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Rocket Aeroplane

THE R.A.F. is said to be experimenting with a fighter which uses the rocket principle of propulsion in addition to the normal propeller. The heat of the exhaust gases and the air stream which cools the engine provide this part-rocket propulsion. Normally this heat energy is entirely wasted. The cooling air after it has passed the engine travels round a radiator heated by the exhaust gases. This heats the air up, increases its volume and therefore its velocity. Finally, the exhaust gases mix with the hot air, and the mixture shoots out through a series of vents along the trailing edge of the wings. This produces a considerable rocket-like thrust which materially assists the work of the propeller. Due to the aerodynamic and streamline requirements of the arrangement it is said to be applicable only to machines which are designed for speeds of over 300 m.p.h.