

mile and landed in an open meadow, where it was recovered. The machine is said to have sustained no injury owing to its journey in the air and subsequent descent to earth.

**The 50,000 francs Aëronautical Prize.**—Mr. Henry Deutsch and Ernest Archdeacon have offered a prize of 50,000 francs (£2,000) to the owner of the first aërial appliance, without balloon, that accomplishes the distance of a kilometre, without touching earth, in presence of the committee appointed by the Aëro Club of France.

**The First Balloon Ascents in England.**—The *Queen* in a recent issue gave an interesting account of the first balloon ascent in England. As that periodical points out, the honour of the first ascent has often been ascribed to Lunardi, but James Tytler, one of the editors of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," described as an eccentric genius, no doubt forestalled Lunardi by making a not very successful ascent from Edinburgh in August, 1784. It appears that his failure brought ridicule upon him, and he languished in obscurity, while Lunardi, who made the second ascent in this country, became a hero. Lunardi held a post in the household of the Neapolitan Ambassador, and he set all London on tiptoe with expectation and excitement when he advertised that he had undertaken the construction of a globe, 32 feet in diameter, with which he intended to ascend as soon as completed to make the most interesting experiments, especially that of going several miles before the wind, and keeping the globe constantly not higher than a gunshot. A rival, M. de Moret, elected to make an ascent near the spot which Lunardi had chosen, so the latter was forced to change his plans, but ultimately obtained permission to use the Artillery Ground at Moorfields, and on the day in question an enormous crowd gathered at the advertised spot. Lunardi, who was advised to use gas instead of heated air, as Tytler had done, rose successfully and touched earth first at North Mimms, and finally at Standon, near Ware, where he was received at first in hostile fashion by the astonished rustics. Lunardi became the popular hero of the day. He was entertained by the Mayor and Corporation of the City of London. Articles of attire were named after him, including a popular bow tie.

### Obituary.

#### THE REV. J. M. BACON.

Just when on the point of making an announcement in the current number of this journal that at the next general meeting of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain the Rev. J. M. Bacon would give to his fellow members an account of his

acoustical experiments in balloons, came the sad news of his death on Christmas night. Only a few days before his lamented death Mr. Bacon gave a public lecture in London, and it is supposed that his fatal illness was due to a cold caught on leaving the lecture room. Mr. Bacon was widely known by his many articles on the subject of ballooning which he contributed to the *Times*, *Morning Post*, *Nineteenth Century*, and other newspapers, and periodicals, also by his very popularly written books "By Land and Sky," and "The Dominion of the Air;" but perhaps even more so by his frequent balloon ascents, during which he studied various conditions of the air and displayed an undaunted courage. His skill as a balloon photographer was, perhaps, unsurpassed, and many of his photographs have been exhibited at the meetings of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain; and at the soirée of the Royal Society in 1903, he had the honour of showing an exceptionally choice collection to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. But there was another side to Mr. Bacon's scientific work, one, perhaps, not so widely exposed to public view—his astronomical qualifications. He took part in eclipse expeditions of the British Astronomical Association to Vadso, Lapland, in 1896; to Buxar, India, in 1898, being in charge of the party; and to Wadesboro, North Carolina, in 1900, when he was again in charge.

Mr. Bacon possessed those admirable personal qualities—geniality and kindness—which gained him friends amongst all who knew him.

#### MR. THOMAS MOY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Moy, one of the early adherents of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain, who breathed his last on December 2nd, at the advanced age of 85.

Mr. Thomas Moy was throughout his life a keen student of aëronautics, especially of what related to the attempts to navigate the air by a body heavier than air.

In the early reports of the Society his name appears frequently in the discussions.

Only three years ago he experimented on a wing machine which ran on a wooden railway.

The chief principle of this apparatus was described to the members of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain in March last.

In the appendix of "Progress in Flying Machines," by Mr. Octave Chanute, is published a paper by Mr. Thomas Moy on "The Flight of the Albatross."

### Foreign Aëronautical Publications.

(In this list a selection of some of the more notable articles is only given).

L'AËRONAUTE (Paris).

October, 1904.—"Parti que l'on peut tirer, dans les diverses branches de la Science du cerf volant enlevant les appareils."

November. — "Les Ballons Captifs" (Drudogi).

December.—"Sur les difficultés des ascensions aërostatiques dans les régions montagneuses."

L'AËROPHILE (Paris).

October.—Les Alpes en Ballon (Spelterine). Reprise des Expériences du "Lebaudy" type, 1904. Le Projecteur du Lebaudy.

ILLUSTRIRTE AËRONAUTISCHE MITTHEILUNGEN (Strassburg).

October.—Les Femmes Aëronautes (G. Espitalier). Internationale Kommission für wissenschaftliche Luftschiffahrt. Hervé Schraube am Korbe des Méditerranéen No. 2. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's Tetraedrisches Bauprinzip für Drachen und Flugmaschinen.

November.—Der Ballon Lebaudy; Über die 4 Konferenz der internationalen Kommission für wissenschaftliche Luftschiffahrt in St. Petersburg vom 29 August bis 3 September, 1904.

December.—Die deutschen Frauen und die Luftschiffahrt; Die Geschwindigkeit von vertikalen Luftbewegungen. (H. Elias.)

WIENER LUFTSCHIFFER-ZEITUNG.

October.—Die Ausstellung in St. Louis; Basal und Bixio.

December.—Vom St. Petersburg Congress; Aus St. Louis.

LA CONQUETE DE L'AIR (Brussels).

November 15.—Les Travaux de M. Langley.

December 1.—Le Centenaire du Gaz; Les Aërostats à Air chaud ou Thermostats.

### Applications for Patents.

(Made in October, November, and December, 1904.)

The following list of Applications for Patents connected with Aëronautics has been specially compiled for the AËRONAUTICAL JOURNAL by Messrs. BROMHEAD & Co., Patent Agents, 33, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

20929. September 29th. HENRY SHEPLEY BOOTH. Improvements in Aerial Machines.

21312. October 4th. GEORGE COLEMAN BROWN. Improvements in Air-ships.

21477. October 6th. ATHANASSIOS MARINAKIS. Improved Manner of Steering an Air-ship.

22802. October 22nd. CHARLES ARTHUR BARRETT. Combined Balloon and Parachute for Raising and Dropping Printed Advertising Circulars.

23786. November 2nd. ALAN GEORGE FISHER. Improved Air-ship.

24807. November 15th. GUSTAV KNAPPER. Improvements in the Propulsion of Bodies Floating in the Air.

27043. December 12th. ARTHUR HENRY PHILLIP BLUNT. Improvements in Flying Machines.

27153. December 13th. WILLIAM EDWARD BURTON. Improvements in or Relating to the Driving of Air-ships and the like.

28264. December 23rd. ANTHONY JOSEPH WESTLAKE. New or Improved Aerostatic Apparatus.

29185. December 30th. JAMES RILEY. Improvements in or Connected with Aerial Navigation and Vessels and Apparatus Thereto.

29261. December 31st. WILLIAM MACLEOD. Screw Tractors for Ships' Boats, Aerial Vessels, and the like.