

A GENERAL meeting of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain, at which Sir Charles Warren presided, was held in the rooms of the Society of Arts on December 16th, when several forms of flying machines were exhibited and described. The report in the *London Times* states that Major Moore showed a machine in which he aims at reproducing the motions of a bird in flight, and Mr. S. Bruce explained how his signalling balloons might be found useful to Arctic explorers. The application of kites to the preservation of life was illustrated by the apparatus of Captain Spiers, who considers that the simplest way of carrying a line from a wrecked ship to the land is by means of a kite. Captain Baden-Powell, the Secretary of the Society, exhibited a specimen of the kites he employs for man-lifting purposes. He said that as a rule four or five kites 12 feet long were sufficient to lift a man, though in a very strong wind he had been raised off his feet by one. In America kites had been used for meteorological purposes, and experiments had been made with them for military purposes. He thought it a pity they had not been employed in the operations in India. Mr. Pilcher showed one of his soaring machines in which

he had been able to cover nearly 300 yards. He is now at work on a four-horse power oil engine, to weigh about 40 pounds, which he intends to fit together with a five-foot screw propeller to one of these machines; he hopes then to have a genuine flying machine. Captain Baden-Powell described an aluminum balloon, fitted with a Daimler oil-motor, which had recently been tried at Berlin with somewhat qualified success, and after a few remarks from the chairman on the military aspects of flying machines, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to those who had brought forward exhibits.