

MOON FLIGHT TALK EXCITES SCIENTISTS

Prediction of Possibility of
Rocket Trip in 15 Years
Arouses Interest.

COST SET AT \$2,000,000

Chief Difficulty at Present is Lack
of Financial Backing, Says
French Inventor.

Special Correspondence of THE NEW YORK
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PARIS, May 7.—French scientists are discussing with serious interest the declarations recently made at a luncheon attended by some of the leaders in the fields of mechanics, astronomy, physics and engineering by Robert Esnault-Pelterie, author of a work on interstellar navigation.

M. Esnault-Pelterie affirms, and he has taken more than two years to reach his conclusions mathematically, that a trip to the moon can be made within fifteen years.

His declarations he bases on the discoveries made by the German scientist, Hermann Oberth, in the development of the rocket system of propulsion. Herr Oberth's experiments, supplemented by those of M. Esnault-Pelterie, show that it will be possible with a rocket system fed by a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen to obtain a speed of more than 4,000 yards a second.

Before an attempt could be made to reach the moon with his rocket, M. Esnault-Pelterie says, a number of costly experiments would have to be made, and he estimates that the cost would be more than \$2,000,000.

"It would first be necessary to construct rockets supplied with registering instruments which would be sent empty to a height of 50,000 to 70,000 meters. Afterward ascensions would be made with a crew aboard. At the start the pilot would fly almost parallel to the earth by the use of small wings. Then as he proceeded he would direct the rocket more and more toward the vertical until he attained the equivalent of actually falling through space. The distance of these attempts would be gradually lengthened, and in fifteen years' time I feel confident it would be entirely possible to make a voyage around the moon and return.

"Whether such efforts will immediately be made seems doubtful," he added, "for it will be necessary first to find a financial backer. But I feel certain that the method will be applied very soon to practical transportation on our own earth. It will be only a comparatively short time before a trip from Paris to New York can be made in twenty-four minutes and a trip around the world in an hour and a half."

The scientists who heard the talk did not regard it as sensationalism, but showed an extreme interest in the scientific details of his report bearing upon the principles of astrophysics, physico-chemistry, celestial mechanics, ballistics and physiology.

"I attended this talk," writes Louis Forest in *Le Matin*, "and afterward heard Rodolphe Soreau, president of the Society of Civil Engineers of France and MM. Urbain and Sichert, both members of the institute, calmly discussing the possibilities of a trip to New York in twenty minutes and of a visit to the moon. There should be no mistake about it. It isn't a question of Jules Verne ideas and fancies, but a question of exact conceptions. M. Esnault-Pelterie's book, "Astronautique," is not a child's plaything or work of fiction, but is crammed with scientific calculations and precise formulas."