

For Release
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Flying high! Lord Kelvin asserted late in the 19th century that it was impossible to contrive an airplane that would travel under its own power. Of course, the gas engine was not developed to the extent that it was later. As late as 1912 it was generally thought that the airplane might be navigated up to 10,000 feet, but no higher. Since that time more has been learned about the possibilities of the airplane and how to live and work at levels of rarefied air. The essential element of the air, its density at all levels, has been known since the time of La Place, about 1800. Since then our knowledge of the variation of temperature and humidity has been greatly extended.