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The Specialits' Series. Volume III. Balloning: A Concise Sketch of its History and Principles by  
G. May

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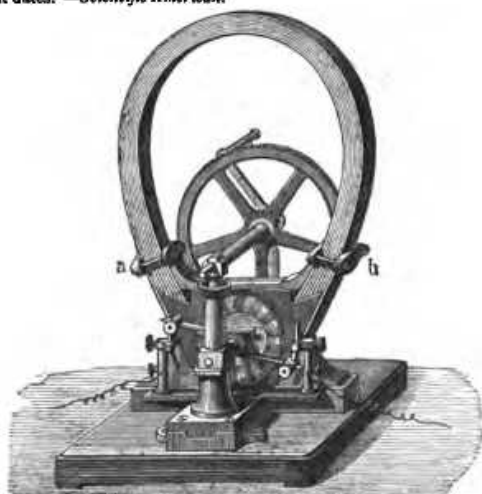
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## PREFACE.

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It is one of the leading advantages of all research in art and science that, although the difficulties or dangers in the pursuit may make the precise object unattainable, yet there is always something, however little evolved, that facilitates future art or scientific progress; the spirit of discovery survives all previous unsuccessful labours: and there is an unconquerable attraction in their very difficulties, if not in their actual impossibility of success. In looking back upon the past century of aeronautics, this will be found fully proved, for although the practical result may be but small, yet our stock of useful knowledge has been much enriched, at the cost of great labour and danger.

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