

# Seeing is believing?

By MALCOLM SCOTT

Phenomenon. Edited by John Spencer and Hilary Evans. (Futura paperback, £3.95).

A WORLD tour of UFO investigations, hoaxes and reported sightings — from Pascagoula in Mississippi, to Fence Houses in County Durham.

The Fence Houses incident, in 1976, is described in a chapter devoted to meetings with UFO travellers.

Two women, aged 18 and 63, are walking past wasteland when they see a small oval-shaped, domed object. They are faced with two strange beings — 18in tall, long white hair parted in the middle, and big eyes. Closing their own eyes in fright, they hear the object hum away.

But be warned. The

such sightings through the ages — even taking in the ancient gods — amount to "a huge confidence trick on a grand theatrical scale".

And that from an investigator of the Manchester UFO Research Association.

Another chapter, "The People Problem", studies the witnesses of such reported encounters. Statistically, it appears that you are more likely to see something if you are a teacher, a policeman or a nightwatchman. And you are more receptive if you're left-handed or red-haired.

Farmers, car mechanics and barbers are made of sterner stuff, and rarely catch a glimpse.

Poorly illustrated — not surprisingly — it's a book to interest the believer and the sceptic, if not right-handed bar-