

AS TO FLYING.

When the investigation of a problem seems to stand still, some one is soon found attacking it from a new direction and by an untried method. This is observed in the case of aerial navigation. The effort to attain it by means of the balloon was abandoned and was succeeded by experiments with the airship, the object being to construct something nearly as light as the balloon, but capable of propulsion and direction. In several cases the accomplishment of the object was announced, in one the aerial contrivance being raised, lowered and propelled by large fans. But it is a fair presumption, as none of the inventions has come into use, that they have not been entirely

satisfactory. Now again we learn that new principles are being applied to the problem of navigating the air. A pamphlet written by James Means and published by W. B. Clarke & Co. of Boston, presents the latest idea. It is that "man-flight" must be a kind of falling; and the author reasons that the flight of birds, except in the mere act of soaring upward is a motion of this sort. He quotes another authority, A. M. Wellington, as saying: "The fish needs a propeller, because it has no gravity in the water; the bird does not need it because it has gravity, and in that gravity has the best and smoothest of all conceivable means of propulsion. If he can make the wind lift him uphill whenever he has slid far enough downhill. If so, man commits an absurdity when he flies in the face of nature and assumes a propelling force where none is needed or exists." As we understand Mr. Means, initial velocity is to be imparted by the altitude at which the flight will begin; and, when momentum is exhausted, the flying body, personal or inanimate, must descend. For proof of the value of his reasoning, he refers to a flight accomplished last year at Steglitz, Russia, by Otto Lilienthal. Mr. Means explains how machines for aerial transit, "aeroplanes", can be constructed. To encourage invention, he suggests aerial regattas and prizes, "tobogganing on air" etc. He thinks these games will not be more dangerous than football.

Fair cucuses alone will start the