

Doubts life on planets

The general view of scientists towards the possible existence of "living, intelligent observers" on another planet was one of extreme scepticism, Adelaide scientist Sir Kerr Grant said today.

Sir Kerr Grant gave no support to a claim in an American magazine that so-called flying saucers were space vehicles from another planet, whose inhabitants had been observing the earth for 175 years.

The writer making these claims was Donald Keyhoe, former information chief for the Aeronautics Branch of the US Commerce Department.

Sir Kerr Grant said:—

"Most probable explanation of 'flying saucers', in the majority of cases, is that they were purely optical illusions.

"In some instances there may have been something floating in the air, such as balloons sent up for meteorological exploration of the upper air. You notice the US Air Force says there is nothing to support the view that 'flying saucers' come from another

saucers' come from another planet."

Sir Kerr Grant said Mars was favored by the theorists as a centre of life akin to humanity, because of the planet's known atmosphere and climatic conditions.

He agreed with a suggestion that after the fulfilment of

some of Jules Verne's prophetic stories, which were regarded as fantastic at the time they were written, we should be "prepared for anything."

"But we want reliable evidence, and that is lacking in respect of flying saucers," he said.
