

OBITUARY OF MEMBERS



THE LATE M. JACQUES FAURE



THE LATE MR. CECIL GRACE

CECIL GRACE

WE have to deplore the loss of another of that gallant little band of gentlemen amateurs, who, in the early days of flying, became pioneers of the new art in this country, and worthily upheld the honour of Great Britain in the air.

Cecil Grace, son of the late J. W. Grace, was born in Valparaiso some twenty-six years ago, and his first interest in flying dated, like that of so many others, from the historic Rheims meeting of 1909. He established himself first at Shellbeach and later at Eastchurch, speedily becoming one of the finest aviators in the world. He flew at the Wolverhampton, Bournemouth, Lanark, and Leopardstown meetings, and was equally at home on a monoplane and on a biplane, though the latter was his favourite; in fact he was the designer of an improved Farman type machine which was nearly completed at the time of his death. On December 22nd last he started from Swingate Downs near Dover, in the competition for the Baron de Forest Prize—£4,000 for the longest flight across the Channel into the Continent. He reached Les Baraques, a little village not far from Calais, and there descended owing to the adverse wind. Shortly after two, he started to fly back to be ready for another attempt, but mist hung over the Channel, and there was a steady cross-wind which carried him out of his course. About three o'clock his biplane was sighted for a moment from Ramsgate heading north, and from that moment no news has come, save the mute testimony of his cap and goggles washed up on the French shore.

In our memories he will live eternally young, he will ride out for ever triumphantly over the Channel. From his brief but splendid career we can draw pride and inspiration. We have given hostages to the air, whose conquest shall redeem them, and we have given of our best.

JACQUES FAURE

On December 2nd died at Quebec, Jacques Faure, founder member of the Aéro-Club de France, Hon. Member of the Aeronautical Society.

Born at Meudon, on the outskirts of Paris, on July 23rd, 1873, Jacques Faure, enabled to follow his inclinations from his youth, became an accomplished sportsman in both the English and French senses of the word; yachting, motoring and aeronautics claimed him in turns. His first balloon ascent was made under the tutelage of Count de La Vaul in 1899; already in 1900 he accomplished, in a solo ascent undertaken during the Exhibition, a distance of 740 miles. During the following year he was elected an honorary member of the Aeronautical Society, as recorded in the following minute of January 31st, 1901: "That M. Jacques Faure, Treasurer of the Paris Aero Club, be elected an honorary member of the Society, on account of his eminent work in practical ballooning, having among other remarkable exploits during the past year been the first member of the Paris Aero Club to cross the Channel from the Crystal Palace in August last." Since then he figured prominently in many of the chief aerostatic competitions throughout the world, worthily upholding his reputation as a skilled, though reckless, pilot.