



THE PARIS AERO SHOW 1922

By THE TECHNICAL EDITOR

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HYDRAVIONS F.B.A., ARGENTEUIL (S. AND O.)

FORMED originally by Lieut. Conneau, who under the name of M. Beaumont won the first circuit of Britain, after a hard fight against Jules Vedrines, the Franco-British Aviation Co., whose managing director now is M. Louis Schreck, has been engaged upon the construction of flying boats for a greater number of years than probably any other French firm. During the War, this country had in service a considerable number of F.B.As., which will still be remembered by all who served in the old R.N.A.S.

The machine shown this year bears a strong family resemblance to earlier types, but the boat hull does not show that "scorpion tail" cocked-up appearance which was so characteristic of the older F.B.A. machines. As a dual control school machine, the F.B.A. "16 H.E.-2" is not remarkable for any original features, having been designed to be easy to fly and to "put down."

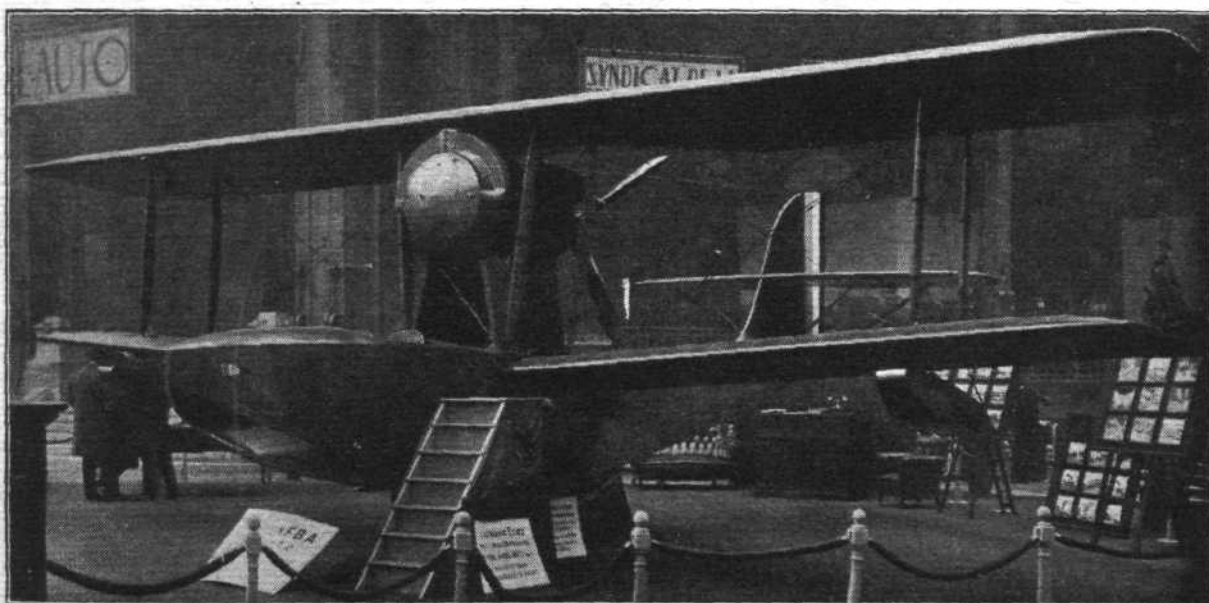
The boat hull shows the usual F.B.A. flat sides, ply-wood-covered, and has a single step well aft of the centre of gravity. In the nose the hull has a slight V-bottom, but this gradually disappears until, at the step, it is actually slightly concave, after the fashion popular in Italy. Aft of the step, the bottom is again of V-shape, flattening out towards the stern.

The seats for pupil and instructor are placed side by side, some distance ahead of the lower plane. The controls, seats, etc., are mounted on a framework, forming a unit separate from the main boat hull.

The wings are of usual biplane type, but are of considerably greater thickness than were those of the old F.B.As., in which there was none too much room for spars. The top plane is in one piece, while the two halves of the lower wing are attached to the sides of the boat, and are set at a pronounced dihedral angle. Centre-section struts springing up from the deck of the boat, and sloping outward slightly



The engine mounting on the F.B.A.



The F.B.A. Flying Boat: Three-quarter front view.