

Dec. 16, 1896

A. A. Merrill, Esq.

Dear Sir.

I have your letters of 9 & 13 Inst. It is my impression that Lilienthal describes how he measured the forces of air pressures in his book, "Der Vogelflug als Grundlage der Fliegekunst." A book which you ought to have and which ought to be translated into English. I would contribute to the letter.

You will find in Marvin's "Kite Experiments at the weather Bureau," Page 34, a reference to an error in Lilienthal's methods and results pointed out by A. V. Obermayer. I do not know what it is.

Marvin brings out very clearly that in experimenting with a "material" plane the pressure may appear not to be normal, because the edge resistances and the friction are compounded with the pressure, and seems to incline it backward. This I imagine to have been Lilienthal's error.

Yours Truly

O. Chanute

Thanks for "Constitution" just received.