

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL.

H.M.S. "Ark Royal," c/o G.P.O., London,

February 24th, 1918.

DEAR SIR,—In the October-December, 1917, number of the AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL, in the obituary to the late Mr. Horace Short, on page 457, it is made to appear that a flight from Isle of Grain to Plymouth was made in a Short seaplane. This flight was made in a 70 h.p. Maurice Farman.—Yours faithfully,

J. W. SEDDON.

To the Editor of the AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL.

Chandos House, Cricklewood, N.W.2,

March 12th, 1918.

DEAR SIR,—In various articles on flying I have noticed considerable confusion over the quotation of distances. I should be glad if you would kindly inform me whether there is, so to say, a "standard" mile for the computation of aerial distances.

The geographical mile and the mean nautical mile (or knot as usually adopted for use) approximate at about 6,080 feet. The English land or statute mile is 5,280 feet. In navigation distance is invariably measured in nautical miles. The English statute mile is the mile generally associated in the United Kingdom with the internationally used "natural scale" (e.g., 1:125,000), and is the "mile" as understood by the "man in the street."

As a difference of about fifteen per cent. may be involved the "layman" would naturally like to be enlightened regarding the unit in use.—Yours faithfully,

E. B. BURLEY.

[Aerial distances are usually given in the statute mile.—ED.]

 REVIEWS.

Glossary of Aeronautical Words and Phrases. London: Aircraft, Ltd. 2nd Edition. 48 pp. Diagrams and illustrations. 1918. 1s.

This is a revised version of the Glossary published by the same firm last year. The usual bone of contention appears in this, as in most other aeronautical glossaries, as will be seen from the following definitions:—

Airscrew.—Used as a generic term to include both a propeller and a tractor screw.

Screw.—Airscrew; rotary bladed propeller for aircraft.

Pusher.—Aeroplane with propeller behind.

Propeller.—An airscrew behind the main supporting surfaces.

Tractor.—An airscrew mounted in front of the main supporting surfaces.

Thus a pusher is an aeroplane, while a tractor is an airscrew. An "airscrew" is a screw, which is both propeller and tractor, but a "screw" is merely a propeller. A pusher has its propeller behind it. This, it may be observed, is where one would expect to find it. For an aeronautical glossary, the one before us is perhaps overburdened with unnecessary inclusions. It was surely not essential to define such terms as oxygen, aluminium, angle, axis, eccentric, draughtsman, and diameter. The booklet is well illustrated.

W. B. F.