

SPACE, the final frontier. Or is it? What with the mysteries of the Loch Ness monster, corn circles, ghosts, unidentified flying objects, we've enough to be getting on with down here without wandering about the universe.

Books like these are about the stuff of dreams, tantalising experiences which can't be tested in the laboratory.

So where do they leave us? Is there something out there? Or isn't there?

Mr Parsons thinks there is. An avalanche of short reports apparently never published before is brought to bear as his evidence.

Either you believe his stories

Encounters with the Unknown

By Colin Parsons

Robert Hale £11.95

Phantoms of the Sky

By David Clarke and

Andy Roberts

Robert Hale £12.95

about ghostly Welsh policemen, cursed houses and friendly railway spectres or you don't.

The witnesses can't reproduce the scenes they experienced, so they can't be tested.

Ufologists Clarke and Roberts consider the philosophy, the history and the future of the space

alien. They suggest that UFOs are probably the latest in a long line of myths connected by a thread running through the Loch Ness monster and King Arthur's Camelot back into the mists of time.

Some of their predictions — like the idea that within 25 years it will be seriously suggested the US political administration is being run by spacemen — are somewhat peculiar.

Or are they? Who would have thought back in 1965 a tired-out old actor would be president? Except Mr Reagan and his loyal band of followers.

PATRICK FLETCHER