

Pyke-



DR. MAGNUS Pike (left), like all true scientists, doesn't believe much in magic and mystery.

"Part of the dignity and greatness of man and woman is based on reason," he writes in the prologue to his "dictionary of fallacies,"

UFOs won't go away

DESPITE the airy dismissals of people like Magnus Pyke, (above), UFOs refuse to shut up and go away.

It just won't do to sweep away the testimony of serious and often very unimaginative people in their thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, throughout the world.

In *The Evidence For The UFOs* (The Aquarian Press £2.50) Hilary Evans examines the sightings carefully and with notable lack of gullibility.

Yes, people do see something: bright lights, metallic objects, great swooping discs with occupants inside, strange creatures who emerge and abduct people. The odd thing is that though the sightings follow a pattern or a number of distinct patterns, it is rare to find two sightings of what appears to be the same object.

Mr. Evans' personal opinion is that there are four sources of UFO reports. A few, he thinks, are secret government devices being tested. But that doesn't account for the vast majority.

by **JOHN HEWITT**

A good many are psychological in origin. Something triggers a fantasy so detailed and lifelike that the witness himself sincerely takes it for reality. In itself, points out Mr. Evans, this is a phenomenon of the utmost significance, promising us new insight into the human mind. What the "something" is that operates the trigger is, of course, another question.

He suggests some UFOs are natural biological objects, creatures which possess limited intelligence. This is a cop-out as nowhere does he produce more than the most meagre evidence for this viewpoint.

His favoured explanation is that despite all counter objections a great many UFOs are alien craft, though their surveillance operation (if that is what it is) is being conducted "in a remarkably sporadic and unworkmanlike manner".

The truth is, as he admits, that there is still no clear evidence for any of the

explanations. We just don't know.

A nudge in the direction of the psychological explanation comes in the companion book *The Evidence For Visions Of The Virgin Mary* by Kevin McClure (The Aquarian Press £2.50).

The pattern here is that the visions usually appear to children around 11-14 and repeat over several weeks. Some are seen by the children alone, others by witnesses. Some form static or silent tableaux. Most of the visions ask for chapels to be built, streams to dedicated to them and warn of impending disaster to the world if people do not return to the true faith.

At Fatima in 1917 there was the miracle of the dancing sun, which has many similarities with a UFO encounter.

McClure seems to lean towards a psychic explanation. The children involved were all more "sensitive" than others of their age and their visions have some similarities with those of mediums.

"I am far from convinced that the Virgin Mary has visited earth during the past 1900 years", he says "But I am more than ever committed to finding out why so many people passionately believe that