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Eminent Scientist Explains That Trip To Moon In Rocket Vehicle Is Near Possibility

M. Esnault-Pelterie, President of the Society of French Inventors and Savants, on Friday evening took a big party of Parisians for a trip to the moon. The voyage started from the big amphitheatre in the Sorbonne and for two hours, some 300 inhabitants of this gay city walked across volcanic craters of great size, looked down upon our little earth and snickered at the miniature Eiffel Tower. They also discovered that the moon was not made of Camembert cheese.

When the party had been on the earth's satellite for two hours, they suddenly decided that there was no place like the Boulevard Saint Michel, and the Place de l'Opera and other things Parisian so they all got homesick. Whereupon M. Esnault-Pelterie piled all his charges into their rocket and swooped back to earth again.

The above is one way of saying that M. Esnault-Pelterie is not only a notable savant but a highly inspiring orator. Gifted with a brilliant imagination and an unusual knowledge of the planets, his lecture on Friday evening was a great success. It took him only a few minutes to lift his audience spiritually out of their world to the moon, 238,840 miles away.

No Impossibility.

The speaker made it clear a voyage to the moon in a rocket moving forward by the force of its own combustion

was not an impossibility. The initial speed of the rocket should be 11,180 meters per second in order that it might get into the ether, out of the reach of the earth's gravity, he declared. He pointed out that such a voyage eventually might be made in 3 hours and 27 minutes.

"We shall feel some physical discomfort during our passage, of course," said the speaker. "But we shall come to make the trip without difficulty. We shall fly higher and higher, at a speed heretofore regarded as fantastic. We shall make great jumps into space. Then, of course, we shall become accustomed to the change in temperature, and what not."

But how to land on the moon without crushing the passengers into a stew or a consommé? That, according to M. Esnault-Pelterie, is simple. Having convinced his audience with words, he took the party on a walking trip across the satellite, through the medium of a surprising film, wherein the hero jumps to the moon in a rocket designed by the German inventor, Oberth.

Once we land up there, what do we see? Extraordinary and fantastic landscapes, circles of mountains, endless plains, shadows deeper than those we know on earth, volcanic craters, a pale light coming from the earth. There will be no atmosphere so the travelers will be obliged to wear some sort of heating apparatus.