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whether the engine should prove self supporting or not.

Aerodrome No. 5

The attempts to produce a tetrahedral aerodrome at Beinn Bhreagh were commenced last year, and were carried to the point of raising a man into the air in the kite Cygnet. (See photographs of plans of the Cygnet appended to this article).

The stability exhibited by the Cygnet when carrying Lieut. Selfridge was in every way satisfactory, but the experiment lasted for so short a time that the instrumental data secured were quite inadequate to afford a safe basis for calculation.

The mode of descent of the Cygnet too was in every way satisfactory. It came down so gently that Lieut. Selfridge was unaware of the fact that he was descending until the structure actually reached the water. This indeed, was the cause of the subsequent disaster. The initiative in the matter of letting go the towing-line had been left to Lieut. Selfridge. It had been arranged that when he was ready to come down, he should make a signal to the steamer Blue Hill. The steamer was then to reduce speed, and the men on the Blue Hill were to be prepared to let the towing-line gradually slip from the cleat as the kite neared the water, and at the moment of actual contact with the water the line was to be let go at both ends, Lieut. Selfridge releasing it from the kite and the men at the other end releasing it from the Blue Hill.