

YALE AERO CLUB STARTS IN EARNEST

Only Four Days Old, Has Forty
Members, a Clubhouse,
and a Plane.

Special to The New York Times.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 26.—The Yale Aero Club is the youngest organization of the university. It is only four days old, but it has forty members, and they are in dead earnest. They have chartered the old college boathouse on the banks of Lake Whitney, and have gone to work making machines for flying through the air.

This college town sat up and took notice when the Aero Club announced that the building of machines had begun and that one of the members had already made a daybreak flight over East Rock. President Carpenter, of the club, says that flights by the club are likely to be held before college closes in June. He says that the club will begin with gliders and work up to aeroplanes. The club will build an aeroplane before long, he says, and it will be open to challenges from other colleges which have one.

Most of the members of the college Aero Club are students in the Sheffield Scientific School. They have taken up the study of aeronautics because of their love for science and for scientific investigation. They are building their own models, and if any college aerò races are held it is likely that a coach in aeronautic building and navigation will be selected to train the competitors.

The idea of an intercollegiate aero league seems like a novelty, but the formation of the league does not seem far

distant. Clubs have been formed in Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell and Tufts already.

Max Von Hoegen is the member of the club who has the longest experience in aeronautics. He was formerly a member of the German Army Aerial Corps, and he assisted Count Zeppelin with his big dirigibles a year ago. He entered Yale last Fall, and he built a crude machine in which he flew off East Rock last Fall. Von Hoegen said to-day that he made his flight, which was the first which ever took place over the city, about 4 o'clock in the morning, in order that the affair might not get into the newspapers. He was espied by the East Rock park policeman, who thought that he was about to add another to the list of Yale students who become tired of life. After Von Hoegen explained his scheme to the policeman the officer was in doubt as to the air navigator's mental condition, but Von Hoegen made the trip in safety and the policeman agreed to say nothing about the incident.

The officers of the Yale Aero Club are: President, R. J. Carpenter, Winchester, Mass.; Vice President, Max Von Hoegen; Secretary, Reuben Jeffrey, Norwich, N. Y.

COMPOSITE AEROPLANE.

Alumni Association of West Side Y. M.
C. A. Building New Machine.

An aeroplane of the biplane type, designed to carry two persons, is being built by the men of the Aeronautic Alumni Association of the West Side Young Men's Christian Association, 318 West Fifty-seventh Street, who are graduates of the aeronautic class of the season of 1909.

In all of its characteristics, even down to the pitch of the propeller, the biplane is a composite of ideas of a dozen men. After finishing the course in aeronautics, during which time the men were practicing with model aeroplanes, the members of the class got together and organized the Alumni Association, and at the first meeting a resolution was passed that the alumni build a biplane for two passengers. Three days a week the men met and point after point in the plans were taken up and discussed. The plans after a number of meetings settled down to a biplane, but of a different style than anything that has gone before it in the line of aeroplanes. In the arrangement of the planes, the material in the frame, the style of

engine, and in every other phase of construction the men jointly furnished ideas. Every man had made some special experiments with some part of the aeroplane, so that all were able to contribute something. Everything possible to hasten the construction of the plane is being done because of the near approach of Summer. At the present rate of progress the aeroplane will be ready to go into commission in the latter part of Spring.

So that they will not be bothered by the curious and the idle onlookers the Alumni Association is building the airship in a large loft on the top floor of a building on West Sixty-second Street, the exact location of which is a secret and which the members have all agreed to keep to themselves. The aeroplane will be assembled and fully set up here and then taken apart and moved to a point in the suburbs, where the first flights will be made.

One thing that kept the alumni members very busy was the invention and working out of a steering apparatus which will not be interfered with by the Wright patents and which will at the same time be practical and safe. They say they have solved the problem.

From tip of wing to tip of wing across the front the aeroplane measures forty-two feet, so that there is, with a good engine, an abundance of plane to carry two passengers. Dr. Rex C. Northwood, 1,777 Broadway, is President of the Aeronautic Alumni Association and Francis C. Wilson, 477 First Avenue, is Secretary and Treasurer. Four others of the alumni are engaged with them in the labor of erecting the machine. The members of the alumni will permit the biplane to be used for instruction of men in future aeronautic classes.

Intercollegiate Aero Association.

The formation of the Intercollegiate Aero Club Association at Philadelphia on April 1 and 2 is intended to represent the most progressive element along mechanical lines in the institutions composing the association. One of the principal functions of the new organization will be to act in conformity with the rules and regulations as laid down by the Aero Club of America so as to secure a sanction from the National body for the flights to be scheduled by the collegians. The Aero Club of Cornell is especially enthusiastic over the prospects of forming an intercollegiate governing body. At the Ithaca University active efforts are being made for the building of an aeroplane. Letters have been written to prominent aero engineers of the country for statistics relating to tests of methods worked out from experimental stations, and some members of the Aero Club have promised to furnish certain vital parts of the machine.