

determined by the smaller instruments, and to some extent by the *astrolabe à prisme*, which has been confided to the care of Mme. Chandon. In the middle of the year 1918 a provisional observatory was installed at Lyons, to which the astrolabe and other instruments for determination of time were transferred. M. Henri Renan has retired from the service of the observatory after forty-four years' service, and M. Puisseux, who entered the observatory in 1879, resigned his office in the year 1917.

THE ATLANTIC FLIGHT.

THE safety of Mr. H. G. Hawker and Comdr. Mackenzie-Grieve, after their daring attempt at a direct flight across the Atlantic, is at present the feature of special interest. The *Times* of May 26, referring to the news, says "it will cause as keen and as widespread a joy as the news of many a victory in the war." Without doubt the safety of the two airmen has lifted a cloud which threatened to overshadow other competitors.

Much fog was encountered immediately after the start from Newfoundland, and, later, cloud and a squally northerly wind. The flight was made chiefly at an elevation of about 10,000 ft. A direct course for the British Isles was being made, and the aircraft had completed one-half of the journey eastward when, according to Mr. Hawker, "the machine stopped owing to the water-filter in the feed-pipe from the radiator to the water-pump being blocked up with refuse." It is said that there was no trouble in landing on the sea, and Mr. Hawker and Comdr. Grieve were picked up by the Danish tramp steamship *Mary* in lat. 50° 20' N. and long. 29° 30' W., after being in the water about one and a half hours, at 8.30 a.m. G.M.T. on May 19.

The *Mary* left New Orleans on April 28, bound for Denmark. Fortunately, this vessel was close at hand when the aircraft was in difficulty. An examination of the wireless weather reports published by the Meteorological Office in the International Section of the Daily Weather Report indicates that Atlantic liners were apparently nowhere near at the time.

From weather maps prepared, it seems that fair north and north-west winds were blowing from Newfoundland to about mid-Atlantic, with cloudy weather, the conditions being chiefly anticyclonic. Further eastward there was a cyclonic disturbance which occasioned gales and heavy weather. This storm system hovered in about the same position to the westward of Ireland for a fortnight, which, meteorologically, is very exceptional, its passage being barred by a region of high barometer which has persistently hung over Scandinavia. Such anomalies offer a decided difficulty to trans-Atlantic flying, although with more perfect engines and further improvement in the flying machines these difficulties will, without doubt, be overcome in time.

We join with the entire British public and others in hearty congratulations on the happy ending of the venturesome and courageous voyage.

The *Daily Mail* has generously decided to give a consolation prize of 500*l.* for division between Mr. Hawker and his navigator.

The United States Navy seaplane N.C.4, which accomplished a flight to the Azores from Newfoundland on May 16-17, left Ponta Delgada on May 27 and arrived at Lisbon on the same evening. This stage of the journey was about eight hundred miles, and the third stage to Plymouth, by which the trans-Atlantic flight is to be concluded as we go to press, is about nine hundred miles.

CARNEGIE LIBRARIES AND EDUCATIONAL WELFARE.

THE fifth annual report (1918) of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust was submitted by the executive committee to the trustees on February 26, and has now been published (Edinburgh: T. and A. Constable). The work of the Trustees suggests that, as it is the fashion now to create new Ministries, there is a splendid opportunity for the Prime Minister to appoint a Minister of Philanthropy. Mr. Carnegie, with the most benevolent intentions, spent about two millions on libraries, and, while undoubtedly many towns owe him gratitude for his gifts of fine buildings, we fear the balance would show that he probably did more harm than good. Many of these libraries have proved to be mere white elephants, their upkeep in many cases practically exhausting the whole of the available income, resulting in miserably paid and ineffective staffs, and nothing left for the purchase of books. In some cases less than 1*l.* has been spent on books during an entire year. Whether or not Mr. Carnegie realised this before the end of his personal benefactions we cannot tell, but he very wisely handed over a large sum to carefully chosen trustees, who from the first have laid themselves out to amend past mistakes and make sure that fresh benefactions should be granted with some surety of lasting good results; they have, therefore, steadily refused to make building grants where the yield of the rate is inadequate for the maintenance of a proper library.

The trustees have taken education and the welfare of the people in the widest sense for their province, and they have made the renewal of their annual grants dependent on results. The report is well worth reading. Taking as their model the excellent Yorkshire Village Library scheme, which for more than fifty years has done so much for the working classes, the trustees have established and maintained rural circulating libraries throughout the country, including both Scotland and Ireland, some under the county education authorities, some in relation with town libraries, and others under the charge of the local clergy or schoolmasters. They have established and supported play centres for "toddlers"—that is, children below five years—and, for older children, cricket, football, and other games, all complete with pavilions and everything necessary. In fact, their motto for all such enterprises appears to be "thoroughness." Baths and wash-houses have not been forgotten, and one of their most recent experiments is the encouragement of music by offering rewards for compositions, which are published when judged worthy by their experts. Recognising that music takes a very high place among the instruments for elevating and refining the mind, they have requested Sir Henry Hadow to "investigate and describe the agencies which exist for promoting the practice and appreciation of the art of music among the people of the United Kingdom, and to report what steps might be taken towards their further encouragement in the future." Under the direction of Dr. Terry, considerable progress has been made with the recovery of the works of the musicians of the Tudor period and the transcription of them into modern notation.

The trustees have made a grant of 4000*l.* to the National Union of Women Workers for travelling welfare exhibitions in England and Scotland, the expenditure to be spread over two years; and a sum of 750*l.* for the same purpose has recently been paid to the Women's National Health Association for Ireland. Taught by their five years' experience, they direct special attention to that blot on our public