

Institution of Aeronautical Engineers.

JOURNAL

Editorial.

AT a House Dinner of the Royal Aero Club last month a well-known designer voiced the opinion that what is wanted in England is a suitable building which could accommodate under one roof all the Aeronautical Clubs and Societies, both technical, sport and propaganda, and which could also provide a decent size lecture hall, restaurant, etc

As is well known, such buildings exist in New York and Berlin, and it is regrettable that London—which we believe to be the greatest city in the world—lacks so much in this respect

The question of finance at once arises, as unfortunately to-day the majority of organisations in this country concerned in Aviation are handicapped through lack of funds

Now, we have to consider whether this lack of funds is due to the fact that a considerable number of people engaged in the Aviation industry are to-day not in a position to really support the various clubs, societies, etc, or whether it is not a fact that the present organisations do not really provide sufficient inducement or attraction for people to join. It is no doubt due to a certain extent to both these factors

The first can only be overcome by the existence of a flourishing and prosperous Aircraft industry, and as in the past England has been famous the world over for her shipbuilding industry, so in the future she should achieve the same reputation in regard to Aircraft

In regard to the second point, this is a debatable one, and of course, it would be invidious to discuss it in detail, but it does seem that if the sporting and technical sides of Aeronautics possessed the accommodation mentioned above, and they were managed by a really enthusiastic and enterprising personnel, there would then be an immediate inducement for everyone concerned in Aviation to join them, and they would then be self-supporting, and consequently able to consider a scheme such as outlined above, and not be dependent upon receiving support from generous benefactors who are interested in Aviation, and who for all they have done in the early days of Aeronautics deserve the warmest thanks of those who are engaged in that industry to-day, for without their frequent contributions to funds required for propaganda flights and for the organisation of races and competitions, Aviation would not have made the progress it has done