

## *AFTER THE CATACLYSM*

sections and bind it in horizontal layers to the main structure; by the aid of which and the material assistance of the aeroplanes practically composing horizontal surfaces filling the interior trusses, the huge aerodrome would soar easily to the ground.

As already stated; there were three balloons or gas holders to each machine. Two of these were a little above the main cabin deck about eighty feet apart; and one was in the centre about thirty feet below the cross line of the upper pair.

These dromes, driven by powerful propellers, made an average speed of about forty miles per hour. A simple machine generating the lifting gas, a compound much more efficient than hydrogen, was placed in the interior of each balloon and operated by a slow combustion of certain conflicting chemicals.

Unfortunately my scientific education was so limited as to prevent me from understanding the detailed explanation as to the ingredients; sufficient to me from the practical standpoint that they were obtained with little trouble and in ample quantities.

The whole framework of these dromes was so substantially built, cross-stayed and trussed as to be reasonably rigid.

In ascending, it rose perpendicularly as a balloon, though the machine at rest on the earth had a fraction below the specific gravity of atmosphere. The actual uplift was accomplished by several helicoptic propellers, properly distributed, whirling in a horizontal plane, and needing very little force to overcome the