

# **22,000 Miles Up**

## **SPACE STATION PLANNED**

London, Nov. 12.—British rocket experts have completed blueprints for a real “flying saucer”—an inhabited space-station revolving moon-like round the earth, 22,000 miles up. Mr. H. E. Ross, chief designer for the Interplanetary Society, thinks the scheme could be carried out for about £130,000,000.

The space-station, he says, could provide a watching post for the control of atomic energy. It would make possible the world-wide re-diffusion of television programmes and the provision of accurate weather forecasts.

The “saucer” would be 200 ft. wide and would weigh (on the ground) 2000 tons. It would be prefabricated and taken up piecemeal by piloted freight rockets. He believes 60 journeys would do the job. Each load would be dumped into space—to be picked up later. The bits would circle the earth, passing over exactly the same spot at precise intervals.

All that is necessary to enable an object to balance gravitation at 22,000 miles up is to give it a speed of 6500 miles per hour (nearly two

of 6500 miles per hour (nearly two miles a second). Engineers, wearing rigid space suits, would assemble the dumped pieces of the space-station. They could step into space, provided their rocket ship was travelling at 6500 miles per hour. They could then jet-propel themselves about by squirting gas from cylinders strapped on their backs.

One man could lift the heaviest girder because it would have no weight. Hammers and screwdrivers could be put down on nothing and would not drop.

Power obtained from the sun's rays would spin the saucer and produce an artificial gravity.

Ross says the technicians chose 22,000 miles, because at that height an object would circle the earth at the same rate as the earth rotates. Observers in the space-station would see the earth as stationary.

The greatest height reached by rocket is 112 miles, but one to be launched soon in America is expected to rise 235 miles.