

In search of proof

"There is talk in town of a strange event. In one of the houses, belonging to the Palace's stables administration the furniture decided to move and jump; the matter reached those at the very top and Prince Dolgoruki ordered an investigation. One of the members of staff called in a priest, but during his prayers the chairs and tables did not seem to want to stand humbly by. Rumours abound about the whole business. . ."

The above is an extract from Pushkin's diary entry of December 13, 1833.

There has been no shortage of similar 'strange things' in modern times — there have been newspaper stories about mysterious phenomena in Enakievo, Syktyvkar, Gorki,

Moscow and Byelorussia; and reports of radiating discs over Petrozavodsk, not to mention reported sightings in other countries of various strange flying objects.

The clamour concerning a recent 'landing' of a UFO in the Vologda region had not subsided when Estonian television reported the sighting of a flying saucer in the republic and a mysterious patch of burning grass.

So what should one make of it all? Izvestia newspaper asked Professor **V. Volchenko**, deputy chairman of the Committee for Problems of Energy-Information Exchange in Nature, if all these 'wonders' had some common origin

THERE has always been a constant level of reported sightings of mysterious phenomena.

Before the Revolution there was even a special magazine called Rebus which reported hundreds of such phenomena. Of course, one cannot compare science today with what it was then, but the phenomena involved are no less intriguing.

And, I fear, we will not unravel them quickly. We lack hard material evidence to back up the claims of 'mysterious' sightings of one kind or another. I think the same is true abroad — even though there there are so many scientific laboratories and magazines dealing with the subject.

We only really have eye-witness evidence to go on.

Several people claimed to have seen unusual phenomena

not long ago in Kabardino-Balkaria, Frunze. And a UFO which allegedly landed near Khabarovsk was reported to have been seen in the skies over the North-Western territories over a period of three months.

A group of observers from Leningrad who went to Vologda to question the eye-witnesses concluded that the children had not made it all up.

We are constantly striving to develop more objective methods of verification, such as soil analysis for example.

It seems there is something unusual going on, but the answer for the time being is not known to modern science.

Material objects could, it seems, exist as an energy-information field.

Energy-information processes are an objective reality. According to one hypothesis, the yeti, UFOs and poltergeists could all be the materialisation of certain processes occurring in this field.

The fact that there are so many eye-witnesses to UFOs, and no material evidence, brings us to the conclusion that these phenomena are connected with unknown transformations of the energy-information field.

We have many enthusiasts on our committee, people who have dedicated years to study these phenomena. However, we do have limited resources.

Serious study requires capital, establishing and equipping teams able to travel at a moment's notice to reported sightings, in order to take pictures, measurements and collect data.

field — which includes phenomena such as poltergeist sightings.

UFOs are a different matter. The Soviet Ufological Commission headed by Dr Azhazhei and cosmonaut Popov, twice Hero of the USSR, takes up that issue.

The main aim of their committee is to "make an inventory of forces", to find out who is interested in the study of UFO phenomena.

Information briefs are being prepared for interested organisations — to the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Hydrometeorological State Committee, the armed forces.

We are all now getting down to elaborating a proper system of co-operation between all researchers involved in the broad field of research into the numerous kinds of strange phenomena.