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RAILWAYS TEST HI-SPEED LOCOS

British railway engines - being produced in ever increasing numbers for home and abroad - undergo new trials that will make them the fastest locos in the world. Already holding the world record of 126 miles-per-hour, the aim is now for greater speeds still.

At the newly completed Rugby testing station, the latest type of roller bench is used as a stationary test bed. Capable of recording speeds of up to 130 miles-per-hour, the plant's main function is to improve existing methods for fuel saving.

In the instrument room, a complicated panel of dials records all speed and lubrication data. With equipment costing more than £200,000 Rugby's loco testing station is one of the scientific marvels of the age.