

SPACE TRAVEL
VIRANUS
 FLYING SAUCERS

EDITOR: E. BIDDLE.

Vol. 1 No. 5

April, 1955.

Notices	82
This and That	83
Letters to the Editor	85
The Prophets by E. Biddle	88
More Stuff from the Skies	92
What the Saucer World (and others) are saying	93
Fuel for Moon Trip	97
Books	97
Current Flying Saucer Literature Available	100

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NOTICES

Lectures under the auspices of the Research Centre Group, held at Caxton Hall, London S.W.1.

---ooOoo---

On Friday, 29th April, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. L.C. Suggars, former Chairman of the Coventry Astronomical Society will speak on THE MOON AND ITS SURFACE.

On Thursday, 24th November, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Chibbett will be lecturing on Flying Saucers, with particular reference to their early history. Those attending can be sure of a pleasant and profitable evening.

In both cases admission is free to members of the Group, for non members the entrance fee is 2/-. Enquiries may be made to Mrs. Forrester ABB 2835.

---ooOoo---

WEDNESDAY, 13th APRIL, 1955, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. E. Biddle will give a talk on FLYING SAUCERS
at the Discussion Group of the
FINCHLEY SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Christchurch Avenue, N.12

to be followed by questions and a general discussion

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All communications regarding editorial questions should be sent direct to Mr. E. Biddle, 1513 High Road, Whetstone, London, N.20. and not to the publishers.

THIS AND THAT by the Editor

One more issue after this and URANUS will have completed the first year of its existence. During this time, we have endeavoured to offer a varied selection of material, quite a good deal of which would not otherwise have been easily accessible to British or American readers.

Judging by the comments received and mentions made in American Saucer periodicals, this policy has in the main met with approval. This is gratifying because it suggests we are supplying something useful and that is the justification for our existence, when all is said and done!

.....

We hear from a reliable source that Adamski's second book is unlikely to be published in this country but will appear in the U.S.A. It seems that the lack of any witnesses or supporting evidence for the claims made may have something to do with this.

I don't profess to know exactly what Adamski's claims are but I think the following extract from the BSRA "Clips, Quotes and Comments" dated 1st February, 1955 gives a pretty good idea:

"Anyone who has or can obtain a copy of the following book, please notify BSR Hdqrs.

PIONEERS OF SPACE. A JOURNEY TO THE MOON, MARS & VENUS by Professor (sic) George Adamski. Printed by Leonard Freefield Co., Los Angeles 12, Calif. (Charles R. Romero).

Anyone interested in the forthcoming book by Geo. Adamski should obtain and read the earlier version under the title just mentioned...."

.....

There seems little doubt that Adamski is claiming to have visited other worlds. Apparently, he can offer no evidence in support of his story; neither, for that matter, can the rest of us disprove it. What then?

Some will reject it as a deliberate hoax (and who can blame them?). Some will believe every word whether there is any evidence or not (and there are more of this type in the Saucer world than some people might think, unfortunately). Others again will ignore the whole thing for practical purposes but none the less keep it on one side just in case some unforeseen future development throws a new light on it.

Each to his taste.....

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It will be interesting to see whether Adamski's proposed visit to this country, which was cancelled last year, will ever materialise. It seems unlikely.

.....

One thing at least is certain, I think. The Saucer problem gets more complicated as time goes on. There are undoubtedly certain types of man-made objects up there mixed in with the "others" and since they are fairly obviously top secret devices, no genuine information about them is likely to be forthcoming. It looks as though an odd Saucerer here and there has stumbled upon official secrets -- and been promptly and thoroughly silenced. That is, I suppose, in the present lunatic age, understandable and justifiable, however regrettable it may be.

But to suggest therefore that all the F.S. can be explained away in this manner is fantastic. The older sightings prove that there is something non-human knocking around. There is no need to go back centuries, let alone thousands of years, since we can never feel really satisfied after such a lapse of time as to exactly what it was that was observed. But there are by no means a few cases dating back 50-70 years where the records are as detailed and reliable as any modern ones and, moreover, bear a striking resemblance to recent sightings.

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My friend Mr. Chibbett is neither the first nor the last to suggest the possibility of some connection

existing between F.S. and what might seem totally unrelated "odd" facts. But even merely glancing at some of his 1000 odd record cards of strange happenings, collected and classified with infinite patience over years, does help one to realise that an apparently trivial and meaningless "odd event" reported yesterday in London takes on quite a different complexion when linked up with something else in, say, S. America two years ago and so on.

The material is there for a long period of careful and systematic research, which might well end in some startling and totally unsuspected results. Alas! there is one snag: our worthy friend has a totally inadequate amount of spare time to follow up the fascinating possibilities that lie hidden in his records.

It is a strange thing that in this world (the lunatic asylum of the solar system as Voltaire not inaptly termed it) there are people with plenty of money who can fill their days only with inane trivialities to kill time, while others who could turn that time to valuable use have to devote the bulk of their waking hours to making a living, often enough in none too congenial an occupation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Biddle,

M. Fouéré is not, I believe, the first to suggest a theory based on the fascinating hypothesis of space-viable life-forms. But nowhere have I seen the theory so well explored as in his article. The penetration of such beings into our atmosphere would be analagous to our mining operations: if they exist, these beings may be "mining" our atmosphere for valuable gases, as we mine Earth's crust for valuable minerals.

M. Fouéré seems to think that his theory would be inadequate to explain cases in which bolts or other definitely mechanical components are detected. Not so, Such creatures might possess chameleon-like powers of disguise, and might use these in unsuccessful attempts to resemble our aircraft, not realising (perhaps due to

low intelligence) that their speeds and sudden changes of direction give them away.

I do not understand why M. Fouéré emphasises that his theory accounts for the fact that the objects seem reluctant to land. This "reluctance" is not a special difficulty incapable of explanation on other theories; quite adequate reasons can be devised to account for it whatever theory we adopt. For example, taking the spaceship theory which M. Fouéré discusses, it may be that the crews of the ships can obtain all the information they want without landing (including any information that it might be thought they could only obtain by personal contacts).

Mr. Gibbons' article on the important question of nomenclature is marred by his arbitrary adoption of the visitors-from-space theory. However, even disregarding this, I do not think the names he suggests would prove very useful. While it is true that the objects fall roughly into four types, there is such diversity of appearance within the types that use of the suggested names would not result in much, if any, abbreviation of descriptions. For example, the description of a recent Dublin sighting as "a bluish-white object from which flaming pieces seemed to fall" would merely become "a bluish-white vidya from which....". In addition the names would give an esoteric, mystic air to the subject.

As generic terms, "flying saucer" and its abbreviation are now obviously undesirable. But I also dispute the generally accepted "unidentified flying object", since there is no reason to think that all the objects "fly" in any ordinary sense. I suggest "unidentified sky object", abbreviated "u.s.o." The only unjustifiable connotation in this is that the so-called objects are in fact objective and not complex hallucinations induced in us by some unknown agency. And unless we assume this at the outset, all discussion becomes farcical.

Yours faithfully, JOHN A. WISEMAN.

Chislehurst, Kent,

4th February, 1955.

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Dear Mr. Biddle,

I read the latest edition of "Uranus" with great interest, especially the idea put forward by M. Fouéré that the F.S. are "Space Animals". The B.S.R.A. have been putting forth that theory for some time past and I think it has been mentioned in some Government publications, to try to account for the F.S., but I have never heard it put forth so lucidly as your friend has done. I must say I think he has got something there, that may account for some of the F.S. but I think there is too much evidence of people, or humanoid creatures, being seen either in or near them, to account for them all. What I can't understand is that if the F.S. come from anywhere except from earth, that creatures so like human beings seem to man them. Yet practically all these so-called "contact with Saucer-being" reports speak of human beings or human-like beings coming out of the saucers. It seems to me that if the astronomers know what they are talking about, human beings could not live on most of the other planets, and if these creatures are coming from Jupiter, Saturn etc., they must be used to breathing ammonia and methane; how, therefore, could they come to earth and start breathing oxygen? Also, why don't they get killed by being attacked by the dangerous bacilli that are floating about in the air everywhere on earth and to which they are not immunised? Humans get T.B., colds, etc., even though they have been in contact with these germs for countless generations, therefore how could space-people possibly be resistant to them?

I can't help thinking that the more you go into the Saucer question, the more you seem to come up against unsolvable puzzles.

Could it be that the humanoid crews are able to change their appearance to look like us when they come near Earth, perhaps with the idea of not frightening us?

Yours sincerely, CYNTHIA JOHNSTON.

Blackrock, Co. Dublin, 5/2/55.

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(Editor's Note - The foregoing letter is actually an effort by me to combine points from two recent letters from Miss Johnston. If the result seems a little disjointed, readers will appreciate that the fault is entirely mine and not that of my correspondent. I think both the foregoing letters contain points provocative of thought, concerning which there can well be considerable divergence of opinion. I shall be very pleased to publish other readers' letters, provided that they are not too lengthy.)

THE PROPHETS

by E. Biddle

For as long as the human race has existed, the craving to peer into the future has been a characteristic of the species homo sapiens.

That glimpses of the future are sometimes seen is, to my mind, undeniable except by those who have never troubled to examine the evidence.

But equally undeniable is the fact that the overwhelming majority of such glimpses concern the future of individuals. Accurate prevision of world events (except as they impinge on the life of an individual) is extremely rare and were it not for the widespread "will to believe" which flourishes particularly at times like our own, the lot of the would-be prophet might well be hard.

Naturally enough, the more disturbed and threatening world conditions are, the more men listen eagerly to the voice of the seer. In those far-off days before the lights went out over Europe in that tragic August of 1914 when a world died and a new era of barbarism was born, the future seemed solid and certain and the anxious craving to pierce its secrets was not greatly in evidence. Had anyone in 1913 seriously predicted one half of the horrors that lay ahead in the next 40 years or so, he would have been laughed to scorn.

The 1914-18 war brought a goodly crop of prophecies that somehow went wrong and so did the between-wars period and, of course, the Hitler war. But perhaps the

prophetic tendency reached its height after 1945, in an atomic world where the possibility of the total destruction of life on this planet looms large in the background of existence.

But there are prophets and prophets.

Some are obviously mere charlatans, chasing the shekels and helped on by a lucky guess now and again. These we can ignore.

There are others who, although they may be deluded, are none the less to a large extent, at least, sincere.

There are those who claim to find the future of the Anglo-American peoples depicted in the measurements of the Great Pyramid. After the event, they found the exact period of the 1914-18 war clearly indicated to the day! But they slipped up badly after that. The late Ernest Hunt, a devotee of the cult, stated definitely in 1936, in his little periodical "The Great Law", that there was no indication whatever in the Pyramid of any major war in this generation, or indeed, at any future time. The War of 1939 must have come as a sad disillusionment and so far as I know none of the cultists managed to measure the length of that conflict by reference to the Pyramid, though I believe that some time after it was all over, some one discovered that the second world war was also indicated, though not where they might have expected. Neither did the same unit of measurement that had fitted the 1914-18 war do a second time; a new one had to be concocted. Finally, according to the Pyramidologists, August 20th 1954 should have seen some far-reaching, world-shaking event and yet nobody seems to have noticed anything worse than usual on that day.

Equally unedifying and dismally unsuccessful are most of the outpourings from psychic sources. Prophecy after prophecy, good and bad, has come unstuck and still the flow continues with unabated vigour. The less said about these vapourings the better, perhaps. Psychic Research is an extremely important and valuable branch of enquiry but it has nothing in common with the spurious rubbish just mentioned.

Much more serious and worthy of attention are the

prophecies of Nostradamus, many of which have been fulfilled in a strange manner. But the trouble here is, that usually only after the event can a particular prophecy be understood. (No, this NOT a sneer; those familiar with the subject will understand what I mean and others are advised to read the Penguin book "Nostradamus" by James Laver, of the Victoria & Albert Museum). A French correspondent of mine, whose sincerity I regard as unquestionable, has evolved a complicated system of interpreting Nostradamus (which I confess I have never been able to follow) but the main events which he considered to be indicated as due to happen in the last few years have not, unfortunately, materialised - at any rate, up to now.

In such conditions as prevail today, it is hardly surprising that the Flying Saucers should loom large in current prophecy. We have strange unknown objects flitting through our skies, hailing from we know not where, at a time when the human race is in the unfortunate state of not feeling at all sure that it can control the Frankenstein monster which it has created and which threatens to destroy it. Is it strange that this realisation, plus the desperate hope that some outside Power will somehow intervene to save us from the consequences of our own folly should lead many to see in the Saucers the salvation of the world and the embodiment of all our hopes? That is precisely what has happened, and is happening, all around us today. With the critical faculty lulled to sleep by the will to believe, the most fantastic stories are told and believed of benevolent beings from Venus, of Interplanetary Councils contacting not humanity as a whole but specially favoured individuals, of guarantees of instant intervention should an atomic war start and so on ad lib. Sometimes the theme is varied somewhat and we are encouragingly told that the vast majority of the human race will be destroyed, while great areas of land sink beneath the waves as Atlantis did. A striking instance of this was published (though not endorsed) by the B.S.R.A. several years ago - a detailed catalogue of misfortunes scheduled to take place over the years 1952 to 1958.

1953 was to be the year of destruction, witnessing more deaths than any other year in the history of the human race - a year of ghastly horror, followed by Mongolian invasion of the U.S.A. and finally by the taking over of what was left by the "Uranians" (F.S. people) and the ushering in of a new age. This organisation (Palmivarian Fellowship) reckoned the safest spot would be Guatemala and advised people to clear off to there while the going was good. Well, it is now March 1955 but there is no sign of the "Uranians" yet...

Incidentally, just why we should expect outside intervention is not clear. When the frightful cataclysm which destroyed Atlantis (whether caused by the disintegration of a former satellite, as Hoerbiger suggested, or by a collision with a comet, as thought by Comyns Beaumont) took place, no such intervention saved the Earth. Why should it today? (Individuals might be preserved by supernormal means but not entire races; but that is another story; I merely mention it to show I have not overlooked the possibility). If the Saucers come from Mars or Venus (or the Etheria of the BSRA), their occupants might be seriously concerned about what we are doing, but in that case, why don't they intervene now instead of waiting till it's too late? If they come from another solar system, it is difficult to see why they should worry if we blow up the earth, since it would not affect their home station anyway.

Another school of thought sees a connection between the Saucers and Biblical prophecy. I have read some of their literature but I cannot help feeling that the old texts need the admixture of quite a considerable amount of imagination to bear the interpretation some of these people put upon them. It is curious, too, that the great Churches, such as the Catholic or Anglican, do not appear to offer the slightest support to such ideas. True, that doesn't prove the cultists are wrong but it goes a long way towards suggesting they are not right. I may be mistaken, but that is how it strikes me and I have no particular axe to grind one way or the other.

It seems unwise to worry about it. The prophets have always been with us and probably always will be.

Do they lose heart when their predictions misfire? Not on your life! They are a hardy race and if tackled just claim that their calculations have somehow gone wrong and push the date forward a year or so. Whatever we say, we are not likely to have any effect on the people who want to believe and who are horrified at the suggestion that maybe some of the Flying Saucers are not here for our benefit and may even be hostile in some of their acts, or, at least, completely indifferent to our welfare.

It is equally unwise to paint the picture too black or too bright. Heaven knows, the Saucer problem is complicated enough in all conscience, without dragging in unverifiable and prima facie highly improbable fancies.

Let's stick to facts - at least to the extent that there are any facts to stick to. In between the apparent facts and the obviously nonsensical, there is a No-Man's Land of matter which may eventually prove to be true - or at least partially so - but which can only be regarded as unproven at present. Would it not be wiser to regard this material as put on one side for possible future reference rather than to utilise it too freely for the construction of airy edifices of theory devoid of any solid foundation? It is true that we do not know the limits of what is possible and what is not, but this does not mean that we are justified in wild speculations. On the contrary, it is an excellent reason for walking very cautiously and watching our steps as we cross the boundary into the Unknown. Many are the pitfalls and many, too, are the vociferous self-styled "guides". Let those follow them who will.

MORE STUFF FROM THE SKIES

(quoted from SAUCERIAN)

More stuff was falling from the skies. And people were still swearing it fell from flying saucers.

At Jerome, a town about 15 miles northwest of Columbus, Ohio, two schoolteachers and some 60 school-children saw a cigar-shaped craft jettison a mass of whitish stuff, which settled from November skies to hang

on trees, bushes and telephone lines.

The saucer had first hovered over the school and then flashed away at tremendous speed. The substance, when picked up and examined, "looked and felt like asbestos". But it vanished, or dematerialised, within a minute of being touched. They tried drawing it into long threads, found it so touch it could hardly be broken. When one end of a strand was handled it would curl into a ball before disintegrating.

Teacher Mrs. George Dittmar, whose story was witnessed by colleague Rodney Warrick, said her hands turned green after touching the substance, but the color could be rinsed off by soap. Warrick said the green disappeared from his hands without washing after about half an hour.

Earlier in the year San Fernando Valley, California, was showered by a similar substance, which came from a huge silvery ball residents saw following three jet planes. The mysterious material, which some had dubbed 'angels' hair', had similarly vanished.

Maybe it was spider men from some unknown planet who also dropped their ephemeral cobwebs upon France in 1952. There again, unidentified flying objects had been seen, and the material vanished upon touch.

WHAT THE SAUCER WORLD (AND OTHERS) ARE SAYING

NEXUS - Jan. and Feb. 1955. Published by James W. Moseley, P.O. Box 163, Fort Lee, New Jersey, U.S.A.

The real "meat" in the January number is J.W. Moseley's lengthy article SOME NEW FACTS ABOUT "FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED", in which he summarises some of the results of the careful investigation which he made into the case. "I have travelled personally through Arizona and California, interviewing all the principals mentioned in the story (with the exception of Mrs. Bailey), and through interviews and lengthy correspondence I have made it my business to obtain all possible details concerning the "inside story" of Adamski's portion of

'F.S. have landed'".

We can only give here brief indications of a few of the main points but those who are interested would do well to study the full article.

1. Mr. Bloom, of the Point Loma Navy Laboratory, stated he was grossly misquoted in 'F.S. have Landed'.
2. Likewise Mr. Al. Chop (well-known to readers of Keyhoe's second book), who considered suing Adamski because of this.
3. "Williamson, though a pleasant enough young man, admits that he has no degree entitling himself to be called "doctor", even though he allows himself to be called "Dr. Williamson" throughout the book."
4. "Mr. Al. Bailey...told me in a personal interview that he did not see the space man with whom Adamski allegedly talked, nor did he see the "scout ship" that allegedly landed on the desert. He did see the "mother ship" and some flashes of light where Adamski was supposed to be during the contact. To the best of his knowledge, no one else present saw any more than he did ...he feels that Adamski's contact may actually have taken place, though he himself cannot vouch for it."
5. "How did the Venusian's footprints turn out so well in desert sand, in an area in which, according to a West Coast informant, there had been no rain for several months?"

If the space man was indeed from Venus, how was he able to defy every scientific principle by existing so easily and comfortably in the Earth's atmosphere, since it is a well-known fact that the atmosphere of Venus is entirely different from ours? And how was the Venusian able to defy every law of probability by looking so similar to earth men?"

Then follow several pages of The Evidence presented by Mr. Jerrold Baker, dealing mainly (but not exclusively) with photographs but these pages cannot adequately be condensed. They certainly leave us, however, with the feeling that something very strange was going on.

Mr. Moseley finishes with the following remarks:
"I am not saying - nor is Mr. Baker - that George Adamski's account is entirely untrue...the true story

may be known in its entirety only to Adamski himself. All any outsider can do...is to point out flaws...I do believe that Adamski's narrative contains enough flaws to place in very serious doubt both his veracity and his sincerity...I am moved by no personal antagonism. Ever since my meeting with Adamski about a year ago, I have been convinced that he is a kindly man who would do harm to no one. If he has written a fraudulent book, I believe that he did so, not so much for his own personal profit, but to put across, in dramatic form, philosophical principles in which he sincerely believes. In any case, his book has entertained thousands and injured no one..."

I regret I cannot agree with this last sentence. If Adamski's story is not true, at any rate in its main essentials, then it has done a great deal of harm to efforts to get at the truth about the Flying Saucers and I am afraid I am not one of those who enthuse about "pious frauds", whether they are found within religious bodies or elsewhere.

The February issue of NEXUS contains another article by Mr. Moseley, the theme of which is that most at any rate of the F.S. are of earthly origin. Comment on this must be held over until our next issue. My own reaction is that while Mr. Moseley has no doubt got something, he pushes his explanation further than the facts warrant.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY, Nos. 53 and 54 (Jan. and Feb. 1955), London. 1/6 per issue.

It was not without a certain mild surprise that I opened the Jan. issue and discovered therein a most interesting article "Suppose YOU met a Man in a Flying Saucer", written by E.C. Tubb, nowadays a well-known British science-fiction author. So much might depend on a first contact of this kind, says Mr. Tubb, and proceeds to discuss the possible or probable reactions of a human observer as an alien being emerged from the saucer and set foot on our soil. It is an article which Saucerers would do well to read - and ponder upon.

After this, I hardly expected when I picked up the February number to find another article (author not indicated this time) with the title "When the Flying Saucers land, will YOU be ready?" This time the theme is that the Saucer folk have taken over the Earth and are controlling us - from the highest motives - for our good. The writer suggests that men (being naturally cussed) would most likely object strongly to being deprived of tobacco and beer, cinemas and cars (abolished as being either poisonous, harmful or dangerous). Perhaps the aliens' well meaning, if misguided, efforts might have the result of uniting the human race in a way nothing else has ever done. Maybe the strangers would then regard their mission as accomplished and return to their own world...or give us up as a bad job, as a race incurably insane.

I am waiting now to see what the March AUTHENTIC has to offer!

Incidentally, the January issue contains a brief and rather surprising review of Allingham's "Flying Saucer from Mars".

I advise anyone to risk eighteen pence on a copy of AUTHENTIC. If you don't like it, it won't ruin you and if you do like it, you will probably be grateful to me for having brought it to your notice!

SAUCERIAN. Spring, 1955. Edited & published by Gray Barker.

This arrived just in time for a brief mention here. Its 62 pages contain as mixed a bag as anyone could wish for, besides being beautifully got up.

There is mention of the NEXUS article regarding Adamski and also a "reply" by the latter. Frankly, I was very disappointed in this, since it gets us virtually nowhere. The only specific point Adamski says anything about is connected with Jerrold Baker and a photograph taken on December 13th, 1952.

There is material for a lot of thought in this issue - more perhaps than might appear at first sight. We shall probably have more to say about some of it later.

- E. Biddle

FUEL FOR MOON TRIP

Two ounces of uranium are enough to drive a rocket to reach the moon. Moscow Radio said in an interplanetary travel talk.

(Evening Standard, 14th March, 1955)

BOOKS

LUEURS SUR LES SOUCOUPES VOLANTES. Par Aimé Michel. Editions Mame, Paris, 1954. Post Free 15/- or \$2.40.

It is indeed a pleasure to read a book of this kind, for it is so balanced and factual that it might well serve as an ideal textbook of F.S. lore.

In some 286 pages, M. Michel deals with his subject in three parts : the American enquiries, Saucers in the Old World and Explanations and Hypotheses. The book is completely free from tales of meetings with Venusians or Martians, trips in saucers, telepathic messages from "interplanetary governments" etc. The author, I understand, is something of a "lone wolf", preferring to study and investigate independently on his own and to remain outside any organisations or societies - an attitude which has much to commend it. At any rate, it certainly seems to produce excellent results if this book and that of Mr. H.T. Wilkins (Flying Saucers on the Moon, 16/9 post free from Markham House) are anything to go by.

The book opens with an account of an observation made by a baker at Arras in the early hours of 7th Jan. 1954 of a brilliant luminous disc. Motionless in the sky when first seen, it suddenly swayed up and down and made off at high speed.

The words underlined, says M. Michel, are most important because they embody a detail which would hardly be invented by a hoaxer but which has been observed many times all over the world when a Saucer starts moving from a standstill.

There is a shrewd summing up of the American picture

and the author does not think Keyhoe is right in suggesting that the contradictory statement made by U.S. Air Force spokesmen are part of a very complex plan aimed at preparing America and the world to learn the secret of the discs. "Personally, says M. Michel, such Machiavelian tactics seem to me absolutely improbable and childish. I do not believe the contradictions...correspond to a plan. It is simpler and more probable to admit that they correspond to an evolution of ideas - or rather of feelings - on the part of Air Material Command as events unroll." I feel, however, that the contradictions follow each other too closely for this view to be correct. I imagine Major Keyhoe knows his own countrymen best.

There is much truth in the following paragraph, speaking of the period from 24th June to 30th December 1947: "During these six months the craziest stories had been hawked round in turn; as there are always fools and visionaries, the really disturbing sightings were mixed up during those six months with the innumerable delirious inventions of feeble minds full of "Saucer psychosis". The result was a great confusion and the impossibility of 'talking Saucers' without instant loss of reputation."

Saucer phenomena, like psychic phenomena, would never have survived the humbug and rubbish poured out by dollar-chasing charlatans, notoriety-seekers and the lunatic fringe had there not been a basis of fact somewhere behind it all. In both cases, however, the activities of these unspeakable gentry seriously hinder the efforts of genuine seekers and tend to bring the whole matter into bad odour.

Further on in the book, there is a much fuller account than I have previously seen of the very impressive sighting of the landing for a few moments of a small F.S. at Marignane (Provence) by the Customs Officer Gabriel Gachignard. This was in October 1952. It is a fascinating story and some day, perhaps, we can tell it in extenso in "Uranus". There is nothing fanciful about it; no "little men"; merely the apparently honest story told by a man who saw something that was outside his range of experience. M. Michel in connection with this case stresses the importance of reporting even imperfect

observations. If only - he says - there had been on record some report (even a poor one) of an object being seen about the time and place, it might have added just that additional touch to the case which would have placed it absolutely in the forefront of best proven cases.

M. Michel adds rather whimsically: "If some day it is verified that the F.S. exist and that they come from another world, the vision of Customs Officer Gachignard will perhaps be one of the high spots of human history. For, on that hypothesis, we must think that Gachignard would be the only man ever contemplated from so near by these hypothetical visitors and that his image would thus, in some fabulously remote corner of space, at this very moment be bearing witness to our entire species..."

The third part of the book (explanations and Hypotheses) is very fascinating. First comes Prof. Menzel and his views; then Lieut. Plantier's theory; next, Reflections on Life on other worlds and finally "The Saucers and Theology", a translation of an article by Father Francis J. Connel, of the School of Theology at the Catholic University at Washington.

In between the above, sundry other matters are discussed or quoted briefly. Here is one:

"...Capt. Clerouin who...puts this startling question: 'And suppose the Saucers were coming, not from Space but from Time? Suppose they were, before our eyes, humanity of future centuries, exploring its past?'" Some time back, Jimmy Guieu reminded me of this same possibility, while in no way suggesting he thought it was probable! Still, maybe you never know!

Alas! Saucer books, with few exceptions, are not cheap. But if you can read French and are really interested in F.S. I am sure you would find M. Michel's book very well worth its cost.

- E. Biddle.

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CURRENT FLYING SAUCER LITERATURE AVAILABLE

Published in Britain

- | | Post Free |
|--|----------------------|
| Allingham, C. - F.S. from Mars 1954 | 11/- or \$1.65 |
| Biometric Analysis of F.S. Photographs 1954 | 5/9 or \$1.00 |
| Cramp, L.G. - Space, Gravity and the
F.S. 1954. | 11/- or \$1.65 |
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