

unknown planets that have for ages puzzled and challenged earth-bound man.

We cannot claim that these groups of people with their varying shades of opinion form a united front, nor can we deny that among our ranks are to be found the crank, at one end of the scale, and the bigot at the other. The purpose of this REVIEW is to provide a platform from which all these points of view can be aired in the conviction that out of free opinions freely expressed the truth will eventually emerge. When we look to the future, however, it will be seen that we have an even more important duty to fulfil.

We think that it is pointless to expect any government to pronounce on the subject of the saucers and to settle the question once and for all. The truth is unlikely to emerge in this way, unless some miracle occurs. We would rather believe in the inevitability of gradualness, and this is why the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW assumes such importance. Our message, it should be remembered, must not be delivered solely to the converted: our purpose must be to persuade as well as to reassure. This imposes a heavy responsibility on the REVIEW. While comment may be free, "facts are chieftains that winna ding." We can afford to laugh at Dr. Menzel for trying to escape the facts, but we must not, on our part, either invent or ignore the facts just to suit our case. Nor must we swallow everything we are

offered without discrimination.

Time is on our side. The saucers continue to be seen in the skies. Scientists, orthodox and otherwise, are becoming less rigid. The possibility of life on other planets is grudgingly conceded. Professor Firsoff, for instance, has just stated that the atmosphere on Venus at ground level is very similar to our own. During the next twelve years man, Russian, American or both, will land on the Moon and, perhaps, on Venus as well. At each tentative step forward into the unknown he will learn more and more about our neighbours in space. In the meanwhile FLYING SAUCER REVIEW intends to serve as the chief weapon in the war against incredulity. This is one war with a foregone conclusion: it must end in victory.

On another page will be found an example, a classic in its way, of the working of human incredulity. It concerns the advent of heavier-than-air flight and the reluctance to accept a well-attested fact that seemed to affront the firmly-held theories of the day. As we know now, it was the firmly-held theories that had to yield in that particular fight. So it will be with the subject of saucers. We should not underestimate the struggle ahead, however, for those of us who are old enough to have lived through two world wars know full well that it is the lie that is readily believed—and the truth that is well-nigh incredible.

Two important announcements

Editorial

DURING recent months there has been a rapid increase in general interest in the subject of flying saucers. This has led to a rise in the circulation of the REVIEW which, in turn, has brought in more correspondence than it is possible to deal with. Much as the Editor would like to thank his correspondents personally, to do so would be to neglect his other duties. He hopes, therefore, that those who write to him will accept his assurance instead that all letters are most carefully read and as much information as possible is used for publication. Would correspondents also kindly help him by noting the following requests? :

1. Please type all articles on one side only of the paper and use double spacing. Contributions cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

2. Please keep business correspondence separate from communications of a general nature. (e.g. please do not include a note of change of address or a query about a subscription in a letter dealing with details of a sighting.)

Observer Corps

It will probably be necessary to reorganise the Corps in the near future, but a further announcement will be made in our January/February 1960 issue. In the meanwhile, the Corps will continue to function as before.

ANGELS OR MONSTERS?

*An unbiased enquiry
into the contact reports*

by

JULES LEMAITRE

AIMÉ MICHEL'S *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* has already been hailed as perhaps the most important work on the subject yet published. How seriously it will be taken by scientists we have yet to see, and we shall also have to await confirmation that future sightings will conform to the straight line pattern that Michel claims for those in the past. If they do, then the study of saucers will have passed into its second and conclusive stage.

Most reviewers of this book have quite rightly concentrated on its main theme, but some of its other contents are also worth serious study. Unlike so many other books on the subject which attempt a serious and scientific approach, it does not just brush off, or ignore entirely, the contact stories. These must remain a puzzle and a challenge to UFO researchers; they simply cannot be left out of account merely because the author, for some reason or other, dislikes or disbelieves them or because they do not conform with his main theory. Michel cogently remarks that if the reality of the saucers is conceded, then sooner or later one must face the possibility that they have pilots.

The evangelists

It may be an over-simplification, but it is broadly true to say that there have been two sharply defined types of contact stores. Into one category we could place the claims made by such people as Adamski, Fry, Bethurum and the English contactee, Allingham. They would seem to have one thing in common, namely that their visitor from outer space has brought glad tidings and for this reason they can be classified as the Evangelist school. Michel has this to say of Adamski: "So far as Mr. Adamski and his imitators are concerned, what makes their stories so suspicious is not that they claim to have seen saucer pilots; it is that their descriptions of these pilots are far too much like the fulfilment of naïve and ignorant daydreams. But to deny the existence of any saucer occupants because Mr.

Adamski's stories are wishful thinking is like becoming an atheist because the Aztecs worshipped a plumed serpent."

The Editors of the American section of this book are even more unkind. In a footnote about the saucer Evangelists, they remark: "Unfortunately, the great majority of these enterprising individuals are still enjoying great success: only a few are in serious legal difficulties. In most countries the well-publicised stories of these professional claimants probably constitute the greatest impediment at this time to recognition by serious people of the realities of the UFO situation."

In passing, I wonder whether this is true. It is much more likely that the sensational claims made by Adamski and others have been the means of bringing the subject to the attention of more people, serious and otherwise, than any other single factor in the whole extraordinary story. If Adamski and others were to be first exposed and then ignored, this is a fact that would remain unaltered. It is extraordinary how prejudice can allow otherwise serious investigators to stand truth on its head. The subject of saucers is greater than twenty Adamskis, honest or fraudulent, but we cannot deny that his two books have brought the subject to millions who had never heard of it before and this, in turn, has evoked the serious study that, up to then, had been denied it.

The horror stories

Let us return to Michel's opinion. He appears to doubt Adamski because his visitors bring tidings of peace. Well, it is a cynical view indeed which declares that all news must be bad, but he may be right. The world, however, seems to have taken the opposite view, and it is the horror stories that have tended to be ignored. M. Michel in his book obviously puts greater credence in

these than he does in the Evangelists of the movement. He says, in effect, the Evangelists are to be ignored while those who would make your flesh creep are to be given a hearing. There is, I must admit, a case to be answered and all who would arrive at truth must walk fearlessly.

M. Michel, as a Frenchman, obviously pays more attention to incidents in his country and his work of investigation has been most valuable. In only one other book on saucers (*Flying Saucers and Commonsense*, by Waveney Girvan) have the French landing stories been related and there they were quoted merely to indicate the reactions they provoked in the British press. The author clearly stated that he kept an open mind and was not citing these cases to prove anything one way or the other. M. Michel, however, has done some investigating on his own.

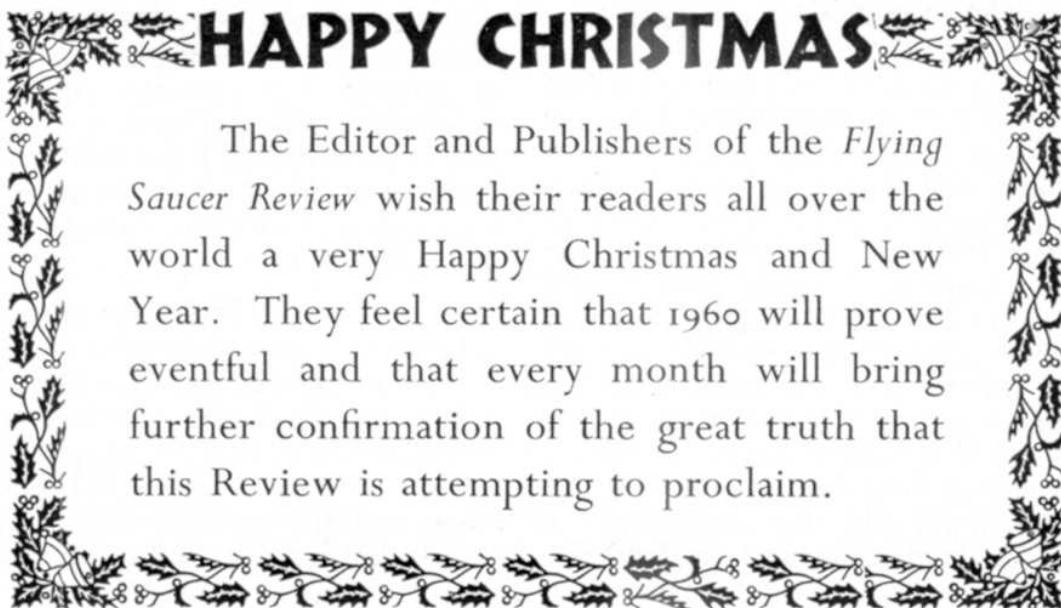
The Quarouble case need not be quoted in full and it will suffice to say that Marius Dewilde on September 10, 1954, saw two creatures emerge from an unidentified object which had landed on the railway track near his home. He suspected smugglers, but in his own words: "What I saw had nothing to do with smugglers. Two creatures such as I had never seen were walking along one behind the other toward the dark mass that I had noticed on the track. . . . both creatures were dressed in one-piece outfits like the dress that divers wear. They were very short, probably less than three and a half feet tall, but very wide in the shoulders, and the helmets protecting their 'heads' looked enormous. I could see their legs, small in proportion to their height, it seemed to me, but on the other hand I couldn't see any arms. I don't know whether they had any. . . .

I was no more than six feet from the two forms when I was blinded by an extremely powerful light, like a magnesium flare. . . . I closed my eyes and tried to yell, but I couldn't, it was just as if I had been paralyzed. I tried to move, but my legs wouldn't obey me."

When the beam of light went out, Marius Dewilde recovered the use of his limbs. The creatures had returned to their machine and had disappeared. When Dewilde told his story to the police he was so agitated with fear that they dismissed him as a lunatic. His fear was so real, however, that investigations were finally set on foot and on the rail track, at exactly the spot described by Dewilde, there were found in five places on three of the wooden ties identical depressions which must have been made by an object weighing at least thirty tons. Nothing more in the saucer world has been heard of M. Dewilde. He has written no books or articles and has ventured on no lectures to an admiring circle of saucerers. His vision of interplanetary pilots could bring no comfort to a suffering world.

A paralyzing ray

Marius Dewilde's story is by no means isolated. On October 3, 1954, the *Sunday Dispatch* (London) reported a number of French incidents involving a paralyzing ray and meetings with oddly-shaped beings similar to those encountered by Dewilde. None of the witnesses spoke of their experiences as being pleasant and none of them has subsequently become prominent in the literary world or the lecture room. Flying saucer researchers who are so fond of accusing governments and others of being in a conspiracy of



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Editor and Publishers of the *Flying Saucer Review* wish their readers all over the world a very Happy Christmas and New Year. They feel certain that 1960 will prove eventful and that every month will bring further confirmation of the great truth that this Review is attempting to proclaim.

silence have kept their mouths very tightly shut about such incidents. They certainly do not appeal to the Evangelist movement.

In the American section of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, two such stories are, among others, related. In both cases the visitors caused alarm and despondency by trying to steal dogs from their owners, hardly an evangelical approach to strangers. It will be noted that the cases I have quoted do not constitute "horror" stories such as the Desverges case in America, but they have this in common that the witnesses have not been overjoyed at the meeting.

What are we to make of all this? There would seem to be two ways of looking at this contact mystery. One is that we are being visited by two sets of people. Those introduced to us by Adamski and others are like angels and the rest are either hostile or just curious and not very anxious to make a good impression. Or we can dismiss Adamski and his friends (as Aimé Michel does) and concentrate upon the weird ones. It must be admitted that the independent evidence is in every case stronger in favour of the less popular visitors, and Michel, as he is entitled to,

EDITOR'S COMMENT . . .

Stories of monsters continue to reach us. They would seem to bear out M. Michel's contention that, on the whole, they are better authenticated than the Evangelist reports. Also, they cannot be attributed to wishful thinking.

One of the most extraordinary stories of them all concerns merchant Hans Gustavsson, 25, and student Stig Rydberg, 30, who live together at the home of the latter's mother at Halsingborg, Sweden. On December 20, 1958, they were returning from a dance when, near Domsten, they saw a saucer. They said that the object's diameter was about 5 metres (about 16 feet), its height about 1 metre (about 3 feet, 3 inches). "It rested on three sort of legs. The craft was self-illuminating, but the glare was neither blinding nor warming. In the centre of the light we thought we could distinguish a darker core." All of a sudden they were attacked by four lead-grey creatures a little over a metre tall (about 4 feet) and about 40 centimetres broad (nearly 14 inches). "They seemed to lack extremities, looking sort of like scones or skittles, but when they attacked us we felt that they had a respectable grasping ability. They clutched firmly on to us and wanted to drag us towards the craft and we had to mobilize every resource to free ourselves. It was difficult to defend oneself, because one got

makes the most of this point. At this stage it is pertinent to comment that those more advanced in applied science are not necessarily superior beings. To argue otherwise would be to claim superiority for the humblest mechanic over Shakespeare and Beethoven neither of whom could repair a motor-mower if they were to return to earth.

It is possible that beings who have mastered space flight may have no morals at all. Alternatively, they may be just curious about life on this earth and be otherwise indifferent to our feelings. They may be so disparate from us that contact between us is impossible. They may be carrying out investigations into our atmospheric conditions and perhaps those dognapping stories may have a significance that has so far been ignored by serious students of the most bewildering of all subjects.

Dogs have always been favourite subjects for investigation and experiment, and we regard it as more expedient that they should be chosen for this purpose in preference to human beings. Not that there have been no reports of abductions of human beings—but that is another story.

no real hold on the jellylike creatures."

Rydberg said that his right arm sank as far as the elbow deep into one of them, when he tried to box himself loose. Near to, the creatures smelled like "stale marsh."

Gustavsson had four of the creatures clinging to him but he managed to resist their efforts by clinging to a pole. The creatures had decided to concentrate on Gustavsson, so Rydberg managed to escape back to his car. He sounded his horn as an alarm, and at the sound of this the creatures relinquished their hold on his companion and returned to the saucer, which rose from the ground and finally disappeared.

Fearing ridicule, the two Swedes attempted to keep their story to themselves, but finally it leaked out and investigations were set on foot. These have established the sanity of the two men, if little else. The authorities have enlisted the aid of conventionalisations to explain the bizarre incident away but these have had to be dropped.

Another monster story has been reported from Tampa, Florida, where a being at least nine feet tall moved towards a group of fishermen in eight-foot bounds. "The face looked like some sort of bone structure, and it was glowing." The same creature was seen on another occasion, too.