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CUSHIONCRAFT ON TEST.

Down on the Isle of Wight the Hovercraft has a young rival. A Coventry Climax sports-car engine of no more than 170 brake horse-power is all the Cushioncraft needs to make it ride on air and go up to 50 miles an hour. John Britten and Desmond Norman designed it, and had it finished in eight months; total cost, research included, £10,500. The craft is for carrying bananas from West African plantations, straight out to steamers waiting for them off-shore. Propellers send it along, when it's on the air cushion, which is provided by a compressor, driven by a motorcar wheel at the circumference. It's expected that one cushioncraft will be able to do as much work in an hour-and-a-half as is now done by lorry and river lighter in 2 days. Good luck to the venture.