

## **FLYING "GHOSTS"**

Adelaide people who reported sighting "flying saucers" during the week-end need not feel that they were merely "seeing things." Their reports fit into a pattern which is still confused but definitely emerging.

"Saucer" reports have been a lively topic of speculation since they first arose in the US seven years ago. The agile American imagination, alerted by comic strips, pictured them as space vessels manned by little men from Mars or Venus.

This theory was trounced by eminent scientists on both sides of the Atlantic. It was pointed out that there were many natural phenomena—mock suns and fireballs, for instance—which were sufficiently far from the normal range of most people's experience to give rise to wonderment.

A Harvard professor says "saucers" are real—as real as rainbows. They are tricks of light; optical "ghosts" or "displaced images" caused by the refraction of light on warm air from some source as commonplace as a motor car's headlights.

This scarcely explains the appearance of saucers in broad daylight. But it does leave room for a lot of fascinating speculation.