

Don't pooh-pooh those mystery craft!

Layman designs a flying saucer

SCARCELY a day passes without its newspaper report of another encounter with these mystery craft, the flying saucer.

So consistent are the reports — from reasonably reputable eye-witnesses, too—that even the most cynical are now asking, “Can there be anything to them?”

Applying average intelligence, and without the assistance of expert knowledge of aeronautics, the man-in-the-street can produce, with the information we have already, an explanation of the “saucer”

planation of the "saucer" phenomenon logical enough to be satisfying.

Let us at once discount the suggestion that beings from another world pilot these machines.

This suggestion puts the whole problem on a scare basis. No logic can face up to the hysterical, and we are trying to find a sensible answer.

Most important scientific discoveries have been caused by man's insatiable curiosity about seemingly natural things.

The theory of gravity came from observation of the simple phenomenon of an apple falling. Use of the power of steam came from the question James Watt asked: "Why did the lid of the kettle rise?"

Scientists have the habit of asking themselves awkward questions and ferreting around until they find the answer.

Let us suppose that you are out on a picnic one day and you throw away a paper cup. It flies awkwardly and falls to the ground. But throw a cardboard plate and it curves grace-

board plate and it curves gracefully through the air, before coming to rest a considerable distance from where you threw it, shows distinct signs of being able to fly of its own accord. (If you were an aeronautical engineer you would be able to explain the easy flight of the cardboard plate in simple terms.)

A step further would lead you to inquire whether it would be possible to build a machine which could be controlled either from within or from without, while, like the cardboard plate, it whizzed through the air revolving all the time.

A first glance at the problem would lead to the conclusion that a human being could not control the machine from within because it was revolving so rapidly.

However, a second thought would show that you could overcome the problem simply enough. If you will glance at the diagram you will see a possible explanation of how you could make a revolving machine and fly in it.

Built in two parts, this machine is exactly circular.

machine is exactly circular. The outer ring would form a single unit with the inner central section and control cabin.

Inside, and between the inner section of the cabin and the outer ring, is an inner ring, which is free to revolve.

Special motors housed inside the cabin section might drive this revolving inner ring.

To the rear (if a circle can be said to have a rear) and housed in one of the overarm supports, is a jet propulsion unit.

Such a machine as illustrated could combine two principles of flight:

● The normal forward-flying movement of ordinary craft, by means of jet propulsion from the rear.

● The up-and-down flight of an auto-gyro. This up-and-down motion would be provided by the inner revolving circle, at the bottom of which might be small vanes similar to turbine blades.

Theorising about this machine

Theorising about this machine is certainly easy, but the prime object must be control.

The machine illustrated here could (in theory) be controlled easily enough.

To go forward the jet at the rear would be used; to go up or come down the inner revolving circle would operate; to move up or down in level flight in order to change the altitude of flight, a control similar to the vanes on the bows of a submarine could be used; a turn to left or right could be achieved by a rudder at the rear or by vanes on either side of the machine.

Power to drive the engine which would rotate the inner revolving circle could be obtained in several different ways.

In flight the machine would keep the inner revolving ring in motion, its speed of revolution being adjustable to the behavior of the craft in flight.

Having attained a high speed by means of jet propulsion, the machine would probably be able to proceed in long curving swoops without the jet, so long as the inner revolving disc was in motion.

in motion.

Further, when the machine

had lost speed, it might well be able to hover or to rise and sink vertically in the same way as an auto-gyro.

These are all theorisings based on information in the newspapers for some weeks past. They are not based on any knowledge of the subject, except that which must come to a person of average intelligence on reading accounts of the behavior of these flying saucers.

Most of the reports about flying saucers come from certain districts in America, but they also have been seen in the far north around Finland.

Both are remote locations—
ideal testing
grounds for secret weapons.

Possibly the
U.S. and U.S.S.R. are racing each other to develop this revolutionary type of aircraft.

It is much more logical to assume that these machines are air force secret weapons in the prototype stage than to

in the prototype stage than to suppose they are visitors from Mars.

If a pilot could control these new craft satisfactorily, they would probably be very efficient war planes.

I can't understand why someone with expert aeronautical knowledge has not come forward with a similar suggestion.

However, experiments with machines such as I have outlined would account for the persistence of the reports of "flying saucers."

By DONALD BEARD

In this article a layman sets out his ideas on how a flying saucer may fly. He illustrates his theory with the sketch below . . .



