

The First Use of the Balloon in South Africa.—It is, perhaps, not generally known that the balloon was used in South Africa before the present campaign. This has been lately pointed out by the "Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News." As that journal mentions, with Sir Charles Warren's Bechuanaland Expedition there was a Balloon Corps under the late Major Elsdale, which included three balloons. It was at Mafeking that the first military use of a balloon was made. Major Elsdale and Sir Charles Warren ascended, and the latter kept up communication with those below by flag-signalling. The Native Chief Montsiora was present. When standing apart from the rest, he remarked, "If the first white men who came into the country had brought a thing like that, and having gone up in it before our eyes, had then come down, and demanded that we should worship and serve them, we should have done so. The English have indeed great power."

Obituary.

Though the work of the late Professor Hughes was not directly concerned with aeronautics, there are more reasons than one why a few words in memory of the illustrious electrician should appear in the obituary column of this journal. Though so thoroughly specialistic in his own particular branch of science, it may be truly said that the Professor extended his sympathies to most departments of natural science, and was exceedingly enthusiastic concerning the recent developments in aerial matters, especially concerning the application of electricity to balloons so as to secure a means of visual signalling at great altitudes.

It is not generally known, but none the less true, that Professor Hughes was the first to discover what is now called Hertzian Radiation, upon which the modern development of wireless telegraphy is based. This system will in the future probably call in the use of balloons on a very large scale. Of so humble a mind and of so unselfish a character was Professor Hughes that he made these great discoveries without seeking the slightest public recognition. But all the same, posterity will call him the master electrician of the century.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Colonel Elsdale, R.E., a member of the Aeronautical Society, eminent for the services

he rendered to the cause of military ballooning during the time he was in command of the balloon section at Chatham. Colonel Elsdale's death occurred when he was on his way home from Hong Kong.

Foreign Aeronautical Periodicals.

L'AERONAUTE (Paris). (Not received this quarter.)

LA FRANCE AERIENNE (Paris).

1—15 *January*, 1900.—Les Expériences d'Aviation au Jour le Jour.—A Montmartre au sommet de la Butte Sacrée: Docteur Ox.—Encore à propos des Expositions Colomphiens: E. Caillé.—La France Aérienne à l'Etranger.—Revue de Presse.—Les Pigeons Voyageurs et les Chasseurs. A la Volée. Les Cours d'Aérostation Militaire.—Cinématographie Aéronautique, &c., &c.

15—31 *January*, 1900.—Colombophilie Militaire.—Les Pigeons et les Armes à Feu.—Les Pigeons Voyageurs dans le Sud de l'Afrique. A la Volée.—L'Aéronautique et la Colombophilie à l'Exposition de 1900.—Mort du Capitaine Coxwell, &c., &c.

1—15 *February*, 1900.—L'Aéronautique au Jour le Jour.—"1900": Lieutenant V. Louet.—L'Aéronautique à l'Etranger. Expériences du Comte Carelli en Italie.—Un Nouveau Dispositif Aérien: Appareil de M. Firmin Bausson, &c., &c.

15—28 *February*, 1900.—L'Aurore du XX. Siècle: C. Jobert.—Les Journaux de Sport et le Comité de l'Exposition.—Le Ballon Zeppelin.—Revue de Presse Etrangère.—The Aeronautical Journal, &c., &c.

1—15 *March*, 1900.—La Colombo-biculture parisienne depuis les temps les plus reculés jusqu'à nos jours: Paul Wacquez.—Fédération Colombophilie de Seine-et-Marne, &c., &c.

L'AEROPHILE (Paris).

January, 1900.—Portraits d'Aéronautes Contemporaines: Mme. Dorothee Klumptr (Wilfrid de Fonvielle); Une Station d'Aéro