

Aircraft in the Great War

and fitted with a motor of 200 h.p.; and the machine proved so efficient that, in spite of the weight of machine-gun, combatant, and pilot, it would attain a speed of more than seventy miles an hour. This type of craft, of which as many as possible were sent on active service, has done admirable work. British gun-carrying craft, also, have been greatly improved, thanks to the experience of the war.

The value of a machine-gun in an aerial combat, with its comparatively long range, and the concentration and rapidity of its fire, was shown by a fight which took place between a French biplane, flown by M. Louis Paulhan, and a Taube monoplane, steered by one of the German pilots. With M. Paulhan was a passenger whose duty it was to handle the machine-gun, the airman contenting himself with the piloting of the machine. They were on a reconnoitring flight, passing high towards the German lines in the direction of Amiens. Below, here and there, floated a film of cloud. Suddenly, beneath them and to the rear, appeared from the clouds the German monoplane. Paulhan, quick to realize the advantage that his height gave him, swung his machine in a half-circle and dived like a hawk above his foe—bringing himself in one rush to within 500 feet of his enemy. But the German pilot, also, was a man of action. To continue on the course he had been holding was, he saw, merely to court destruction, seeing that he was in a position of