

DR. ROBERT HOOKE.
1635-1703

An original ingenious experimental Philosopher born 1635, died 1703. About 1655 he was employed and patronized by the Honorable Robert Boyle who turned his skill to account in the construction of his celebrated air-pump.

Between 1657 and 1659 Hooke's inventive faculty exercised itself in devising thirty different methods of flying according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

In 1662 he was appointed curator of experiments to the Royal Society and filled the office with extraordinary diligence and skill during the remainder of his life.

During this period he translated into English the 6th Chapter of Lana's work "Prodrome" which appeared among his posthumous philosophical contributions.

Birch's History of the Royal Society contains references between 1661 and 1679 to discussions concerning the art of flying participated in by Hooke, but I have not found any description of his ideas relating to artificial flight produced between 1657 and 1659. It might be well to institute a search through his published writings for some descriptions of his ideas.

He seems to have been an invalid all his life, His ^{were} limbs shrunken. His hair hung in dishevelled locks over his haggard countenance. His temper was irritable, his habits penurious and solitary. He was, however, blameless in morals and reverent in religion. His scientific performances were varied and original, and he has left behind him the reputation of being one of the greatest experimental philosophers the world has ever seen.