

When The Flying Saucer Descends

After a lull of some months on the flying-saucer front, new and even larger rash of these swift and brilliant objects has broken out in the heavens. Those seen over Sydney could be caught only by the flashing eye—and the soaring imagination—but in Brazil they do these things better. When a saucer swooped over Rio de Janeiro Press photographers were waiting, finger on trigger, and triumphantly "shot" it.

Years of war, followed by an even longer period of international tension, have developed an apprehension, almost subconscious, that someone is "up to something" somewhere. In that mood we are apt to see more than is good for us. When one day a flying saucer actually descends, and the Martian disembarks with his ultimatum, it will be almost a relief!

One explanation of all this to-do about flying saucers is that in a scientific age the public curiosity demands constant stimulus. The ceaseless flow of domestic gadget is evidence on the point. But neither these nor the wonderful processes and invention that emerge almost monthly from the laboratory and the engineering workshop will satisfy the human lust for

scientific mystery which was first provoked, on a mass scale, by H. G. Wells.

There is more in this sky-searching, however, than a desire to be mystified. The