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# **FLYING IS GOOD SPORT**

**Lilienthal Says Anybody Can Use His Machines.**

**GREAT IDEA FOR COUNTRY CLUBS**

It Will Be an Expensive Pastime, However, for One Needs a Hill and Space to Practice On.

Flying through the air is an accomplished fact, as long as one is content with short distances. It is possible now, or will be before many months, to buy flying machines that will carry one man weighing between 110 to 170 pounds, from 100 yards to onequarter of a mile.

The perfection of a flying machine even for such short distances promises to have a mighty important effect on sport. Men who have tried flying, agree that there is no other physical amusement, such as cycling, riding, jumping or swimming that can compare with it.

Probably within a year we shall be able

[Lithografie, zweispaltig, nach F0941] Lilienthal's latest Flying Machine in Acton. The operator is steering it toward the ground.

to witness competitions in flying. It would prove ideal sport for the numerous country clubs around New York. It will be, for a time, at any rate, a sport that only rich folk can indulge in, for the machines are bound to be rather costly. Otto Lilienthal, the celebrated flying machine man of Germany, makes a plea for the adoption of flying as a sport in the Aeronautical Annual for 1896, which has just been published. Mr. Lilienthal has made, he says, thousands of short trips in his various flying machines, and has never been injured beyond a few scratches. His article makes fascinating reading because it deals with the practical use of flying machines for the first time in the long history of aeronautics.

Mr. Lilienthal argues that if only men of leisure adopt the flying machine for amusement the science will receive a tremendous impetus. With many wealthy men trying the machines, improvements are bound to come and new ideas are likely to be discovered.

## **NEED A HILL FOR IT.**

To practice the sport there will be needed besides the machine a small, steep hill. Such facilities do not exist In the city, but there are scores of natural elevations near New York that would make unnecessary the expense to which Mr. Lilienthal has gone by building a hill in his own extensive grounds. If, however, it is necessary to build a hill, one about fifty feet high will do, though Mr.

Lilienthal advises one twice as high. He has tried all of his experiments from a fifty foot hill. The hill, of course, need not be solid earth. Mr. Lilienthal, for instance, uses a portion of his as a storehouse for his various machines.

"The person flying," says Mr. Lilienthal in his article, "ascends from the usual line of flight, and, borne by the wind, suddenly remains floating at a point high up in the air; the onlookers hold their breath; all at once cheers are heard, the sailer proceeds and glides amid the joyful exclamations of the multitude In a graceful curve back again to the earth.

## **SOARING THROUGH THE AIR.**

"Can any sport be more exciting than flying. Strength and adroitness, courage and decision, can nowhere gain such triumphs as in these gigantic bounds into the air, when the gymnast safely steers his soaring machine house-high over the heads of the spectators."

Mr. Lilienthal's method of flying is to float or soar. The operator starts from the top of a hill, runs ten or twenty feet and bounds into the air. The machine properly steered then sails straight out for 100 yards or so, when It sinks slowly to the ground unless its descent is hastened by steering it to the earth. Mr. Lilienthal claims that he has perfected his machine so that the operator can steer it by moving his body to one side or the other much as a boy steers a sled when sliding rapidly down hill.

Most of Mr. Lilienthal's experiments are conducted on days when there is no wind. A moderate wind enables him to ascend from the hill instead of going down to the bottom directly. With the aid of wind and a slight flopping of one pair of wings he has been able to go up more than a hundred feet. He does not advise beginners to try anything more than floating, however. He thinks skill and confidence will come with a few successful trials.

## **LILIENTHAL'B MACHINE.**

Most readers are more or less familiar with Mr. Lilienthal's soaring apparatus. His oldest machine was really little more than a gigantic pair of canvas wings fixed to remain horizontal to the earth at all times when the weight of a man depends from them. His newest machine is a little more complicated affair, yet, it really consists of only two sets of wings, one fixed about ten feet above the other and a smaller third set that may be used for steering, though its chief use at present is to keep the machine "head up" in the wind, as sailors say. An excellent picture of Mr. Lilienthal and his latest model appears in the Aeronautical Annual. The total square surface of all the wings Is about 150 square feet.

Thus far all of Lilienthal's sailing has been done In straight lines. He Is trying, however, to move in a circle. "As noon as I or any other experimenter succeeds in dew describing the first circling flight," he says, "one may regard this event as one of the most important conquests on the road to perfect flight."