

# Tickled pink by an alien

SHOULD WE regard it as probable that alien beings from distant planets visit the Earth to kidnap people?

Jenny Randles is so fascinated by this strange idea that she has written 10 related books on the subject. The latest is *Abduction: Scientific Exploration of Alleged Kidnaps by Alien Beings* (Headline, £2.99).

She is no fanatic. She is not convinced that any of the "spacenap" stories are true, but she ploughs through the "evidence" behind each case in such exhaustive and exhausting detail that one wishes she had found some other way to occupy her life.

She gets, very busy, with

those of us who dismiss the idea. I am a "vitriolic debunker" because I suggested that an alleged Australian spacenapping was a good example of ball lightning.

Philip J. Klass, the distinguished American sceptic, is guilty of "pretty dismal thinking" because he gives the cases mundane explanations. To disagree with the writer seems to be the ultimate offence.

Yet the idea seems absurd. It is also certain that no intelligent life exists in our solar sys-

tem. The aliens would therefore have to come from the planets of other stars, worlds tens of trillions of miles away. They would need huge quantities of rocket fuel, requiring a spaceship that weighed at least 100,000 tons.

Jenny Randles does not even try to explain how so huge a craft could remain undetected as it approached the Earth. It is possible that by some unknown technology they might make their ship invisible. But by no means is it probable that any such technology could be made transparent, or so

that the stars would shine through it.

Nor does she sufficiently consider the obvious fact that people claiming to have been spacenapped are either lunatics or hoaxers or are of extremely low intelligence. It is hard to see why she calls spacenapping "this fascinating and under-rated mystery of the Space Age."

She castigates us for rejecting UFOs "without proper study." But this, until there is proof, is exactly what we must do. One

must reject it because there is nothing to study.

Even stronger criticism can be made of Edith Fiore's *Abductions: Encounters with Extraterrestrials* (Sidgwick, £13.95). Edith is a firm believer. "I feel," she declares, "that the discovery of visits to Earth by beings from other worlds... is the most exciting happening of the 20th century."

Most of her 334 pages are packed with solemn interviews with people who have met aliens. "They poked me in every little rib and bone," said one of them. One only wishes it was a leg-pull instead.

Adrian Berry