

Skies full

Western Mail

of fiery

4 Nov 1967

shapes

By Peter Tate

THE FLYING SAUCER VISION,
by John Michell. Sidgwick
and Jackson 25s.

IF I were more suspicious, I might suggest that the "fiery crosses" seen and unseen in our cloudy skies these past few weeks had been placed there specifically to promote John Michell's UFO biography, *The Flying Saucer Vision*.

The one solid contradiction that has emerged between reality and ever-ready legend—and between reality and reality—in this instance has been provided by a West Country clergyman who suggests that the "phenomena" are no more than mid-air refuelling operations, a theory which has the right shape as well as the right sound.

Michell draws on dragon and serpent folklore from Ancient Egypt, the Aborigines, Tibet, North America, even Stonehenge, and states that the common denominators in all these myths—basically, the fact that the gods come from the sky—show that flying saucers have been visiting the world for centuries and are the basis of most of the world's religions.

His research has been comprehensive. For those who want to believe in flying saucers, it provides a strong case for their existence, unsubstantiated but ever-present.

But there are still questions. Why, over a period of more than 3,000 years (if they have continued to find enough of value on this planet to justify their return), have the aliens never made a full-scale landing? Why have sightings seldom been corroborated? Why are those chosen for experiments invariably the more unstable of earth's residents? Why are the people most anxious to believe in flying saucers those least anxious to believe in anything else?