Their best apparatus weighed about 23 pounds. Since 1902 Mr. Chanute has not done any active work other than assist Herr Moedebeeck in the compilation of his hand-book, but he has devoted his extensive knowledge of the subject to the free assistance of all who have cared to call upon him for his advice and help. (See pp. 296 to 300 Moedebeeck's Hand-book; also Aeronautical Annual of 1895 and 1896 and 1897).

Professor Alexander Graham Bell took up kite flying as a pastime seventeen years ago, starting with cellular structures in the form of hexagons and parallelograms. He next tried triangles but being dissatisfied with the necessity of introducing guys to strengthen these forms, he finally turned to the tetrahedron as the most economical unit of all. Great difficulty was encountered at first in fastening these units, or cells together, but after persistent effort extending over a course of about six years, the present simple and efficient system was evolved. In the summer of 1907 he was ready to turn his attention to the problem of converting his kites which because of the great number of cells and dihedral surfaces are very steady flyers, into motor driven flying machines, and on December 6, 1907, sent up his large structure, The "Cygnet" consisting of 3393 cells covered with 184 square meters of silk, carrying Lieut. T. Selfridge, 1st U.S. Field Artillery. The kite was flown over the water, but was completely demolished on alighting, due to inexperience of the men stationed at the flying line. Important and full data were however obtained. In the latter part of July 1907, Prof. Bell suggested to Messrs. G.H. Curtiss, F. W. Baldwin, J.A.D.