

# ***Students At Sydney University See "Flying Saucers"; Professor F. S. Cotton's Theory***

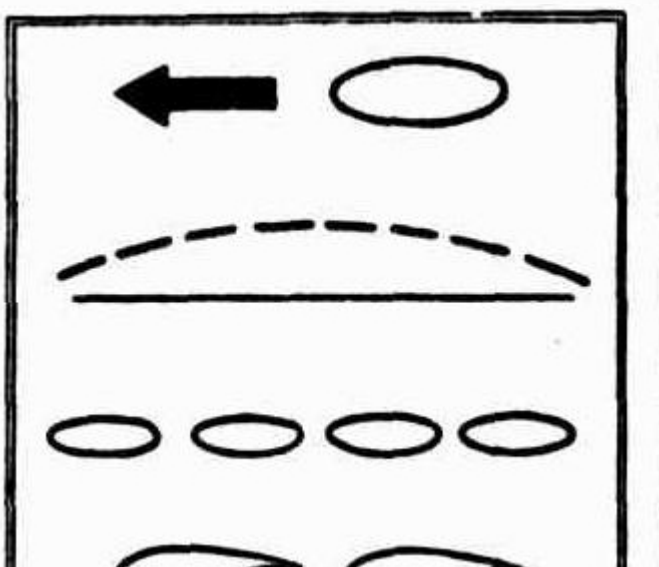
Twenty-two students at Sydney University yesterday morning saw "flying saucers," similar to those which have been reported in the United States and Canada, where army planes are standing by to pursue them.

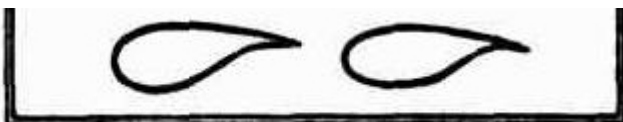
The students were taking part in an experiment conducted by Professor F. S. Cotton, Professor of Physiology, who declared later that the "objects" seen by the students were caused by the movement of red corpuscles of the blood passing in front of the retina of the eye.

Addressing a class of 450 students, Professor Cotton drew attention to cable messages reporting that hundreds of persons in many parts of the United States had reported having seen "flying saucers."

He suggested that the students co-operate with him in experiments.

At his suggestion they left the lecture room, and before returning





Above are drawings of the "flying saucers" which Professor Cotton's students saw. The top line shows the direction of "flight." Second line: They appear to take a curved path. Third line: Some appear as a string of pearls in motion. Fourth line: Others have tails.

to the main building, carried out observations of the sky.

Professor Cotton suggested that they look at the sky about a mile away, and concentrate their gaze on a fixed point while standing perfectly still.

He asked them that if they saw any objects corresponding to those set out in the cable reports they should see him in the main medical school.

### **DESCRIBED "OBJECTS"**

Within 10 minutes 22 students reported that they had seen the objects described.

As a further test Professor Cotton then asked them to set on paper the objects they had seen and also any remarks they wished to make.

These indicated that they had seen objects which appeared to be oval; that they were bright; that they moved very rapidly; that they tended to move in the direction of the long axis; and that there was a

the long axis; and that there was a tendency for the path of motion to be curved.

In some drawings the objects were seen following each other in line, in others they were disconnected, and in more they appeared to have short tails.

The drawings revealed three features which were published in

cable reports for the first time yesterday afternoon, some hours after the students had drawn their pictures.

These were a silvery disc with a short tail; discs swinging in an arc; and discs resembling a string of flying pearls.

Professor Cotton said last night that the students had seen what he expected them to see.

### **INFLUENCE OF CLOUDS**

The objects "seen" by the students were really caused by "the effect of red corpuscles of the blood passing in front of the retina," he said. "This is well recognised."

Professor Cotton stated that people acquainted with the red-cell phenomena might not normally trace the connection, because frequently the effects revealed large numbers of objects.

In certain circumstances, however, when a person was looking at

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a blue sky with scattered clouds only a small number of objects was seen apparently darting across the

seen apparently darting across the blue spaces.

This was because bright spots could not be seen against the background of the clouds.

"All I would add is that your readers can now draw their own conclusions about the reports from overseas," added Professor Cotton.

During the war Professor Cotton conceived and developed the anti-G suit to overcome black-out in



### **PROFESSOR COTTON**

fighter pilots when manoeuvring at great speed in high altitudes.

Some American journals claimed for U.S. Navy and Army doctors and fliers the full credit for this development, but actually the "gradient pressure" principle was first

velopment, but actually the "great  
ent pressure" principle was first  
applied to the black-out problem by  
Professor Cotton, and all the initial  
research was done at Sydney  
University.

### **"MUST BE MAN-MADE"**

Other Sydney scientists said yesterday that the reports from America were too vague for worthwhile conclusions to be drawn.

Their comments (made without knowledge of Professor Cotton's theory) were:—

**Dr. J. H. Piddington**, of the C.S.I.R. Radiophysics Division: "It seems unlikely that the objects are caused by any astronomical phenomena. I know of no research work in progress which might produce the missiles.

"It is often very difficult to tell how far away in space an object is unless there is some knowledge of its size. The 'flying saucers' might have been a great distance from the observers, who could have no real idea of their size."

**The Government Astronomer, Mr. H. Wood**: "I think the objects must be man-made. Astronomical phenomena have been observed for hundreds of years, and I know of nothing similar being reported."