



## To-day's Topics



**A** report from Belmont that some sort of aircraft or flying saucer was hovering fairly low over the ocean in the south-east was discounted by Nobbys Signal Station last night. Told that the Belmont observer, after watching the object for half an hour, had decided that it was moving slightly and was flickering from orange to red, yellow and green the signalman on duty replied: "All the stars are flickering to-night if you look long enough at them."

**A** Newcastle resident came back yesterday from a visit to Sydney astonished by the low prices for mushrooms there. The heavy rain had brought on the biggest glut of mushrooms that city has known for many years. The Newcastle man said it was the first time since before the war that he had seen them at such reasonable prices. "From King's Cross across the city, to Pyrmont, they were on barrows and in shops for 3/, 2/9 or 2/6 a ½lb."

**The** English "dirt-can" of a decade ago has evolved into the present day "dustbin," a Newcastle woman reader said yesterday after reading in yesterday morning's "Topics" references to "dustmen" and "garbage bins." She says the English receptacles are three times bigger than their Australian counterparts, and that the English dustman collects them from the backdoor of each home, carries them to his cart and returns them to the back door.

**While** listening to evidence concerning guards on a machine in a damages case at Newcastle Court yesterday, Mr. Justice Clancy told Mr. J. R. Kerr, Q.C.: "I understand your case to be one of 'up with the guard'." Mr. Kerr: "And at 'em."

**The** Director of Physical Education (Mr. Gordon Young) said at the official opening of Health Week yesterday that an amusing incident occurred when he was attending the Empire Games at Vancouver. Contestants for the marathon came to the finishing line with long periods in between so other events were staged in the arena to keep things moving. The 440 relay was run and was won by Canada. The bands struck up "Old Canada" and everyone stood to attention. Just then a Canadian runner in the marathon, who was the fifth to finish the race, and who was an hour and a quarter behind the winner, came into the arena. He immediately jumped to the wrong conclusion and threw his hat into the grandstand. Then he squeezed the juice from two orange halves he had been carrying over his head, and began throwing kisses to the people he thought were standing to do him honour.

**Despite** an unusually long run of sevens and eights on bus tickets, when a New Lambton man bought a lottery ticket and called it "Sevens and Eights" he was disappointed in its number—1904. But his luck held good despite this and ves-

held good despite this and yesterday he won a minor prize.

**D**ebs and their partners at last night's St. John Ambulance Cadet Corps Ball at Newcastle City Hall were well trained. Mr. A. Bradley, who was in charge of the presentation of the 30 debs., gave all his commands by whistle.