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## BOOKS

### A BOOK FOR BOYS

*THE BOY'S ROMANCE OF AVIATION.*  
By Captain A. O. Pollard, V.C., Harrop.

This is a clear, simply written and thorough account of the history of the development of aviation from 1783, when the first balloon flew over Paris, down to the latest Pterodactyl. This enlargement of a book which appeared first only four years ago is in itself some indication of the pace at which aviation is developing. Lighter-than-air flying machines—balloons and airships—were developed much sooner than the heavier-than-air aeroplane. Indeed, balloons were actually used in war, for observational purposes, in the Eighteenth Century. But it was only in the Twentieth Century that any aeroplane was efficient enough to be of military value. The War of 1914-18 gave a tremendous impetus to aeroplane construction, though some aeroplane designers believe that military needs side-tracked the true development of aeronautics. Since the War the development of aviation has been set to an even faster tempo, the epic long distance flights proving that the most fantastic dreams of the annihilation of distance might come true.

This book is a superb Christmas present for the most ungrateful nephew—or niece. It is illustrated with quaint pictures of early machines and many thrilling pictures of modern ones. It caters for the outsize in brain-pans with its chapters on design, construction and pilotage, but there is plenty to enthrall the ordinarily romantic lad.

## PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE

### Statement for October

Estates of a value of £518,813 were reported and accepted for administration by the Public Trustee during the month of October, 1939. The total value of the estates and funds under administration by the Public Trustee on the 31st March, 1939, was £61,715,713, and the new business for the seven months ended 31st October was £3,509,683.

Grants of administration made by the Court in favour of the Public Trustee numbered 261 for the month.

During the month 520 new wills appointing the Public Trustee executor, were prepared on behalf of testators and lodged for safe custody, and 336 existing wills were revised to provide for changes desired by testators. The total number of wills now held in the Public Trust Office on behalf of living persons is 95,318.