

The French Aviator.

During the past three weeks residents of the metropolis have been simply astounded by the feats of M. Guillaux, the intrepid French aviator. Of course, Mr. Hart and Mr. Hawker did good pioneering work in the same field, but without making invidious comparisons, it can safely be asserted that their efforts were simply feeble when M. Guillaux showed Sydney people what he could do. Not only has the Frenchman proved the utility and facility of the art of flying, but he has startled us in another way. He has shown the possibilities of the machines for offence and defence in a way that no reading of what is taking place in other countries could possibly have conveyed, and he has told us by word of mouth that he could drop bombs from his aeroplane so as to interrupt communication between any of the great centres—by destroying a bridge or culvert, and so forth—and thus seriously impede mobilisation. As to our navy, he has not said in so many words what he could do in regard to it, but his flights in Mr. L. Horder's hydroplane have been more eloquent than words, and the thought will thrust itself forward, and that is, that all the money we have spent and are spending in our army and navy will have to be largely supplemented by the expenditure of another large sum in providing fleets of aeroplanes and hydroplanes before we will be at all safe.