

THOSE MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS.

NOT ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA.

NEW THEORY AT THE
OBSERVATORY.

ADVERTISING BALLOONS OR
MILITARY KITES.

Since the appearance of the mysterious moving light in the sky was reported from Victoria and New Zealand, it has been seen in various parts of New South Wales, principally in the southern district, though two Sydneyites called at the Observatory on Wednesday afternoon, and reported that they were sure they had also located it. They persisted in the statement that they had seen the lights, and were positive they could show them to the officer in charge.

Mr. W. E. Raymond went patiently with them, and searched the heavens in the direction indicated. He found that they had, indeed, seen a strange light, but it had already been announced in the city newspapers days before. The light they showed Mr. Raymond was nothing more nor less than the planets Jupiter and Venus. These planets will, at two minutes past 5 this afternoon, be close together, i.e., for planets. They will be within half the moon's breadth of each other, and

half the moon's breadth of each other, and will be almost in the same visual line, the brilliance of the one adding to the fire of the other. Jupiter is the largest of the two planets; but, as it is farther away from the earth than Venus, it will appear the smaller to the naked eye to-night, when the planets approach each other.

Jupiter is 71,000 miles in diameter, and will be 583 million miles away from the earth this evening, when Venus, which is only 133 million miles away, approaches. The planets will appear this evening in the west-nor'-west sky, and Sydney citizens should take a look at them this evening, but not associate them, as did the other two gentlemen on Wednesday afternoon, with the mysterious lights reported from other places.

"Everybody is seeing lights just now," said Mr. Raymond to an "Evening News" reporter this afternoon, "but we cannot associate the lights seen with astronomical phenomena. Some of the people who have seen the lights say they saw them in the south, others in the east, and others again in the north. There is no doubt that some of these people have been looking at the planet Mars, which is very close to the earth at present, and which resembles a ball of fire. I intend searching the heavens in the direction of Goulburn on the first favorable night, but I do not expect to find anything in the way of astronomical phenomena, as the reports from the Goulburn district state that the lights seen varied their altitude from 500ft to 1400ft while the spectators watched them. We thus know this is not a star, as we are positive that they have a decided objection to dropping to 500ft and then going up again."

"There is only one likely solution of the mystery that I can see," said Mr. Raymond, "and that is that probably one of the advertising firms have copied the Continental idea, and are sending up advertising balloons; or, failing that, perhaps the military authorities have been experimenting with their war kites. Either of these might produce the lights."

these might produce the lights."

LIGHT SEEN AT ASHFIELD.

A resident of Frederick-street, Ashfield, was sitting on the verandah of his house on Thursday night, when he observed a mysterious light in the eastern sky. He first saw the light about 8 p.m., when it appeared the size of a buggy lamp, and was the color of a candle light. He watched it through his glasses for some time, and observed what appeared to be an explosion. This occurred shortly before 10 o'clock, and though he watched for the re-appearance of the mysterious light it did not again appear. The explosion resembled the bursting of a rocket.

A CONSTABLE'S DISCOVERY.

Our Goulburn correspondent writes:—The uncanny light in the sky at night is now nearly as familiar to Goulburn as the milkman or the butcher. The light has been on view nightly since Thursday last, and all kinds of views are expressed as to what it really is. One man who saw the phenomenon said, "My goodness, it's a Japanese airship all right." Another individual wanted to know what we paid our astronomers for, if they could not settle the matter as to what the light was. A further brilliant idea expressed was that the military authorities were carrying out secretly some signalling operations, as was done some time ago, when they used signals from Governor's Hill to the Gib at Bowral, and from the Gib to Sydney, unknown to the public. On Wednesday night a large number of persons watched a light from the rear of the Oddfellows' Hall. A constable present with a bicycle rode in the direction of the light, and caught up with it in a short time, and to his disgust found it to be on the top of a post by the side of the railway line, with the signal down for "Line clear."

Whatever the light is, the airship theory is not generally believed in the general opinion being that it is a luminous body of some kind that has not come under the observation of the astronomers. The light was seen in Goul-

astronomers. The light was seen in Goulburn on Tuesday night from about 7 o'clock until about 11, when it disappeared. A peculiar circumstance on Tuesday night was that at one time several stars were seen to fall about the light, which at the time was very bright, and appeared to have bright rays round it. Numerous people aver that they distinctly saw the light move up and down and sideways.

SEEN AT NARRABRI.

Our Narrabri correspondent telegraphs:—The mysterious lights which were reported from Goulburn and other places have been seen here. The first appearance was on Sunday night last.

About half-past 9, a well-known resident of the town and a friend were out walking, when their attention was suddenly attracted by a very bright light, like a 50-candle power gas jet, moving across the sky at a rapid rate. The light seemed to be about 1500 feet high, and behind it there seemed to be a large white body like an airship or aeroplane. It was impossible for the light to have been controlled from the ground, as it was too high, and its movements too rapid. Obviously it was controlled from close quarters. After circling over the back of the town, the light came straight in the direction of Dangar Village, which lies out westerly. When above the centre of the town it stopped and remained stationary fully 30sec, and then slowly passed along in a southerly direction. As it travelled towards that point a long arm of light shot straight ahead like a searchlight. Altogether the light remained about ten minutes, and then disappeared. It was observed on Monday night, and again on Tuesday night. People are mystified, and many remain up all night with the hope of seeing the phenomenon, or whatever it may be.

NOT CONNECTED WITH MILITARY EXPERIMENTS.

Inquiry by an "Evening News" reporter at Victoria Barracks this afternoon elicited the fact that the mysterious lights seen in the

fact that the mysterious lights seen in the southern district were in no way connected with military experiments. Though not inclined to make any statement regarding the matter, outside a general contradiction, the departmental officers stated that no experiments with military kites had been made in the Goulburn district for some considerable time.

AERIAL LEAGUE DISCOVER THE CAUSE.

Inquiry at the office of the Aerial League this afternoon found that the mysterious light tery had been solved. The secretary, Mr. Taylor, said that as soon as the matter was reported the members of the league in the Goulburn district started to investigate the whole affair. Their investigations were completed this morning, and they informed the league that the mysterious light was caused by a lantern with a candle in it being flown from a box kite.

"Anyone with a grain of sense would at once see," said Mr. Taylor, "that a star would not rise to 1000ft. or more, and then drop to 500ft. Then, the whole movement of the light was only backwards and forwards, and up and down, causing us to think that it was a captive kite which was being flown. Our first conclusions have now been verified, and only this afternoon it received proof that the New Zealand light mystery was a joke along the same lines."