

Original Flying Saucer Model

LONDON (Air Mail).—Australian visitors to London will shortly be able to see the original flying saucer, or more correctly, a model of it, for the first flying saucer was an aircraft, made and flown in 1914.

The Science Museum at Kensington will, at the end of next month, put the Lee-Richards annular monoplane on view. This craft, with a circular wing running from the nose through the tailplane back to the nose, was constructed in an attempt to produce a circular aircraft that could not stall or spin.

The designer, Mr. George Tilghman Richards, worked with Mr. Frederick Lee 36 years ago and produced the Circleplane and flew it over 10,000 miles. This did indeed resemble an inverted saucer, though it featured a tricycle undercarriage.

Speed was 85 m.p.h. and it landed at 30 m.p.h. Most modern aircraft require to maintain a landing speed of something like 100 m.p.h. for safety yet the Circleplane

**safety, yet the Circleplane
could be landed with compara-
tive safety at times at a speed
as low as 25 m.p.h.**