

MODEL OF "FLYING SAUCER" FLOWN IN 1913



"Flying Saucers" are no mystery to Mr G. Tilghman Richards, now a lecturer at the South Kensington Science Museum. This model of his aircraft is in the museum now and will be on view to the public when the National Aeronautical collection section opens in June. For four years he worked on it with Mr Cedric Lee in an attempt to perfect a foolproof plane which would not stall or spin. His plane, known as the Lee-Richards annular monoplane, was flown for 11,000 miles before the outbreak of the 1914-18 war. It was like an inverted saucer with normal controls and airscrew. It had another modern device—a tricycle undercarriage. It flew at 85 m.p.h., a good speed for those days, and was extremely safe—landing at 25 m.p.h. The annular monoplane was the first really revolutionary aircraft to fly.