

On the other hand, it is true to say that it is probably the *only* interpretation of Q.M. that follows logically from the initial postulates of the theory without requiring some sort of additional postulate when "measurement processes" are discussed. Thus its advocates like to claim that, *though expensive in universes, it is economical in postulates.*

There are a number of "popular" books on Q.M. that discuss these issues. A useful one is "THE GHOST IN THE ATOM" (Cambridge University Press), which is an edited collection of broadcast talks by various physicists, offering several different points of view. (It is edited by Paul Davies and a BBC man, J.R. Brown.)- Dr. David Deutsch, (a Research Fellow at Oxford) puts the case for the Everett interpretation and proposes a (rather sci-fi) test, in Chapter 6.

You may also know "*The Quantum World*", by your fellow-priest, John Polkinghorne, F.R.S., which is a clear and slightly more technical introduction to the debate. A.I.M. Rae has produced "*Quantum Physics: Illusion or Reality*" recently for Cambridge University Press. There are also: "*Quantum Reality: Beyond the New Physics*, by Nick Herbert (pub. Rider, London, 1985), and "*In Search of Schrodinger's Cat*", by John Gribbin (Bantam, 1984). So you have some Christmas reading to do!

You may also like to know that the Department of External Studies will be running a lecture series next term on some "philosophical" aspects of the "New Physics", in which problems associated with the interpretation of Q.M. will play a large part. David Deutsch will be speaking about the many (or parallel) universes idea, and I shall be giving one of the early lectures, on "Schrodinger's Cat" (the problem of measurement — trying to explain what the *problem* is!). As far as I know, nobody here has written anything "official" recently either for or against the many-universes idea — but you can read what Prof. Sir Rudolf Peierls has to say about it in the book by Paul Davies and J.R. Brown ("THE GHOST IN THE ATOM").

Yours sincerely,
Ian J.R. Aitchison

(In a subsequent telephonic conversation which I had with him, Professor Aitchison elaborated a little more, and said: "*I am perhaps a little uneasy about the use of the phrase 'other worlds', as I would prefer to talk in terms of what I would call 'overlapping possibilities'.*" D.T.)

SECTS AND UFOs IN THE ANDES

SOON after the invasion and rape of Tibet by the Chinese Red Armies (November 7, 1950) I recall a suggestion by some shrewd observer, whose name I forget, to the effect that

"The Mystics and Masters of Old Tibet will now have to shift to the Andes!"

It looks as though the prediction has come true, for Paul Whitehead recently drew my attention to an interesting report under the above title, which had come from a journalist just back from Bolivia, and which appeared in the London newspaper, *The Guardian*, of Saturday, November 15, 1986.

From the writer's account it seems that this backward and landlocked South American "opposite number" of Tibet is now as plagued as California with all manner of "religious groups" — no less than 240 major sects at the last count (although it seems there may actually be a further 150 or so!) — and all adding considerably to the country's problems, which are already severe enough. (For example, the provincial calm of the Andean town of Cochabamba is now disturbed not only by the massive upsurge of the illegal coca and cocaine trade, but also by the mere presence of a group of five Nepalese transcendental meditators, called, it seems, by the splendid name of "*The Navel*

Contemplators". According to an official of the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these peripatetic five have been a headache to the Bolivian authorities for the last few months of 1986, particularly as the whole party now appears to have vanished into the Andes.) The Government of the Republic, the population of which is 95% nominally Catholic and mostly Amerindian in composition, is decidedly worried, and has decreed that all these mushrooming sects and churches and guru cults should register themselves with the Foreign Office not later than November 1986. (All 240 of them. Or is it maybe 390?)

Throughout almost all the 31 years of FSR's existence, as the pages of our past issues show, there has been a steady stream of reports of UFO activity over the whole of South America and over Bolivia and the Andes in particular. The reports we are receiving today are no different from those of 1955 and 1956. Inevitably, as foreseen by the anonymous seer years ago, the Andes have become an area of pilgrimage for gurus and sect-leaders of all hues and kinds. That delectable guru-goddess Ms Shirley MacLaine, authoress of some best-sellers, like "*Don't Fall Off The Mountain*"; "*The Other Half of the Sky*"; "*Out on a Limb*"; and "*You Can't Get There From Here*", was

there recently, and she too has brought back the usual sheaf of UFO reports.

One of the latest sects to be active in Bolivia and the Andes call themselves "OVNIBOL" — (an amalgam of the words "Bolivia" and the Spanish term "OVNI" (UFO). It seems that "OVNIBOL" are resolutely convinced that Christ will be returning to Bolivia any day now, and of course will just step out of a UFO in order to announce the impending End of the World. The "Children of God"; the "Moonies"; the "Scientologists" and the numerous other groups are likewise no

slouches when it comes to the matter of Andean Enlightenment. The members of one particular Hindu sect are reported to be opening a string of vegetarian restaurants throughout the land. (In the poorly nourished population of the High Andes, where the inhabitants are hardly likely to get an overdose of protein, this report might be thought to smack somewhat of "carrying coals to Newcastle". Or, as the Germans put it, so much more elegantly: "Carrying Owls to Athens"! G.C.

MORE POLTERGEISTERY IN BRAZIL

We have published plenty of reports over recent years about strange phenomena in Brazil (the land — let us not forget — of Voodoo and Xangó and similar African cults!) And we are indebted to our reader and fervent supporter E.M. Jakes of Yapton, West Sussex, who spotted the following extraordinary example from the small Brazilian city of Itapeva (Lat. 23° 59S., Long. 48° 59 W.) in the State of São Paulo:—

Sunday Express, London
May 17 1987

Evil strikes a frightened city

SÃO PAULO: A series of unexplained supernatural happenings has been sending rocks, rubbish bins and furniture flying into the air, hitting innocent people in a small Brazilian city.

Even police have seen rocks yanked from soil banks by some force, and flung against house windows or dropped on roofs in Itapeva.

At a special prayer session in an attempt to rid the city of "supernatural forces", a rock weighing one kilo mysteriously fell from the skies, piercing the roof of the Cathedral and landing in front of worshippers.

The phenomenon has sent shock waves among the city's 100,000 inhabitants.

So far, the police have investigated without results or even a clue as to what is causing these strange occurrences.

N.B. Falling rocks and stones are of course one of the classic and essential features of poltergeistic phenomena (not to mention UFO phenomena), and no doubt all these "anomalies" are due to one single agency — the activity of alien intelligences operating out of "other dimensions right here" and impinging sporadically in our world. In which event man — with his limited faculties — will never understand anything more than he does now, because he has been rigidly programmed.

Nevertheless it might be interesting to note that in Tupí, the principal aboriginal Indian language of this part of Brazil, *Ita* means a *rock* or *stone*. (But there are

more than 120 names of important places or geographical features in Brazil beginning with *Ita*-, and that takes no account of the scores of even smaller places. So maybe it is no wonder that Brazil is thoroughly poltergeist-ridden!) G.C.

For those who read French!

ALINTEL

by
Jacques Vallée

The novel about the secret international agency studying alien intelligences.

Pub. by MERCURE DE FRANCE,
PARIS, 1986. Price 89 F.

"ALINTEL, as an adventure novel, shows elegantly to what extent computers and the manipulation of public opinion will become an explosive mixture in the late twentieth century."

(*France-Soir*, 6 May 1986).

"Jacques Vallée's book cannot be read without anguish and curiosity. It demonstrates to what extent high technology is linked to government power — for better or worse."

(*Elle*, 5 May 1986).