

FLIGHT

The
**AIRCRAFT
ENGINEER
&
AIRSHIPS**

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Founder and Editor : **STANLEY SPOONER**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.



ON the whole, a very satisfactory year. This, we think, must be the verdict on the year which has just come to a close. If there was much in 1926 that might have been better, there was certainly a great deal that might very easily have been a lot worse. For aviation in general the year has been a good one, with considerable activity in most countries manufacturing aircraft, and after all the number of new and improved types of machines produced forms some index to the progress made, although the use that has been made of such aircraft as has been produced is, perhaps, a no less important factor.

As far as Great Britain is concerned, the year did not promise well when the 1926-27 Air Estimates were published, since the expansion that had been contemplated was seriously curtailed. In spite of this, however, it seems fairly clear that, at any rate, the majority of our aircraft firms have been able to carry on at least, even if some have undoubtedly had a somewhat lean time. In this connection we cannot refrain from putting in a strong plea for greater consideration for the aircraft industry: It is an incontrovertible fact that in an industry initially existing almost exclusively for the supply of material for a fighting service the continuity of orders is of relatively greater importance than the actual magnitude of the orders. In the past the British aircraft industry has suffered severely—and we think unnecessarily—from the spasmodic manner in which orders have been issued. Firms would be feverishly busy for a few months, and would then be almost at a standstill for a long period while awaiting the next order. We cannot believe that this is unavoidable. It appears likely that when the Air Estimates come to be issued it will be found that a considerable increase all around is contemplated so as to make up the leeway which last year's curtailed Estimates brought with them. Would it not, at the same time, be possible to revise the present system of placing orders, so that firms might be told early what amount

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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:—

1927

- Jan. 13 .. Professor F. C. Lea, D.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E. "Some Experiments on the Effects of Repeated Stresses on Materials," before Inst.Ae.E.
- Jan. 25 .. Mr. F. S. Barnwell, B.Sc., O.B.E., A.F.C., F.R.Ae.S. (Honours Member). "Some Notes on the Design of Airscrews," before Inst.Ae.E.
- Feb. 1 .. Mr. A. H. R. Fedden, F.R.Ae.S. "Supercharging for Aero Engines," before R.Ae.S.