

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Wrights at Pau and an "Incident" *en route*.

WILBUR WRIGHT arrived at Pau on Thursday of last week, January 14th, and his brother, Orville, with his sister, Miss Katherine, travelled down from Paris on the following day, as also did Wright's two mechanics, Lovelace and Lachapelle. The train in which Orville Wright and his sister were travelling came into collision with another train, and was very badly wrecked, but once again Orville Wright escaped with his life, and this time happily without injury; in fact, he and his sister were only delayed for a matter of five hours in reaching their destination. Installed in his new quarters, which are a lot more comfortable than those at Le Mans, Wilbur Wright is now busy assembling his aeroplane. It is not expected that any flights will be undertaken much before February 1st.

Wilbur Wright lives in his aeroplane shed, as he has done ever since he came to France, and is thereby enabled to keep zealous guard over his treasures. In the meantime, the A.C. de Bearn is making arrangements for the convenience of visitors and is seeing what can be done in the way of organising a suitable service of vehicles to and from the *Landes*, a distance of about 7 miles out from Pau. It is probable that a reserved enclosure will be marked off, for which an entrance fee will be charged. Orville Wright and Miss Katherine are staying at the Gassion Hotel.

The Wright Interests in America.

MR. HART O. BERG has sailed for New York, in order to consult with one of his *confrères*, Mr. Flint, on

the subject of the exploitation of the Wright patents in America. He is expected to remain in the States about a week.

Wright's Royal Pupil.

ACCORDING to rumour, it appears likely that Wilbur Wright may have the honour of numbering royalty among his pupils, the King of Spain being, it is said, most desirous of learning to fly, and is, in fact, already in possession of two aeroplanes which he is, however, unable to use. It is even said that King Alfonso will go to Pau for his tuition.

The Division of the Spoils.

AN amusing and very characteristic little incident took place at a luncheon which M. Michelin gave to the Brothers Wright, Mr. Hart O. Berg, and M. Clauss at the French Automobile Club last week. The occasion was made an opportunity for handing over the Michelin Prize of 20,000 francs, the auspicious moment being reserved for the arrival of dessert. M. Michelin rose, and in a suitable speech made the presentation, which came as an agreeable surprise to those present; Wilbur Wright having expressed his thanks, calmly divided the notes into two packets, and without a word handed over one of them to his brother, while he put the others in his own pocket. The little act, done without ostentation and in the most natural manner possible, served to emphasise beyond anything that has yet taken place, the real partnership which exists between these two Americans as a result of their long years of pioneer labour.

New Wright Patents.

IT is reported from New York that the American Patent Office has granted a patent to the Brothers Wright on the subject of a new rudder for airships. There is also a rumour to the effect that an interesting development is likely to take place in the method of starting adopted in connection with the Wright machine, and that a patent has been taken out to cover a system which will do away with the pilone and the rail.

Jorch Aeroplane.

IT is reported from Berlin that the Jorch aeroplane has made a successful trial "flight" of 19 metres.

Delagrange to use a Wright Aeroplane.

IN order to extend his knowledge of flying machines, M. Delagrange has ordered one of the Wright type, with which he intends to experiment at Pau; meantime he is continuing his trials at Juvisy.

Bleriot goes to Pau.

PAU is the aviation centre of attraction just now, as is only natural, for apart from its natural advantages in the way of open moors, and the fact of Wilbur Wright having made it his chosen ground, there is its fine climate, which materially affects flight experimental work. Among others, M. Bleriot recently paid a visit there, and, as a result, now also contemplates installing a shed on the moors. At Issy, M. Bleriot tried to effect some flights on Monday of this week, but the ground was in a most unsatisfactory condition for starting, and the wheels of his machine were damaged.

Vendome Trials.

A CERTAIN amount of success attended the efforts of M. Raoul Vendome and his monoplane in trials



Wilbur Wright (on the right), Orville Wright, and their sister Katherine in Paris immediately after the arrival of the two latter from America.