

HYDROPLANES.

Beinn Bhreagh, Oct. 12, 1908:- We have all been disappointed with the action of Baldwin's hydroplanes and at the difficulty of knowing exactly what they do. At the speed of the Dhennas Beag the hydroplanes have not given us very marked lifting effects. This, perhaps, is hardly to be wondered at when we consider that the load to be lifted is about 400 lbs. including boat and man and engine.

Why might it not be a good plan to tow the arrangement which would allow us to reduce the load to be lifted to a mere float sufficient to prevent the metallic hydroplanes from sinking. They would probably lift a light float without engine or man at a less speed than would be possible with a 400 lbs load; and it might be possible that the Gauldrie, "which goes about six miles an hour now", says Mr. Baldwin, might be able to tow it at a supporting speed. It certainly would be gratifying to see a boat, however light, lifted completely out of water by the hydroplanes. If we could only secure this result to begin with, we would probably be able to get a better idea of what the hydroplanes are doing and by variations in the arrangement grope our way empirically to an arrangement that would support a 400 lb. load.

We have in the Laboratory a number of old floats that would do for the purpose. I measured and weighed one of them the other day. It was 4 meters long and weighed 7 lbs. I also weighed some small floats that would do for outriggers.