

FOREIGN AVIATION NEWS.

The Pilot-Aviators' Banquet.

ALTOGETHER some 92 duly certificated pilot aviators sat down at the Hotel Continental, Paris, on the eve of the New Year at the banquet arranged by our French contemporary, *L'Auto*. M. Clement Ader presided, and in a speech welcoming those present he paid a touching tribute to those who have laid down their lives for the advancement of the science. He also gave a brief review of the development of aviation, dwelling especially upon the part played in the early days by the Wright Bros., Santos Dumont, Henry Farman, Louis Blériot, and Robert Esnault-Pelterie. The other speakers were M. R. Esnault-Pelterie and M. Henri Desgrange. As a souvenir of the occasion each one of the diners was presented with a beautiful little model of a Bosch magneto.

A New International Prize.

It will be remembered that some two years ago the well-known champagne house of Pommery offered to provide a big prize for the encouragement of flight. Owing to unavoidable delays the regulations have only just been drawn up and issued. The prize will take the form of a cup of 50,000 francs (£2,000), and the competition will be an international one, the prize being awarded to the pilot who, starting from France, flies the longest distance in a straight line and at a speed exceeding 50 kiloms. an hour. The competition will be spread over a period of three years ending October 31st, 1913, but at the end of each six months ending with April 30th and October 31st in each year, the flyer who holds the first position in the competition, provided he has beaten the previous record, will have the trophy provisionally awarded to him and be given a prize of 7,500 francs as well as a small replica of the cup. Entries must be made to the Ligue Nationale Aerienne, 27, Rue de Rome, Paris.

Activity at Juvisy.

AVIATOR Weiss has now turned his attention to the Sloan aeroplane, with which he has been making some successful flights at the Juvisy aerodrome. On the 31st ult. he was in the air for an hour and a half, and on the previous day for half an hour. Some very fine flying has also been done by Bobba on his Goupy biplane.

On the 31st ult. he made two flights, each lasting for over an hour, while Ladougue, on a similar machine, accompanied by G. Amelineau, was also flying for an hour, and on the previous day Bobba was up for a couple of hours at a stretch. A fourth flight of over an hour's duration was also made at Juvisy on the last day of the old year, this being by Godard, using his monoplane. In addition to these flyers there are a considerable number of others who are experimenting and learning at Juvisy.

A Good Trip by Bathiat.

TEMPORARILY abandoning his trials on the Sommer monoplane, Bathiat carried out a good flight on a Sommer biplane on the 30th ult. Rising from the flying ground at Mouzon he was in the air for 1 hr. 20 mins., during which he passed over Remilly Brezilly, Mouzon, and Beaumont, afterwards returning to his starting point.

Two Farmans for the Spanish Army.

ON the 30th ult. Louis Dufour was busy testing at Bouy two Henry Farman machines of the military type which have been built for the Spanish Army. The officers who are to pilot them are being trained at Mourmelon by Osmond.

Trials with the Morane Monoplane.

AT the flying ground of the Wright School at Pau, on the 28th and 29th ult., Aubrun was busy testing the new Morane monoplane with a view to competing for the Michelin Cup. On the first day his best trip was one of 45 minutes, while on the following day he flew across to the Blériot School and then over the surrounding country. In a second trial, which lasted for about half an hour, he attained a speed over a distance of 8 kiloms. of 103 kiloms. an hour.

French Military Flyer Killed.

By the sad fatality to Lieut. Caumont the French Army has lost one of the most promising of its band of aviators. For some time he has successfully piloted Farman and Sommer biplanes, and also a Blériot monoplane; but a week or two ago, in view of his decision to try for the Coupe Deperdussin, he went to the Buc



A PILOT-AVIATORS' DINNER.—A group of the aviators who dined together in Paris on the evening of December 31st under the auspices of our contemporary, *L'Auto*. Seated in the centre is M. Ader, who presided at the banquet, and amongst more prominent flyers present may be easily distinguished MM. Leblanc, Esnault-Pelterie, Paulhan, Rougier, Tabuteau, Busson, de Pischof, Rigal, Wagner, de Baeder, Parisot, Georges Blanchet, Labouchere, Eug. Renaux, &c..