

before they were taken over by the French Army. In the hands of Verrept they easily complied with the stipulated conditions, mounting 300 metres in 3 mins. 35 secs., and carrying a useful load of 180 kilograms.

Doings at Sommer School.

TESTING a Sommer military monoplane, on the 27th ult., at Mourmelon, Bathiat rose 300 metres in 2 mins. 35 secs., and Lieut. Bosquet, on the following day, after flying a similar machine for an hour, spent some time testing a new small biplane. On Sunday, at the request of some officers, Bathiat glided, with the motor stopped, from a height of 50 metres, and landed in a circle of 8 metres radius.

Long Flight by Train.

BEFORE a military commission on the 28th ult., at Villacoublay, Train was flying for a couple of hours on a military monoplane, the seventh he had delivered during the month to the French Army. At Mourmelon on Sunday, Cure and Percival on a two-seated Train monoplane made a 45-minute flight.

Marcel Hanriot after Superior Certificate.

ON the 28th ult. Marcel Hanriot made his first qualifying flight for a French superior certificate, and using a 50-h.p. Hanriot monoplane, completed the course from Rheims to Vitry and back in 1 hr. 23 mins., his speed being 110 kiloms. an hour, while his altitude averaged 1,200 metres. A similar flight was made on the 1st inst.

Good Tests by Gordon Bell.

AT the R.E.P. school, on Sunday, Gordon Bell was flying for half an hour on one of the European circuit-type monoplanes, and afterwards was up, accompanied by two passengers, for 45 mins. on a machine fitted with one of the new 7-cylinder 90-h.p. motors, the altitude being well over 1,000 metres.

Ch. Nieuport Up for 1 hour 45 minutes.

AMONG several good flights made by Charles Nieuport at Pau lately may be noted one on Sunday last of an hour and three-quarters' duration. He was using a Nieuport monoplane fitted with a Nieuport motor.

2½-Hour Trip by Lieut. Gaubert.

MANY lengthy cross-country trips have been made from the Betheny grounds recently by Lieuts. Magnin and Gaubert on their Borel monoplanes, but one of the best so far was that of the latter on Sunday evening, when he was flying for two hours and a-half without landing.

Lengthy Practice at Deperdussin School.

UNDER the guidance of Bielovucie, the pupils at the Deperdussin school at Betheny have been putting in some long practice flights recently. On Sunday Lieuts. Dietrich and de Chabot each flew for an hour, and Lieut. Schlumberger flew over to Mourmelon and back at a height of 1,500 metres.

Honour for a Farman Pilot.

FOURNY, who is *chef pilote* at the Farman School at Buc, and is a corporal in the Reserve, was decorated with the Cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour during the afternoon of the 28th ult., before the assembled troops at Versailles, the *accolade* being given by Col. Cauboin.

Records Officially Recognised.

THE Commission Sportive Aeronautique have just accorded official recognition to the following records:—

Height.—Pilot and two passengers, Verrept, January 20th, La Vidamée, 1,000 metres. Prevost, January 28th, Betheny, 2,000 metres.

Speed.—Closed circuit, Tabuteau, January 24th, Pau, 200 kiloms. in 1 h. 54 m. 17 s.; 250 kiloms. in 2 h. 22 m. 57½ s.; 300 kiloms. in 2 h. 51 m. 43½ s.

Time.—Tabuteau, January 24th, at Pau, 2 hrs., 205·287 kiloms.; 3 hrs., 310·281 kiloms.

Duration.—Closed circuit, pilot and five passengers, Molla, January 16th, Douzy, 1 h. 6 m. 48½ s.

The National Movement in France.

SEVERAL more substantial donations have been received towards the National Fund for providing the French Army with aeroplanes, and on the 2nd inst. the total stood at over 700,000 francs.

Five Farmans Flying in Company.

DURING a visit to Buc on the 2nd inst., Col. Hirschauer saw Fourny, Lieuts. Battini, Varcin, and Noe and Capt. Bares, each on

Maurice Farman machines, leave for Maily Camp where they are to carry out experiments demonstrating the use of aeroplanes from an artillery point of view. On the way the aviators stopped at Nangis in order to deposit wreaths on the tomb of Captain Camine.

A Stormy Trip.

IN the face of very adverse conditions, Lieut. Sylvestre, on a Blériot monoplane, on Monday flew from Etampes to Chalons, covering the 175 kiloms. in 1 hour 25 mins., the wind being behind. On the return journey he had to fight his way against the wind, and was much troubled in the neighbourhood of Montereau and Provins by the wind. He, however, got back safely to Etampes, and was warmly congratulated by Capt. Felix.

From Rheims to St. Cyr on a Farman.

HAVING completed the tests for his superior military certificate Lieut. Pierra left Rheims on his Henry Farman biplane on Monday and flew over to St. Cyr. He made a stop on the way at Ferteisous-Jourarre where he picked up seven carrier pigeons which were released at the end of the journey.

A Military Aerodrome at Poitiers.

ON Saturday last Lieuts. Le Bleu, Sylvestre, Bellemois, and Boucher arrived at Poitiers, and at once proceeded to get ready for inaugurating a military aviation centre there. It is hoped flying will commence next Saturday.

A Triple Certificated Pilot.

IT is very rarely that one man secures all three pilot certificates, aeroplane, dirigible, and balloon, issued under the F.A.I. regulations, and in fact until the other day, France only boasted two, M. Santos Dumont and Capt. Eteve. They have now been joined by a third, Maurice Herbster, who obtained a dirigible pilot's certificate on Monday.

A Two Hours' Flight at Amberieu.

DURING a flight which lasted a couple of hours on Monday, Vidart on his Deperdussin monoplane, was flying over Amberieu, Jujurieux, Pont d'Ain, Neuville-sur-Ain, the Ain Valley, the Bramafan Hills (which he crossed at a height of 2,000 metres), Lagnieu, Ambutrix and Vaux.

Ninety-Nine Entries for the Peugeot Prize.

A FURTHER eight entries received during the week for the Peugeot prize for a ten-metre human flight brings the total up to ninety-nine. Among the latest entries may be noted the name of Ladougue, well known as a Goupy pilot, while another is a lady, Mdlle. Juliette Cure.

Switzerland Taking Up Military Aviation.

THE Swiss Military authorities have decided to start an aviation centre at Fraenfeld, and have also asked the Swiss Aero Club to report as to the best means of encouraging aviation, as Swiss pilots all seem to seek their fortunes outside their own country. Durafour, Wyss and Audemars, all have gone to America, leaving Maurice Blanc and Rene Grandjean to represent aviation in Switzerland.

A Nieuport in Greece.

HAVING returned to his native country, Argyropoulos gave the citizens of Athens an exhibition of flying on the 2nd inst. He made a fine cross-country flight on his 60-h.p. Nieuport monoplane, and at its conclusion was congratulated by the King and other members of the Royal Family, who had followed the aeroplane in a motor car.

An American Pianist Learning to Fly.

MISS ELEANOR SPENCER, a young, well-known American pianist, has a great ambition to become an aviatrix, and with that end in view, in company with a friend, Princess Schakowski, is now taking lessons at Johannisthal.

New Aerodrome in Westphalia.

A COMPANY with a capital of 1,100,000 marks has just been formed with the object of taking over a flying ground at Neuenbausen, close by Gelsenkirchen. A large dirigible garage is also to be erected, under the promise from the Minister of War of an annual subvention of 15,000 marks.

The Gordon-Bennett Balloon Race.

FROM Berlin it is announced that Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Switzerland and the United States have each entered three balloons and Russia one balloon for the Gordon-Bennett balloon race, which will start this year in Germany.