

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."

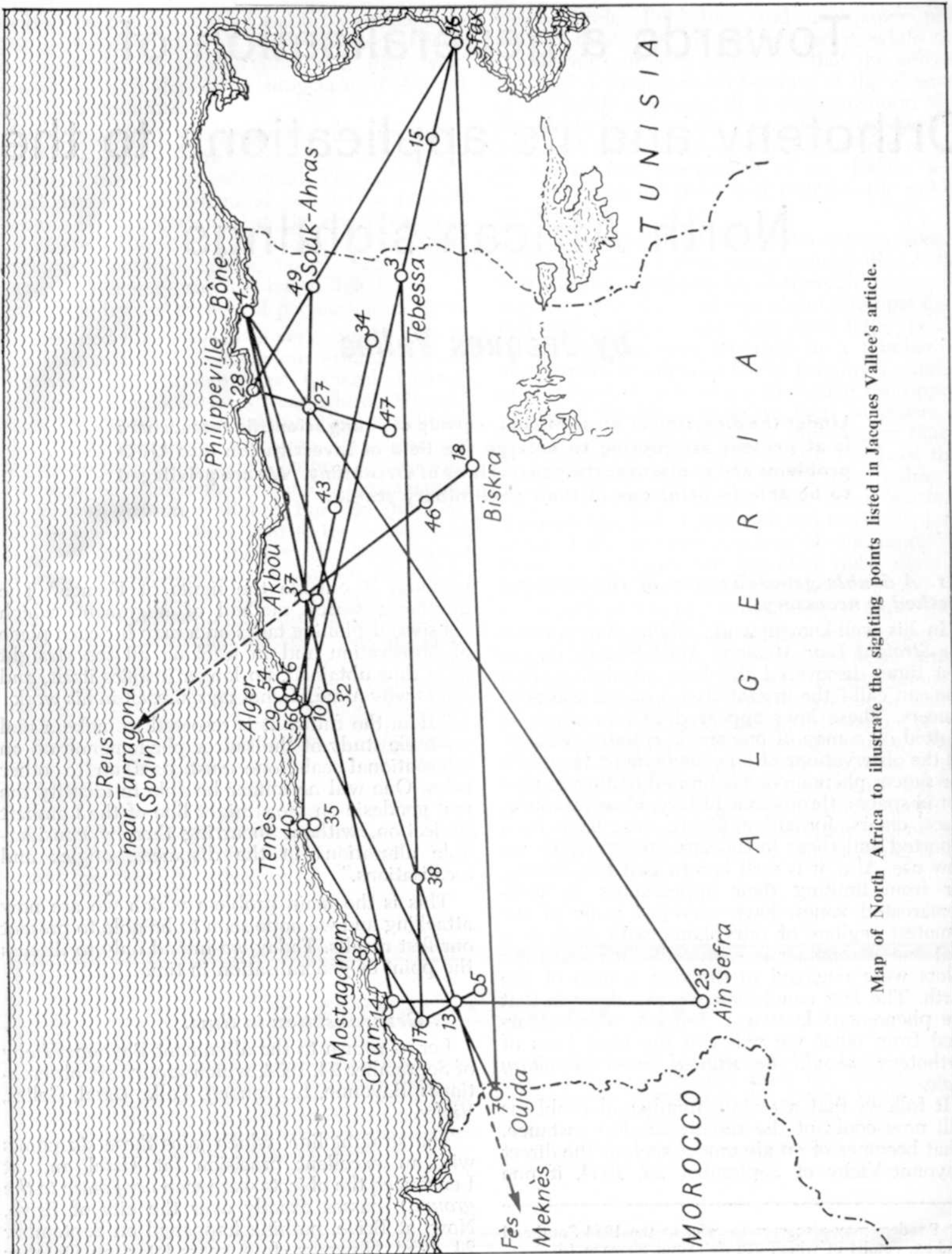
This is the main problem which we are now attacking and we hope soon to be able to present our first results. Today we intend only to discuss the point of generalisation in time.

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.