

the great strides made in jet-age aviation make it hard to realise that, just over fifty years ago, man was making his first belting attempts to fly. In 1903, the Wright Brothers flew forty yards - the first powered flight.

The aerial challenge was accepted and six years later, Louis Bleriot flew the Channel in 37 minutes.

and By the 1930's, flight had become a "service" with the famous Handley-Page cross-channel planes.

With progress, came faster aircraft needing longer runways. The helicopter was an early solution but, of course, they have flight limitations.

Meanwhile, America experiments with the "Pogo-stick" plane; but the tail take-off is a disadvantage in airline travel.

In contrast, British ^{researches} ~~experiments~~ are working along the lines of the "Flying Bedstead" - an experimental contraption which is, ~~in fact~~ at present, little more than an aero-engine with a pilot seated on top. These are the first Newsreel pictures of the aircraft, which has no wings or rotors. But as we watch it take-off vertically from the horizontal position - it fulfils a condition that may well revolutionise serial flight ⁱⁿ of the future.

This impressive research-project is being conducted by the Rolls-Royce Company, at Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, on behalf of the Ministry of Supply.

It is difficult to describe the "Flying Bedstead" - ^{BASICALLY,} ~~for it is actually~~ ^{IS SIMPLY A PAIR} ~~whose down-facing streams provide the~~ ^{WHOSE DOWN-FACING STREAMS PROVIDE THE} only ^{OF} ~~two~~ jet engines set ~~horizontally in opposition, one at each end~~ ^{UPWARD LIFT.}

~~on a framework - with the pilot platform above. It weighs 3 1/2 tons.~~

~~Its upward lift is provided by down-facing jet streams whose direction can be varied to control the angle of climb.~~

~~It has, at present, no forward propulsion, but it can rise and remain in the air in a stabilised condition.~~

The first test was made, voluntarily, by ^{CAPTAIN} ~~Mr~~ R.T. Shepherd, the Company's former Chief Test pilot. ^{CAPT} Mr Shepherd has been flying for 37 years ~~and so~~

~~has helped~~ ^{HELANS} ~~to~~ guide the progress of aviation towards the "Flying ~~Bedstead~~ Bedstead!"

Machine of Tomorrow "

Captain