

INTERSTATE.

THROUGH THE AIR FROM MEL- BOURNE TO SYDNEY.

M. Guillaux, the French aviator, who on Thursday morning of last week left Melbourne carrying the first Australian aerial mail, arrived in Sydney shortly before 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Despite the fact that torrential rain was falling at the time, the intrepid airman went through some thrilling evolutions over the sports ground, where a large crowd had assembled to witness the first Rugby Union test match between New Zealand and Australia, and

afterwards descended on to the military area opposite. Guillaux left Harden, where he had been held up by rain, at 7.30 on Saturday morning, and reached Goulburn at a quarter past 9. He was obviously very much affected by the cold, and on landing relished a drink of tea from a thermal flask which he was carrying. About an hour and three-quarters later he left for Moss Vale, but, instead of alighting as arranged, he passed over the town. A large crowd had gathered at the golf links, where large fires were burning as a signal, and keen disappointment was expressed when the Frenchman did not land. The trip from Goulburn occupied about forty minutes. Guillaux's first stopping place after leaving Goulburn was Liverpool, where he made a lengthy stay so as not to arrive in Sydney before the appointed time. Guillaux was first sighted by the crowd on the sports ground at about 20 minutes to 3. He was then at a great altitude to the south-west, and now and again was completely lost to view. He was apparently endeavouring to locate the landing place, and, eventually, on espying the smoke arising from a fire which had been lighted on the military area, he made a bee-line for the sports ground, and flew straight over it, to the accompaniment of enthusiastic cheers from the assembled crowd. The ovation was renewed as he circled the ground, and performed a series of evolutions. When he landed on the military area, about ten minutes later, Guillaux, who wore a cheerful look, and appeared to be none the worse for the great ordeal of cold and rain through which he had passed, was besieged by an

which he had passed, was besieged by an excited crowd and frantically cheered. He was afterwards "shouldered" to the sports ground, where he received a further ovation, to the accompaniment of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow," played by the band. He was afterwards presented to the Governor-General, and the State Governor, and handed to the former a letter which was intended for the latter. The missive was from the Governor of Victoria, and Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson did not discover the aviator's mistake until he had torn the envelope open. Later on the health of Guillaux was toasted by the Governor-General, who congratulated the Frenchman upon what he described as "his gallant flight." Guillaux's actual flying time for the 580 odd miles from Melbourne to Sydney was just under six hours. He averaged 97 miles an hour throughout, and at times, with the wind at his back, attained a speed of 120 miles an hour. On leaving the ground Guillaux motored to the Hotel Australia, where Mr. Lebbeus Hordern presented him with a handsome platinum watch and platinum guard suitably inscribed, as a mark of appreciation for instruction given him in the art of aviation by the Frenchman. Mr. Hordern, it might be mentioned, has made several flights on his own during the week, and on one occasion ascended to a height of 800ft.
