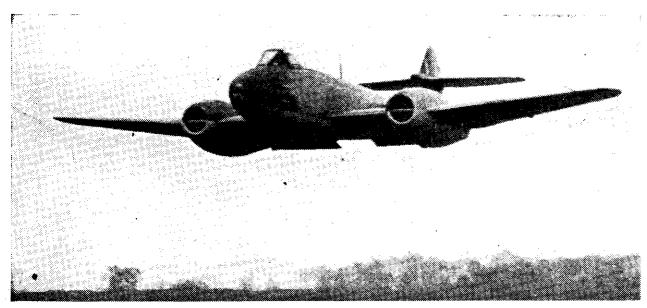
## SPEED AND THE FUTURE "I

Thoughts on Seeing the Gloster Meteor



The Gloster Meteor on its first flight from Hobsonville Air Base, Auckland

ID you see the plane?" asked my friend in an excited tone. "What did you think?" he went on before I had time to reply. It was obvious that his own thoughts were filled with wonder at what was a most convincing demonstration of man's conquest of the air, at the thrill which watching the speedy Gloster Meteor could give and at the wizardry of the man at the controls. Somewhat reluctantly I confessed that my own first thoughts were of relief that there had been no patter of bullets as the jet-propelled craft had dived towards, and then flattened out above, the street in which I was standing when it made its first appearance over the city. It had appeared so quickly that it was obvious that men riding in vehicles, as they were accustomed to do in the desert or on the Italian roads, would have had no chance of jumping out and finding cover before such a plane could have "opened up." Apart, then, from regretting that moment when I had almost instinctively shrugged my shoulders and ducked my head-as if that could have helped anyway-I had a reawakening of realisation that the war was really and truly over. It was good to have come through, to be alive and to be able to mingle with the







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