

The example of recent skill in balloon manipulation is given in another column of the Journal, where M. Jacques Faure's successful balloon voyage across the Channel in September last is chronicled. This latter journey is especially worthy of note, as it was a pleasant instance of International work and co-operation in the carrying out of aerial experiments. During this year in this country, the Rev. J. M. Bacon has greatly extended his past experiences as a scientific balloonist. One of his ascents took place in a thunderstorm, and this fact has been the cause of much interesting correspondence in scientific and other journals, as to the possibilities of balloons being struck by lightning. Besides the experiments in the open, with flying machines and balloons, the less sensational experiments having a bearing on important aeronautical matters, and which have been carried on in the laboratory, demand the earnest attention of students. In another part of the journal will be found an account of the experiments of Messrs. W. G. Walker and P. T. Alexander, on "The Lifting Power of Air Propellers," a perusal of which will render evident the fact that in 1900 the science of aeronautics is not the pursuit of the fanciful or of the dreamer, but of the stern and matter-of-fact experimentalist.

M. Jacques Faure's Balloon Voyage across the Channel.

On September 1st, M. Jacques Faure, the treasurer of the Paris Aero Club, accompanied by Count Kargarion, ascended from the grounds of the Crystal Palace in his balloon "L'Orient," for the purpose of crossing the Channel. The local arrangements for the ascent were made by the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain at the request of "La Societe Francaise de Navigation Aerienne," Mr. Henry Gillman, the present excellent and most energetic manager of the Crystal Palace having generously placed the historic balloon ground of that establishment at the disposal of the French aeronauts. There is no place in the United Kingdom where a balloon can be so promptly inflated as at the Crystal Palace, and the operations of its highly-trained staff received the highest commendation from M. Faure. M. Mallet, the Parisian aeronaut, who had journeyed from Paris in charge of the balloon, superintended all the arrangements preparatory to the ascent. On the morning of September 3rd, a telegram was received by Mr. Eric Stuart Bruce, the Honorary Secre-

tary of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain, from M. Faure to the effect that the aeronauts had safely crossed the Channel and descended at Alettes, near Boulogne. A telegram from the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was immediately despatched to M. Faure, congratulating him on his successful voyage.

Mr. Eric Stuart Bruce since received the following kind letter from M. Faure, descriptive of his voyage, and showing his appreciation of the aid he received from the British Aeronautical Society. This is translated from the French by Helen Auxilium Bruce.

10, Rue La Fayette, Paris,

Sept. 3rd.

Dear Sir,—I confirm in this my telegram of yesterday in which I informed you that I had fortunately landed at Alettes, a little village in the department of Pas de Calais between Etaples and Montreuil-sur-Mer. I must first thank you for all your kind help in facilitating my departure from London, and I feel that it is to you that I owe much of the success of my enterprise.

Leaving the Crystal Palace at 7.30, I easily found my level at about 100 metres up, so that I was able to communicate with the earth several times, and so ascertained my whereabouts. Thus, I found I passed exactly over the tower of St. Mary Croy, and travelled right down the county of Kent, recognising on my left the Thames lighthouses, so that I think I struck the sea between Deal and Sandwich at about 11 p.m. The wind was favourable, so I did not hesitate to attempt the crossing of the straits and taking the precaution of mounting to about 700 metres, and maintaining that altitude so that I might be able to note my direction by the stars, it appeared to me that I went continuously south-east. At 2.30 I saw, on the left, a lighthouse that I knew later on to be that of Boulogne. I followed the French coast from Boulogne to the mouth of the Canche, hearing on my left the sounds of earth, the railway trains, and the barking of dogs, etc., and on my right the rise and fall of the sea.

I effected a landing under good conditions at 3.20 in the morning near the little village of Alettes. As you see, my journey was accomplished under the best conditions and with no incidental accident. I hope, Monsieur, to have the pleasure of seeing you when you come to Paris for the Aeronautical Congress, so that I may thank you personally for all you did for me.

Yours, &c.,

JACQUES FAURE.