

Venus has the police in a spin over nothing

By IAIN GRAY

A mysterious white light in the sky which sent two police constables on a seven-mile chase in Lanarkshire last night was explained as nothing more sinister than the planet Venus.

Constable William Brown and his colleague, Constable James Samuel, of Larkhall police office,

were called to the Netherburn area of the town after a member of the public reported an intense white light burning in the sky.

The constables reported back to their office that they had spotted the strange glow, and three more of their colleagues confirmed it.

Noting that the glow

appeared to be moving slowly towards the Strathaven area the baffled constables set out in hot pursuit in their patrol car. About seven miles later the glow suddenly disappeared.

Constable Brown said: "We just could not explain what the light was. It was a very bright, white light, moving slowly

across the sky. We followed it for about seven miles, and it just simply disappeared all of a sudden."

An expert on UFOs explained last night, however, that the light had not represented an alien invasion of Lanarkshire.

Mr Stuart Campbell, Scottish investigating officer of the British UFO

Research Association, said the light was Venus, shining brightly.

"I noted last night that Venus was shining brightly. It would have been visible in that area, and as long as it was an intense glow, which did not move erratically, it seems likely that is what it was.

"People make the com-

mon mistake that the planet is actually moving — in fact it is only slowly dropping towards the horizon. This is not the first time I have heard of policemen chasing Venus," he said.

Meanwhile, still in Lanarkshire, detectives were investigating another mystery — that of metal objects which seemed to

fall from the sky.

A woman in Carlisle reported hearing a noise like an explosion and then seeing objects apparently dropping out of the sky and hitting a garage roof.

Police later found two aluminium - type tubes, each about five inches long and one-and-a-half inches in diameter at the garage.