summary paragraph of 100 words or less on a separate sheet.

(7) Please attach a separate sheet giving a short biographical sketch of yourself for use by the press in case you earn an Award.

Address: Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N.H. George M. Rideout, President.

* It may be less than 1,500 words; but if more the judges have the right not to accept same.

ENGLISH AS THE SPACE LANGUAGE?

Professor Ronald Bracewell, Director of Stanford Radio Astronomy Institution in California, told a Sydney, Australia, audience on January 12 that the earth was possibly being watched by more intelligent communities in the hope that earthmen would be "worthwhile bothering about."

Professor Bracewell said: "When we do make radio contact it will not be the first time this has

happened. The community which reaches us will be in touch with others."

Communication would be no problem. "We will just speak English. First we would have to provide them with a sizeable chunk of text so they could study the pattern of word repetition and grammar. Then we could send them the Oxford Dictionary on tape."

(See the London *Sunday Telegraph*, January 14, 1962.)

MAIL BAG

Contact stories

Sir,—If the UFO occupants want to convince us of their existence they could do so easily in some of these ways:

1. Fly over Aldermaston or Cape Canaveral for at least 24 hours.
2. Knock our artificial satellites out of orbit.
3. Contact our observatories by radio or something similar.
4. Show some new technology to our scientists to assist them in our own space ventures.

In the *Evening News* interview it was said that there were a number of well-documented contact cases. There is not one single case, and if you doubt this please name one. Now then, where is that convincing contact story? Do you really think Adamski or anyone else convincing? It is just too pathetic for words.—C. D. Allan, 300 Foleshill Road, Coventry.

(This letter is both revealing and important. It is a sign of man's egocentricity that he expects others to be interested in him, rather than the other way about. It does not seem to have occurred to our reader that the UFO occupants could wish to observe us without being observed themselves. On the other hand, when one of these objects does remain stationary over an airport the public is misinformed, and believes, that it is a stray balloon!

Concerning the *Evening News* interview, one convincing contact story was, in fact, mentioned in the paragraph immediately following the one Mr. Allan quotes—the Father Gill story, where contact was established by a wave signal. If Mr. Allan thinks that all contact stories are of the nature of Adamski's, i.e. the evangelist type, he should refer

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

to the index of Aimé Michel's *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, where he will find references to about twenty contact stories which carry corroborative evidence quite apart from the test of orthoteny which Michel discovered. The contacts, some of them physical, and leaving physical traces of a landing, must surely convince all but the wilfully blind that UFO occupants, human or near-human, have in fact landed on our soil.—Editor.)

An infinite cosmos

Sir,—I am a research worker and study the phenomenon of light. It is a constant throughout the Universe and is outside the law of motion. It is instantaneous in nature and reflects from point to point.

Planck is nearer the truth concerning the Universe than Einstein. It is an enormous quantitative concept. The great mistake that all our scientists commit is in trying to make a Universe to order. They think that because they had a beginning and an ending the same applies to the cosmos. As long as Science is based on this premise they will never grasp the truth. God is infinite and you cannot place an infinite size inside a measured or finite cosmos. Our greatest minds are just beginning to realize this truth. — Arthur W. Grandfield, Box 417, Nipawin, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Plasma engines

Sir,—In the July-August, 1961, issue you printed an article by Dr. B. E. Finch, "The Saucer—a

Flying Plasma." Your readers may be interested to know that I have come across the following articles on plasma engines and ion propulsion: "Electronic Rocket Motors," in *Wireless World*, May, 1960, and in the American magazine *Aviation Week and Space Technology* for November 27, 1961, "Major Space Role Seen for Plasma Engine."—W. J. MacLean, 78 Blackford Avenue, Edinburgh, 9.

The ashen light

Sir,—Professor C. W. Allen, Director of the University of London Observatory, recently let me have a copy of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society which gave details of the methods by which Brian Warner identified the oxygen lines in the spectrum of the night side of Venus—the Ashen Light. The article is entitled "The Emission Spectrum of the Night Side of Venus" and appeared in Volume 121, No. 3, 1960. The paper itself is rather technical, but if one has knowledge of algebra and of the interpretation of graphs and tables, the article could, in fact, be considered an eye-opener, particularly if one is aware of the attitude of official scientific establishments with regard to the atmospheric conditions of our neighbouring worlds. It is also of interest to note that the Russian astronomer, N. A. Kozzyrev, wrote a paper on this subject in 1954, but the confirmation of atomic oxygen in the Ashen Light Spectrum was not identified until quite recently.—Susanne R. Stebbing, 2 Station Road, Frimley, Surrey.

Sir Bernard Lovell

Sir,—On December 3, 1961, Sir Bernard Lovell contributed an article to the *Sunday Times*, "Is there Life on Other Worlds?" The emphasis in this article is strangely in contrast with a letter received from him two years ago in which he denied the existence of life in other parts of the universe.

He will soon be writing articles for the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW! —(The Rev.) Charles W. Harrington, The Vicarage, Woodborough, Notts.

Soviet photographs

Sir, — While glancing again through the May-June, 1961, issue of the REVIEW, I noticed that you had asked the Soviet Embassy in London whether they could supply a copy of the photograph of the alleged saucer taken by the Soviet polar scientist E. Murashov at Tiksi (71° 50' N., 129° E.) on November 21, 1959.

As readers will undoubtedly wish to know all they can about this strange case, I should perhaps explain that you had in fact already published the photograph in question. It is the bottom, left-hand picture in the reproduction of a page from *Komsomol Skaya Pravda* of January 8, 1961, given on page 4 of the March-April, 1961, issue.

Owing to shortage of space you were unable to use my translation of that particular article, which purports to show how such "photographs" are caused by tricks of light. Thus, the photograph at the top left is described as an optical illusion deliberately concocted by one of the newspaper's own cameramen. At the extreme right, bottom, is a sketch showing how all flying saucer images (so we are to believe) are created in the camera. The three smaller pictures in the centre are further examples of the same thing.

It may well be that all these Soviet photos, including the original one taken by the polar scientist, really are due, as

claimed, to tricks of light in the camera.

But we should not let that disturb us. For all these images are surely quite unlike any of the many types of UFO seen over, or on, this planet during the past twenty years, and I think we can be equally confident that they bear no resemblance to the saucers which it seems have been seen over Russia and Russian Central Asia and which the Soviet authorities have been at such pains to explain away. (On the other hand, it is possible that readers may think these images somewhat similar to the extraordinary "space-creatures" photographed by Trevor James. But, if so, that is another story, which, though fascinating, is probably in no way connected with the saucers, which are our concern.)

We must evidently conclude that, while constantly writing about extra-terrestrial civilisations on the countless inhabited planets of the Cosmos—and they were doing this two or three years before Professor Sir Bernard Lovell climbed on to the bandwaggon with his article in the *Sunday Times* for December 3, 1961, the Soviet scientists are just as determined as Professor Lovell to have no truck yet with the saucers. May we not suspect that in the U.S.S.R., as elsewhere, the aim is to be able to speak "from a position of strength"? Perhaps they think that, once we Earthmen have got as far as the Moon, it will be all right to admit that "others" are quite capable of visiting us, too, and have long been doing so!—G. W. Creighton, 16 Cedars Avenue, Rickmansworth, Herts.

Occult phenomena

Sir,—I read with astonishment Mr. Trevor James's article, "The Case for Contact"—Part II, in the January-February issue, 1962.

I hope that the author realises that he is treading on dangerous ground by bringing in this occult slant of his to try to explain these alleged contacts and contactees. He realises, I trust, that there is very little really reliable evidence

that can be brought forward in support of the objective existence of these so-called occult phenomena? Anyone who introduces these occult ideas or explanations, does so at his peril and must be prepared for very many of his readers to reject them as improbable, or at best non-proven.

However, if such extremely unorthodox and unauthorised views are to be advanced with a prospect of their being considered at all seriously let them please be advocated rationally and sensibly, without any excessive emotionalism, or worse, that awful impression one sometimes gets that the author has been vouchsafed some rather special kind of revelation and means to make the most of it. The article referred to above appears to be free from these vices, thank heavens!

It appears that the ability to communicate from mind to mind in certain circumstances, and other similar phenomena, are well known to people who have had the opportunity to study the subject. Further, it appears that these phenomena, far from being "miraculous," are the completely natural product of the operation of certain apparently fundamental laws of Nature.

Understandably "the man in the street," without any knowledge of these things, usually regards occultism and its allied subjects with the gravest suspicion, demanding a type of objective proof that for the most part occultism or psychism is at present unable to supply.

It is to be hoped that the occult approach will be encouraged, but with some discouragement to the type of enthusiasts referred to above, who only confuse the issues and generally make nuisances of themselves.

Perhaps it might be possible to institute some, possibly international, organisation for the proper investigation of all alleged contacts and contactees using such occult techniques as are currently available.—Adrian R. E. Cox, 8-10 Queensberry Place, London, S.W.7.

(Continued from page 18)

several metallic objects (spades, wheels, tins, etc.) were highly magnetic, this was not felt to be conclusive. There was no obvious increase in radiation. We inspected the road, the hedges, the fields and interrogated neighbouring farmers. No further evidence came to light. However, Mr. Wildman stated that two other Vauxhall delivery men had had similar experiences, having in the recent past seen a UFO in the vicinity of Luton's Vauxhall factory."

The London *Daily Telegraph* on February 10 carried a brief reference and quoted an Air Ministry spokesman who had stated that: "He may have seen a low cloud lit up by headlights. Or it may have been a joke." When the Air Ministry was interrogated on the telephone, the Press Officer said that all such incidents were investigated. At the moment of writing no Air Ministry representative had visited Mr. Wildman. The Air Ministry's comment was, therefore, uninformed and a gratuitous insult to Mr. Wildman. He had, by the way, performed his duty as a citizen and had reported the matter immediately he had recovered from his surprise to the police at Aylesbury. At first incredulous, two policemen later admitted that Mr. Wildman was sane, sober and sensible and was clearly telling the truth.

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