

LILIENTHAL'S IMITATORS.

It will be recollected that in giving an account of his experiments in 1893, Herr Lilienthal frankly invited aviators to repeat his glidings and to endeavor to improve upon them.

Mr. A. M. Herring, of this State, has been experimenting with wing surfaces large enough to carry his own weight for over a year, and has succeeded in sailing a distance of several hundred feet. He is continuing his experiments, and we give fuller information about them in another column.

In England, Mr. A. *Liwentaal*, of Dartmouth, has built an apparatus 43 fr. across, with 500 sq. ft. bearing surface and weighing 120 lbs., with which he proposed to repeat Lilienthal's experiments. The results have not been made public, but it may be predicated that this large relative surface will expose this apparatus to many contingencies arising from even light gusts of wind.

In Australia, Mr. *Hargrave* has tried jumping into the wind with a surface of 150 sq. ft., disposed in four wings set at a dihedral angle, but found it a flabby, unhandy thing, which turned over with him.

In France, something like a flutter of excitement was produced by the publication of the results accomplished by Lilienthal, and the French_Society for Aerial_Navigation voted an appropriation to repeat them. Several constructors were asked to build an apparatus exactly like Lilienthal's. The invariable response was that they would build a greatly superior apparatus. The promoters were unable to get the constructors to understand that it was not a "greatly superior apparatus" that was wanted, but one identically the same. At the last published accounts the promoters were still patiently explaining their wishes, and the members of the society were scouring the country around Paris to find a favorable location for such experiments. It is probable that they will follow Lilienthal's later example in building an artificial hill.

In Vienna, the managers of the Kalenberg Rack Railway, a place of popular resort, have purchased one of Lilienthal's soaring machines, and sent an acrobat to him at Berlin to learn the proper use of the apparatus. Upon his return to Vienna the acrobat began practicing on the Kalenberg, but this not being an isolated, conical hill, such as Lilienthal generally selected, and finally built for himself, the wind has seldom been from the right direction, or with the proper velocity to conduct such experiments. The acrobat, although an expert tight-rope dancer, has been having a hard time of it, and according to the account of bystanders has developed a dreadful propensity "to alight on his nose."