

# **CAPT. JOHNS LOOKS INTO SPACE**

**Space travel by flying saucer, adventure on other planets.**

One of the globes is so watery that the inhabitants are webfooted and webfingered; another has no living creatures because violent electrical storms accompanied by the fall of great masses of jagged ice kill all animal life; the only creatures on another globe are hordes of savage ants 3ft. high (a survival of the fittest perhaps); and a planet more highly evolved than most, where the inhabitants have perfected the broadcasting of death-rays so that passing travellers (by space machine) are paralysed and killed; and the invention by the dwellers on another globe of a means of creating a magnetic curtain around the offending planet which threw the deathray back upon them. (They mended their ways).

This and much more in a book by Captain Johns: **One**

**Book by Captain Johns: One!**

of a series of such outstripping the hitherto dominant "Western" in novelty and excitement.

And yet, strangely enough, the effect upon the reader is not merely one of thrills and suspense, but rather a dawning idea that perhaps there are other worlds, each possibly with inhabitants and its own problems. As the author pictures them, some would be ahead of us and some behind us, and others almost complete failures.

Certainly the Captain succeeds in impressing upon us that we are not the only pebbles on the cosmic beach, and that the starry skies consist of suns with their groups of planets, each with evolving creatures of some kind.

**"The Death Rays of Ardilla," by Capt. W. E. Johns. Hodder and Stoughton, London. 10/9.**