

Science Notes

Aviation—

"The birds can fly,
An', why can't I."

Thus argued Darius Green before he tried his sad experiment, and thus, no doubt, have argued many of those who, either before or after him, have attempted to solve the interesting problem of flight. Birds still "beat us holler," as Darius had it, notwithstanding the amazing progress of modern times in arts and sciences, but the day seems to be dawning when aviation will become a reality and when man shall enjoy to his heart's content the much-envied mode of locomotion. The aeroplane is the machine that will carry us into the kingdom of birds.

When the first successful experiments of the Wright brothers were made known to the public, not over a year ago, scientists were very slow in accepting as positive the facts set forth in the daily papers. During the last few weeks, however, the success achieved by the Wright brothers and by Farman, both in France and in the United States, has been such that enterprising men are already discussing the problem of the practical usefulness of aeroplanes.

Thus, it has been shown that, for military purposes, the aeroplane would have many points of superiority over the dirigible balloon. It would enable the aviators to obtain full information of an enemy's dispositions and movements without much danger for the machine or for themselves. It is to be hoped that the accident sustained by Orville Wright at Fort Myers may not delay the development and progress of aviation.

Long-Distance Wireless Telephony

A. Frederick Collins, of Newark, N.J., has just completed a series of interesting experiments with his new system of wireless telephony. He has so far succeeded in transmitting spoken words through a distance of eighty-one miles, thus establishing a record on this side of the Atlantic.