

BULLETIN

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Editorial.

With this Bulletin B.I.S. members will notice a great and we hope significant change. Previous Bulletins have been single sheets containing little more than a synopsis of the last meeting and the date of the next. Even so, their production was a considerable strain on the single officer responsible for them, who had not only to collect the material but also to duplicate the sheets and address the envelopes. Recently, however, three officers moved from outlying districts to more central quarters in London, and now find themselves in a position to produce a considerably larger Bulletin, running, we hope, to 8 or 12 pages eventually. This Bulletin will contain not only full reports of all meetings, but also many other matters of current interest which would not be suitable for the Journal. It is designed particularly to interest the provincial members who it is felt have been somewhat neglected in the past, though not

entirely through our fault and still less through our desire.

The contents of this Bulletin will vary considerably, but it is intended to keep the balance on the non-technical and general side. We hope to include biographical sketches, members' correspondence, library and affiliated society reports and anything else that seems of interest and topicality. Moreover, it is very probable that the Bulletin will contain technical articles which it would be too expensive to print in the Journal, i.e. articles containing a large number of equations and graphs. These, when they appear, may be printed as a separate supplement to the Bulletin so that they can be filed by the technical members and safely lost by the non-technical.

We hope that all B.I.S. members will write to us criticising this Bulletin and making suggestions for future issues. Please remember that this is your Society and it is up to you to see that it is run as you wish.

Monthly Notes.

As many members will still be on their holidays, there will be no general meeting in September. Details of the October meeting will be given in the next Bulletin.

We are pleased to announce that affiliation has been completed between the B.I.S. and the Manchester Astronautical Association.

Copies of the Bulletin and Journal of the M.I.S. are being sent out with this Bulletin.



Report of the July Meeting.

The meeting on Sunday, July 17th. proved unusually interesting and had one of the best attendances yet. Two members of our affiliated Manchester Societies attended in the persons of Messrs. Turner and Burgess and helped to give our visitor an adequate and enthusiastic reception.

Mr Truax commenced his address by a few words of greeting and went on to outline the development of the present position in American rocket research. He then described his own work in an unpretentious but satisfying manner which aroused the keenest enthusiasm in his hearers. Great interest was evinced in the fuel-cooled motor he had brought with him.

After thanking the speaker the meeting was officially closed to give members an opportunity of getting acquainted with Mr Truax and his motor, and the whole affair finally concluded at a late hour in a well-known Oxford Street restaurant.

The speech and the animated discussion which followed centered round two subjects - technicalities and the organisation of the A.R.S. We learned that the change of title of the American society had brought in a number of more influential members in the scientific and university world, but had also raised certain difficulties. It was realised that the problems of terrestrial rocket flight were almost as difficult as those of space travel, so the Society had further retracted its aims to high altitude sounding rockets, but no-one seemed to want the latter even if they were completely successful. Mr Truax emphasised that the title was entirely a matter of policy and did not indicate a greater interest in rockets than in crossing space.

The A.R.S. had found that the cost of experiments could be kept very low, partly owing to the cooperation of interested industrialists. They had worked on the principle of getting an experiment well started and then appealing for funds if necessary. So far they

had been very successful, as the stimulus of partial achievement was very great.

No attempt had been made to make the movement a popular one, attention being given to the recruitment of technical and influential members. For this purpose solidly verified experimental data carried far more weight than any amount of theorising, no matter how brilliant.

On the technical side Mr Truax explained the operation of his water-cooled motor which was capable of running for apparently indefinite periods and whose efficiency of combustion was so high that the exhaust was invisible. He hopes to test his latest fuel-cooled motor on returning to America.

With respect to the wet-dry controversy, he explained that the Americans has abandoned solid fuels owing to their danger and insufficient energy content. Mr Truax stated that an efficiency of 70% had been obtained with solid fuels which makes the change all the more supprising.

Besides experimenting with water cooling, Mr Truax had been successful in making ceramic linings for his firing chambers and hoped to do so for the actual jets. He made the linings by the simple process of firing thermit and pouring off the molten slag into a mould. (A.R.P warders please note.) The resulting alundum lining was extremely strong and had to be cast in the finished shape as no tools would touch it. This information should be of considerable value to the B.S. when we test out our new fuels.

A Reminder.

The progress of this Society, and the publication date of the new Journal, depend upon the promptness with which members pay their subscriptions. If yours has expired, the Treasurer will be very glad to hear from you.
