

only to him. If so, this invests flying discs with a curious new quality. Like the ghost which may be visible to some witnesses but not to others, the Milford UFO may be offering us a gratis clue as to its real nature.

In the course of conversation I found that Mr. Harris had certain psychical qualities such as the ability to dowse. He was also keenly interested in the possible implications of what he had seen. However he had never seen a UFO before, nor has he seen one since; nor has the sighting affected his way of life. One wonders therefore how the observer comes to be selected as an observer, and what laws are involved. Is it what T. C. Lethbridge called resonance — a question of being on the right mental waveband at the right time? Are saucers in fact devices for lowering the frequency of beings normally existing on a much higher frequency-band in the scale of cosmic existence? Do the hard landing cases followed

by the eventual flying away and disappearance simply show the process going through a full cycle?

The investigator in Wales is impressed by the fact that so many people have had UFO experiences of one sort or another; yet these are reported outside the family only rarely. One wonders how many thousands of such encounters occur with no-one being any the wiser. The unknown flying object is still with us and probably has always been with us. My latest report is from a dentist who told me that he was standing with friends overlooking St. Brides bay when they saw a UFO in the form of a saucer above the sea. He was sufficiently impressed to amass a large collection of UFO books in an effort to make sense of the phenomenon. I can only suggest that Dr. Williams and other sceptics forget what they know and concentrate on what they don't know. Because, quite clearly, they are missing something.

BOOK REVIEW

WHERE ARE THE NEW THEORIES?

I. Grattan-Guinness

ONE of the more striking features of current research into ufology and its history is that interconnections are being established between previously separate areas of extra-scientific phenomena and human activity, which can then be regarded as branches of a more unified range of accomplishments. Man who sees flying saucer may also be man who can read minds or dematerialise bodies or have visions, or whatever; and, moreover, this may always have been the case. Those ordinary members of our modern democratic (or better, our non-hereditarily monarchic) societies who possess such gifts may be the descendants of ancient kings, angels, or higher beings, who ruled by virtue of their greater powers over the ancestors of the rest of us.

Mr. John A. Keel's latest book, *Our Haunted Planet*, 1971, London: Neville Spearman 208 pp. £2.10, is one of the recent attempts to survey these separate areas of supranatural phenomena and seek a unifying explanation for them. Thus, we have chapters on ancient maps, civilisations and artefacts; unusual materials and planetary motions; Velikovskiy; men in black; Mormonism and other "religions"; UFO contacts; magic and possession; unexplained radio signals; teleportations; and predictions.

Readers of Mr. Keel's previous book, *Operation Trojan Horse*, will already know that Keel favours the postulation of the "ultraterrestrials", species (one or many) from elsewhere who seeded our planet long ago and have kept us under regular surveillance ever since. However, this thesis seems to carry certain distinctions which Keel did not fully examine. Are the ultraterrestrials supposed to come

here from far distant regions of the universe? If so, then we require quite new theories of energy conversion and the transportation of masses. Or do the ultraterrestrials share our space but move in and out of it? If so, then we need a theory of different interacting physics; geometry itself is not enough, for I can easily postulate a million different universes in the space of my drawing-room if none of them interacts physically with ours.

In his new book Mr. Keel has not made progress with his thesis, for he has submerged it in the range of phenomena which he has described rather than used it to select those phenomena which form its most striking tests. For this reason, I found the book less penetrating than its predecessor and more like general books on the problem written by others. In many ways it is better than other books, for Keel works harder at his subject than most people and knows more about it than they do. But much of this knowledge is compromised by his frequent failure to refer the reader to other literature on a topic receiving discussion or mention. Indeed, he makes a bad start with a display of enthusiasm for the Piri-Reis map which the map does not seem to deserve.*

On the whole I was disappointed that Keel did not aim toward heights of which he is surely capable. But his book does contain passages of great interest which must make the reader ponder afresh on the possible hauntings of this planet and the control that they might be exercising over us.

* See P.C.W. Davies, "The Piri-Reis map; fact and fiction", *Flying Saucer Review*, 18 (1972), No.2, pp.21-23.