

THE FLYING SAUCER:

Is It Fact Or Imagination?

CANBERRA, November 20.—The Air Minister, Mr. McMahon, believes that "flying saucers" are a problem for psychologists rather than defence experts. He told the House of Representatives to-day that it was peculiar that just before flying saucers were observed a meteorite usually flashed across the sky. "It is quite possible that some optical illusion may be the cause of the phenomena," he said.

Mr. McMahon was replying to Mr. Downer (Lib., South Australia), who had asked whether the Australian Air Force was conducting investigations into the sightings of "flying saucers" as was being done in Canada and America.

Mr. McMahon said that the Air Force had many reports of "flying saucers," but had ascribed them to aerodynamic functions of the phenomena had not been solved. "It probably would be quite possible to fly such a craft using round gas engines and to fly them in circles, but I think that is well in the future and there is no immediate need for it," he added.

WEATHER BALLOON ?

LONDON, November 20.—Air Ministry spokesmen said at London that a strange object, resembling the popular notions of a flying saucer, could have been a meteorological balloon.

A Kent army radar unit reported an unidentified strange object flying high on November 3. A British War Office official last night said the mysterious object had been tracked

ed for 10 minutes on the army radar screen.

The Air Ministry said that a meteorological balloon had been released in the same area on November 3—the meteorological station also had followed the balloon's course by radar. The balloon had risen to 37,000 feet, crossed the coast and later burst over the English Channel. "This could have been the object seen on the army's radar screen," the spokesman said.

"SOMETHING SOLID"

PRETORIA, Nov. 20.—A Defence Headquarters spokesman said to-day that South African Air Force officers reported that they had seen objects over South Africa which might be "flying saucers." The spokesman added that the officers had seen the objects of rockets and other objects moving at high speed, but given a clear description of the phenomena.

A senior Air Force officer said in Cape Town to-day that Air Force Headquarters were investigating a mysterious radar contact which indicated some unexplained phenomenon.

some unexpected phenomena
in the sky over Cape Penins-
ular. The radio operator, he
said, was "undoubtedly" with
"something solid".
