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Thrilling Moments in FLYING HISTORY

first of a series by ALFRED OWLES

ARCHYTAS AND THE WOODEN DOVE

FOUR CENTURIES before the Christian era, a learned Italian mathematician of Tarranto (then Tarentum), called Archytas, launched the first man-made flying machine, a huge wooden dove. The story was recorded by Aulus Gellius, who related that spectators attributed the motive force of the dove to an occult spirit. The legend persisted, but it is more probable that wise Archytas, not averse to an aura of mystery, nevertheless used spring power.