

Of General Interest

Emett Takes The Air

Emett, of *Punch*, this year soars into the air at the Festival Pleasure Gardens at Battersea in his Shell ByPlane X-100—a masterpiece even more fantastic than the fabulous Far Tottering—Oyster Creek railway.

The plane is equally at home on land, on sea, or in the air, but pending official decision on the granting of a road fund licence, limited certificate of airworthiness, and registration at Lloyd's, the monster is on view to visitors at the Gardens.

High up in the nacelle, hopefully gripping the wheel, helm, and/or joystick, sits Professor Septimus Urge, a fearsome figure with vast mustachios, pince-nez, and a deerstalker cap, who, according to Emett, inspired the invention.

"The Professor and I," says Emett, "spent high and hazardous days observing the flight of bats, the habits of blow lamps and the bursting-points of bathroom geysers. We conducted secret, dark and midnight tests with magnetised steam and paddle wheels in derelict canal tunnels.

"We scoured South Kensington drawing rooms for bamboo curtain poles and the mud flats of Essex for cast-off shrimp boats. From attic to attic we hunted hip baths to hold heavy water. Finally, with plans and materials complete, we commissioned J. E. Slater Ltd. of Kibworth to build this revolutionary craft and convey her to Battersea.

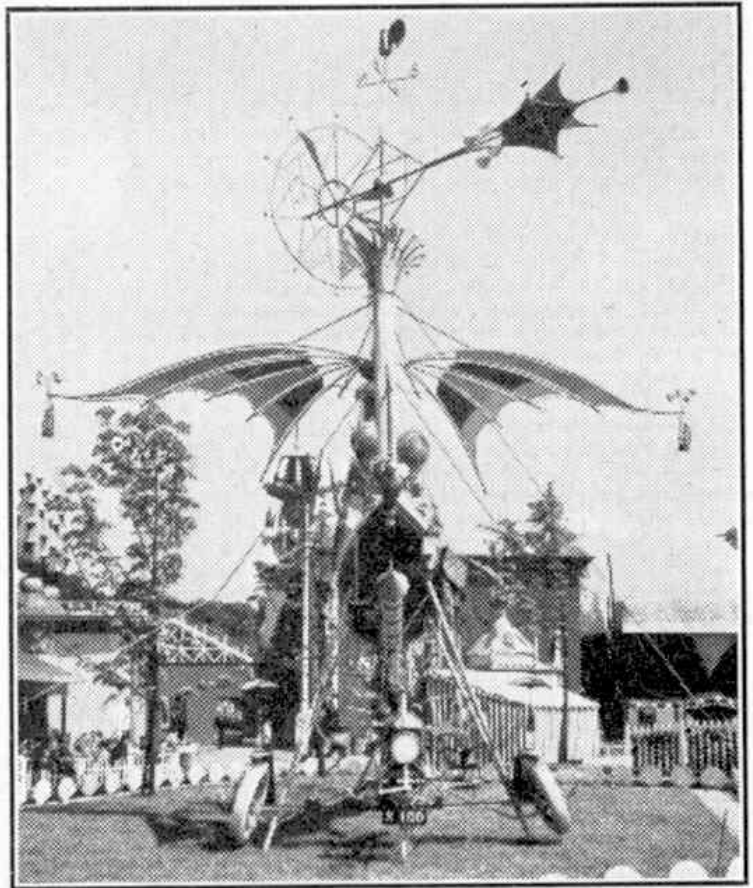
"The nacelle, ship-shape and Bristol fashion, and planked in antique teak, ends in a graceful dragon-fly tail which keeps the delicate butterfly wing-rudder the necessary 25 feet distant from the incandescent boiler.

"Behind, surrounded by an envelope of warm air, is the pilot's seat. Immediately in front provision is made for one first-class passenger, who controls the small brass carronade provided for warding off woodpeckers who might savage the bamboo struts.

"The long pinnacle funnel supports the main wings and a large-diameter rotor which extracts power from the four winds and conveys it elsewhere. Amidships are

the Urge Crankless Combination Beam Engines which provide, at the turn of a tap, propulsion for sea or air. The rocking beams are surmounted by four gas-filled copper balloons, which rise and fall gracefully and alternately, under the influence of the engines, and are not only aids to flight but take the weight of the bearings.

"The massive paddle wheels are made of a multiplicity of seaside spades, ideal for the sandy waters around our holiday resorts. Light pedal assistance is provided so that the pilot may cut off the engines and cleave the upper air in silence and serenity. Rocket-assisted take-off is also



The latest Emett masterpiece when seen from the front. Our illustrations of this wonderful aircraft are reproduced by courtesy of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd.

fitted, with a hand-operated three start striking mechanism.

"Perhaps the most interesting feature is the Main-Flight Jet Engine on the front axle. This works on almost unknown principles. Detail work is particularly thorough, as witness shrimp traps to protect the front tyres from underwater attack."