

Dec. 6, 1896

A. A. Merrill, Esq.

Dear Sir.

A week's absence, and pressing occupations since have prevented me from sooner copying the enclosed translation of Lilienthal's mathematics of soaring flight with arched surfaces. To save myself labor, I have omitted the first part of the essay, which consists of "General considerations" why soaring flight constitutes the best beginning of a solution of the problem, as it contains nothing new to you.

You will note that Lilienthal distinctly affirms "aspiration," that he figures air pressures as not normal to even plane surfaces (fig. 12) and that he therefore allows for a positive drift as opposing a negative drift or propelling force. My own view is that there is but one "drift" and that is either positive or negative according to the circumstances of the case.

Reply

O. Chanute

Kindly send me 2 or 3 copies of "Constitution" & "offer of money prizes."