

PREFACE

The policy in preparing this book has been simple—to give information likely to be useful and interesting, and to induce experts to write sections upon subjects, regarding which they are the best authorities.

Only one who follows events attentively from day to day, can now realise the extraordinary rapid strides which aviation is making.

This book—and notably such features of it as the list of the world's airmen, and the records of the chief flights made—may, we hope, bear testimony to the astonishing growth of flying, and particularly to the energy and enthusiasm of those engaged in its development.

For placing at our disposal a magnificent set of photographs, we wish to thank most heartily the proprietors of the *Daily Mirror*. Permission to reproduce four of the most remarkable photographs ever obtained, those illustrating the fatal accident to Laffont and Pola : Issy-les-Moulineaux, was very courteously granted us by the Gaumont Co.,