

define its meaning but the word was not contained in any dictionary accessible to us. I asked Mr. Jones to hunt the word up in the Standard Dictionary and let me know how it was defined as I had the impression that the dictionary limited the term to machines supported by gliding flight.

I had always had the idea that the word "aerodrome" had been coined by Langley by compounding together two Greek words *aero* (air) and *dromos* ("a course, race, running; flight; a fleeing; escape"). The word "*dromos*" being derived from "*dromain*" the infinitive of a verb meaning "to run", "to move quickly"; it is obvious that the root meaning of "aerodrome" is "air runner".

I find, upon examination, that I was mistaken in supposing that the word "aerodrome" originated with Langley. The Smithsonian correspondence has revealed the fact that Prof. Langley corresponded with Prof. B.L. Gildersleeve, the distinguished Professor of Greek at Johns Hopkins University concerning a suitable name for his machine.

In a letter to Prof. Langley, dated, Oct. 30, 1890, Prof. Gildersleeve says:-

"The word you want is made to your hand in aerodrome (*aero-dromos*) "air runner".
***No one will have anything to say against a Greek word that is found in the Lexicon".

Again under date, November 4, 1890, Prof. Gildersleeve says:-

"To my mind " -drome" connotes swiftness, as the "dromedary", is the "swift camel". The main thing is to get a word of fairly classic formation, fairly suggestive (not exhaustive) of the thing, and wholly easy of pronunciation. Modern Scientific nomenclature is based on definition.