

# FLYING SAUCER OVER BLACKWOOD ?

"It" appeared over Blackwood at about 1 p.m. on Wednesday last, June 22. "It" was seen mainly by children, we admit, but also by sober, sane, and sensible citizens. "It" drifted north and then turned west rising as it went, until it appeared no larger than a shining golden sovereign far up in a cloudless blue sky.

We contacted Mr. Mason, of the Weather Bureau. Would he say we had spots before our eyes? Would he deny that it was there?

Mr. Mason was disappointing. He was coldly scientific. He did not even mention a flying saucer.

Mr. Mason said:—

1. "It" was a Radio Sonde balloon released from West Beach aerodrome.

2. The balloon is about 10 ft. in diameter when blown up with hydrogen. By the time it reaches 20,000 ft. it is about 20 ft. in diameter.

3. It rises at the rate of about 1,000 ft. per minute.

4. Attached to the balloon is a

4. Attached to the balloon is a small radio transmitter, which sends back signals of pressure, temperature, and humidity.

5. They usually reach between 60,000 and 70,000 ft. before they burst.

6. On bursting a small parachute opens to carry the radio back to

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earth again. We get back about one in every five or six released.

7. The longest known flight in Australia was a balloon released in Melbourne and picked up near Christchurch in New Zealand.

8. The longest flight from Adelaide was a balloon which was picked up at Wagga in New South Wales after release at Parafield.

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**"Experience is a good school . . .  
but the fees are high."**

**—Heine.**