

human figures dressed in silvery garments. One of them had a flashing lamp on his chest.

I agree with you that more interest should be taken in the contact claims. The sighting reports have been collected and studied to the point of boredom without getting us any further. It is about time that the contactees were brought to the fore and studied and analysed. Perhaps then we shall gain some definite results and conclusions.—Margaret Holmes, Bexleyheath, Kent.

*(Our reader is referred to Dr. Finch's letter below in which he makes a practical suggestion for the testing of landing and contact claims—Editor).*

### **Bounding Basques**

Sir,—In reference to the article "The Mystery of Springheel Jack" (see May-June 1961 issue), I believe that certain people of the Basque country of North-east Spain had a special way of binding or padding their feet which enabled them to spring or leap to a considerable height. When used in warfare this had a disconcerting effect on their enemy's morale. — Miss J. D. Losack, 45 Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants.

### **Saucers leave clues**

Sir,—In recent years it has been shown that all the rocks and minerals of the earth's mantle have a natural residual magnetism, i.e. all their molecules are aligned in a fixed direction which was determined when the molten rocks were cooling and they were buckling and con-

vulsing to form the mountains. During this formative time, the rocks were twisted, bent and folded, but as they cooled and hardened, their molecules aligned themselves along the North-South magnetic lines of the young molten, cooling earth. Therefore, any movement later of the solid strata, after cooling, would be shown by changes in the direction of their residual magnetic poles, and over large areas of the earth this has happened in the past.

Once the rocks had cooled, their residual magnetic direction had "come to stay." Nothing would alter it except gross land movements such as earthquakes etc. However, this residual magnetic direction could also be altered by very strong magnetic fields.

Now, this would take place if a flying saucer were to approach the ground, for its powerful magnetic field, which produces visible, sensory and auditory effects would likewise change the direction of the residual magnetism in the soil and rocks beneath it. One has only therefore to take two specimens of rock from any area where landings have been described—one specimen immediately below the landing site, the second specimen about one hundred yards away, and to compare the direction of residual magnetism in the two samples before moving them.

The second specimen would show the question of true residual magnetism in the surrounding rock, whereas as if the first specimen shows a different direction for its magnetism, undoubtedly it must have been altered by a powerful magnetic

field. Together with the visual evidence of a landing we would have, for the first time, definite clues left by the saucers.—Dr. B. E. Finch, London, N.W.11.

### **Missing Contact**

Sir,—Two or three years ago, at the end of a meeting in Caxton Hall a gentleman came up to the front to tell how two girls had come across two blond-haired Scandinavian-type men one evening near a lake in Wales. The men invited them into a "flying saucer-like craft" which was standing nearby. One of the girls was hopeless at mathematics, so the men gave her a lesson. In half an hour she had become a mathematical genius. At home the villagers began to call these girls witches. Thereupon, this man, presumably some friend of theirs or of the family brought the girls to London. He was now offering something like £1,000 to anyone who could beat her at a demonstration of remembering hundreds of numbers. He held up a photograph of this girl which I believe was taken when he was demonstrating her ability on some stage.

When the meeting was over I was engrossed in conversation with another member of the audience and it did not occur to me to approach the man until too late. He had gone. Since then I have made repeated enquiries in an attempt to trace him, but in vain. Can any reader put me in touch with this man or produce further details of the alleged encounter?—G. N. P. Stephenson, 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

*In our next issue . . . .*

## **ASTRONAUTICS AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS**

By PROFESSOR V. KRASOVSKIY

Professor Krasovskiy is a Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. As the Editor of *Izvestiya*, in which this article first appeared, is Krushev's son-in-law, his views are held to be officially approved in Soviet circles.