

MARY MALONE'S VIEW

Still up in the air over flying saucers

THERE is a theory that we are rational beings. And that, therefore, everything we do or see has somewhere a rational explanation.

It is theories like this that lead to documentaries like BBC-1's investigation into flying saucers.

Dr. Stephen Black set out in his probe to test the sincerity of those who had seen unidentified flying objects.

But sincerity is a very funny test by any standards. Sincerity, after all, has marked some of the greatest of the world's villains.

All the witnesses veiled by Dr. Black for sincerity struck me, too, as sincere.

Who could doubt the sincerity of two British policemen, not known for fiery flights of imagination, who chased fiery crosses in the sky through the Devon lanes.

Who would wish to doubt Captain James Howard's UFOs met on a flight from New York—one large, six small flying at 19,000 ft. doing 250 m.p.h., keeping up with his BOAC strato-cruiser?

Check

In America they take UFOs very seriously.

Top physicists plough through the mounds of reports of sightings, and check on the character and verity of the sighters. They have nothing else to go on.

Having so little to go on, BBC-1 made a good try at the topic.

Perhaps the best shot was the university professor, who suggested that when the explanation of conventional religion and science breaks down, UFOs could be a satisfactory extension.

The questions bubble up. Had the BOAC captain lost faith with his ground control? Are they all just looking for a new religion, and it has turned up clothed as a flying saucer?

Bunch

Just before this programme a bunch of MPs were sitting around Rediffusion studios on "This Week," arguing about whether or not the electorate felt betrayed by their elected representatives.

Dr. Black recorded that the major waves of UFO sightings were in 1951, 1957 and—the last three years.

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