

FLIGHT

The
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ENGINEER**
&
AIRSHIPS

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EDITORIAL COMMENT



NE of [the most [amazing attacks which has ever been made on the organisation of the Royal Air Force was launched in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on January 5, when that journal announced in glaring head lines and "shouted" from its placards that there is "Chaos in the Air Force,"

that the "Present state of the Force is a National Peril," and that "The aerial Defence of the Country is a Plaything of the 'Military Dictatorship.'" Those who, prompted by curiosity, waded through the mass of allegations most of which were alleged to be made by "one of the highest authorities" or "a distinguished officer," found Captain Guest swept aside as little more than a political chief, Sir Hugh Trenchard described as the "Dictator of the Air Force," the internal organisation of the R.A.F. referred to as thoroughly unsatisfactory, and the whole atmosphere as bad. The last epithet appears peculiarly apt in relation to the article itself, the atmosphere of which is so bad that one fails to grasp the sequence of the whole thing.

Most of the statements made are gross exaggerations, others are pure mis-statements of fact, while others again are merely ludicrous. The general impression left after reading the effusion is that it is partly due to some disgruntled R.A.F. or ex-R.A.F. officer (and not such a very "distinguished" one either, we imagine), and partly to some string (or leg?) pulling by someone at the Admiralty.

It has long been known that forces are incessantly at work at the Admiralty with the object of overthrowing the single Air Force, and re-instating a separate Naval Air Service. We have repeated so insistently for years the fallacy of that policy that there is no need to enter into the pros and cons again now. These efforts are merely the manifestations of the nervousness of an obsolescent Service which sees its existence threatened.

To deal but briefly with some of the statements made: With regard to the personal criticisms of Sir Hugh Trenchard, little need be said. The loyalty of the Royal Air Force is not likely to be shaken by such attacks. Sir Hugh is too well known and (but for those inefficients who have found him a strict chief) well liked to be affected by remarks

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Club Secretaries and others desirous of announcing the dates of important fixtures are invited to send particulars for inclusion in the following list:

1922.

- Jan. 19 Lecture, "Aeroplane Installation," by Brig.-Gen. R. K. Bagnall-Wild, before R.Ae.S.
- Feb. 2 Lecture, "Radiological Research," by Dr. V. E. Pullin, before R.Ae.S.
- Feb. 7 & 8 Second Air Conference at Guildhall
- Feb. 16 Lecture, "Methods of Instruction in Aeroplane Flying," by Sq.-Leader Portal, before R.Ae.S.
- Mar. 2. Lecture, "Testing Aircraft to Destruction," by W. D. Douglas, before R.Ae.S.
- Mar. 26-
- April 2 Nice Meeting
- Mar. 30 Lecture, "The Design of a Commercial Aeroplane," by Capt. de Havilland, before R.Ae.S.
- July 6-20 French Gliding Competition
- Aug. 6 Gordon-Bennett Balloon Race, Geneva
- Sept. Tyrrhenian Cup, Italy
- Sept. Italian Grand Prix