

FLYING SAUCER MYSTERY

Professor's View

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

Hydrogen - inflated colored balloons released by atom scientists seeking data on cosmic ray forces may account for reports from various parts of the world of the existence of "flying saucers" Professor L. H. Martin, of Melbourne University, said today.

Professor Martin said scientists in various parts of the world, including America, were sending balloons carrying nuclear "plates" 30 miles or so into the stratosphere in furtherance of atomic research.

These special photographic plates are attached to a parachute and put inside a balloon, which is then put inside a third balloon.

At about 60,000 feet the first balloon expands to 20ft. diameter because of reduced atmospheric pressure and bursts. Between 90,000 and 100,000 feet the second and third balloons burst in succession.

As these balloons expanded they tended to "flatten out" and this probably had the effect of giving them an appearance somewhat like a saucer.

The parachute carrying the photographic plates floats down to earth and cosmic rays bombard the plates.

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Scientists examine the plates in their quest for new knowledge of cosmic ray forces and the nuclear structure of the atom.