



A tripe-engine bomber which has proven itself in actual warfare is the Italian Savoia Marchetti SM79. The version illustrated has Alfa Romeo engines built under Bristol licence.



A new French prototype (middle) is this Marcel Bloch bomber with four small-diameter Gnôme Rhône M14s.

Holland has adopted the Fokker T5 bomber (below) with Bristol Pegasus XX engines. The conical gun position in the tail is a daring feature.

of this type is now being executed, though no contract has been placed for the larger XB-15, which, although fitted with four Pratt and Whitney Twin Wasps of 1,100 h.p. each, was originally planned for more powerful engines.

Armament of the Boeing takes the form of machine guns in streamlined "blisters" on the fuselage and in a spherical housing in the nose. There has been some talk of fitting one or more shell-guns, but no information on this subject has yet been released.

As already intimated, certain of the new Continental bombers are having shell-guns, and it is to be assumed that, now that similar weapons are in production in this country, future types of bombers for the R.A.F. will have shell-firing weapons supplementing, or displacing multiple machine guns. In view of our unique experience with power-driven turrets we should have little difficulty in installing small batteries of shell-guns.

The great majority of modern bombers carry their projectile load internally, though in some cases the bombs are stowed vertically and in others horizontally. Bomb-



sighting facilities have been vastly improved during the past three or four years, and the variety of bombs available has been extended.

Liquid and air-cooled power plants are still fighting a ding-dong battle, though liquid cooling may shortly triumph when "buried" installations are adopted.

Structures are commonly of the normal stressed-skin type, though geodetics, "improved wood" and plastics are all likely to figure to an increasing extent.



An impressive close-up of one of the U.S. Army Corps Boeing B-17 bombers (two-speed supercharged Wright Cyclones) about to touch down. This machine is considerably smaller than the XB-15 illustrated on a previous page.