

THOSE "FLYING SAUCERS"

It is satisfying to know that the "flying saucer" mystery has been solved and it is to be hoped that American citizens in enjoying their laugh at this remarkable instance of mass psychology at work, will also realise, more particularly, that it is a symptom of a dangerous state of mind. First one person who happened on a physical phenomenon known to scientists saw these "saucers." Then thousands saw them. The complaint even spread to Australia but, fortunately here, a practical-minded professor took his students out and they were able whenever they desired to see "flying saucers," which bore a close resemblance to imaginings of those good American citizens who were quite honest in their statements. The basic cause of the imagining in America was the suspicion of Russia. They had balloons flown across from Japan and someone lying at ease, no doubt, staring at the skies suddenly "saw something." This was the beginning of this remarkable mass exhibition, almost of hysteria. Russia fortunately, is not so well equipped as America for a

struggle and is not prepared to fight. America does not want to fight. The sudden dissolution of her armies is proof enough of this, a dissolution which is so different from the condition of affairs rulling in Russia, where armies are still at full strength and where preparations for war continue. There is nothing wrong with the Russian people, if only they were given a chance, but so long as the present cold and hard realists are in control, the Russian people will not be given their opportunity. How then is America to conquer Russia without actual battle? The present state of Europe following upon the issuing of invitations by France and Britain to other nations to consider the Marshall Plan is in itself sufficient evidence of the best way to tackle the problem. This method is to prove that the democratic way of life in which there is consideration, above all, for the individual, is the best and those countries which accept America's offer, provided all goes smoothly will become a clamant example to Russians of the superiority of this way of life. No iron curtain will prevent the reaction which must come in Russia if the Marshall Plan goes through and when it becomes a success "Flying

goes through and when it becomes a success. "Flying saucers" are only a symptom of an unhealthy state of mind. What is wanted in the United States is a clear realisation of what the policy is and all that lies behind it. And to bring that state of mind about in a democracy will be a tremendous achievement.