

STRANGE OBJECT SIGHTED

OVER MELBOURNE SUBURBS

REPORT BY ASTRONOMER.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 11.—A Melbourne astronomer has reported seeing an "unidentifiable object like a rectangular sheet of aluminium" flying over the southern suburbs.

He is Mr. John W. Boyle, 41-year-old vice-president of the British Astronomical Association's Victorian branch.

Mr. Boyle who is a cartographer with the Lands Department, has been interested in astronomy for about 26 years. He said to-night: "I have never before seen anything in daylight that has been as puzzling to me. I have always kept an open mind on the things that people claim to have seen in the sky. Now I am convinced that there is something peculiar going on."

Mr. Boyle sighted the object from St. Kilda at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 3, as he was taking his four-year-old son, Ian, to the beach. He saw it for 15 to 20 seconds.

"My first impression was that it looked like a piece of paper being blown along by the wind—but it was a calm day with

—but it was a calm day with little wind," he said. "As it rocked from side to side it flashed in the sunlight like a sheet of aluminium. Each time it flashed a purplish halo appeared around it."