

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By Lieut.-Colonel J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon, M.C.,
M.P., at the 5th Annual Meeting held on March
9th, 1923.

In making my second Presidential Address to the Institution of Aeronautical Engineers I am pleased to be able to say that, although times have been lean from the point of view of aeronautics in general, the position of our Institution is on a sounder footing, both numerically and financially, than when I last addressed you.

As President of the Institution I wish to draw attention to, and to put on record, the very hard work that the Council devotes to the Interests of the Institution, and a special tribute is due to Mr. Simms, through whose efforts we have been given by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Limited, a grant for one year of £200. We tender to them our grateful thanks. It is with pleasure that I also pay a tribute to our Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. Howard-Flanders, who at great personal sacrifice has continued to serve the Institution in the honorary capacity of Secretary.

During the past year an effort was made to come to a better understanding with the Royal Aeronautical Society, but, in spite of a conference between representatives of the two bodies, no understanding as to actual collaboration could be come to.

In the general world of aviation it is to be noted that it is slowly dawning on the country how backward we are, both from the military point of view and from the civil, and it is to be hoped that the suggestions made by the Air Minister's Committee will be adopted to the benefit of Civil Aviation, and that the industry, now that the surplus machines have been nearly all absorbed, may begin to receive the orders without which little progress is possible.

Without wishing to be an alarmist in any way one cannot allow this moment to pass without drawing attention to the fact that a foreign Power is capable of putting 220 squadrons of aeroplanes into the field to our 32, nor is the position in this country, from the point of view of potential and quick expansion, a satisfactory one.

It is not within the province of our Institution to deal with aviation from a political point of view, but the healthy state of the movement is a political question, and the success of an Institution like our own must be wrapped up finally with the movement as a whole.

If this country is to maintain its supremacy in design, attention must be paid to the welfare and prosperity of the aeronautical engineer, and it is for this reason that the institution exists, and for this reason that we ask all our members to do their best to increase our membership.