

OBSOLETE AEROPLANES.

Defence Department Purchases.

Surprise was expressed by officers of the Australian Flying Corps who returned to Melbourne yesterday on learning that aeroplanes of the Avro and Sopwith "Pup" types had within the last few months been imported by the Defence department for training purposes. Several of those spoken to stated that the Avros had proved useless for practical war work, and had been discarded by the War Office within a few weeks after the outbreak of hostilities. The "Pups" had been superseded in 1916 by the Sopwith "Camels," which in turn had been improved upon by the makers. The "Snipe" was the latest type of scouting machine made at the Sopwith factories, and its superiority over the earlier machines was undoubted.