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### M. TSIOLKOVSKY

Our Riga Correspondent telegraphed yesterday:—

To-day the whole U.S.S.R. officially mourns the death of the inventor Constantin Tsiolkovsky who is described as the " ' Russian Edison ' and the father of aerial navigation." Only three days ago the Soviet Press began celebrating his seventy-eighth birthday with long articles and greetings from various organizations and persons, including Stalin. Simultaneously began the publication of regular bulletins concerning Tsiolkovsky's critical state of health.

In his early years he struggled against poverty and adversity. He was self-taught, and achieved success against heavy odds. Tsiolkovsky became a school teacher, but he devoted his entire leisure and savings to the development of theories concerning aeroplanes and dirigible balloons. In 1895 he published a book entitled "Aeroplane." Since then he had published 30 others, including works on the subject of inter-planetary communication by rocket-like devices. His chief work was concerned with all-metal dirigibles. The Soviet Government provided the inventor facilities to test his theories, and his experimental all-metal cigar-shaped dirigible constructed of corrugated stainless steel one-tenth of a millimetre in thickness, 140ft. long, and with 1,000 cubic metres capacity was nearing completion. The Soviet aviation authorities expected from this craft important new aeronautic achievements.

The funeral will take place at Kaluga, where he died. A special squadron of aeroplanes and a dirigible will fly over the grave, into which a "farewell letter" with flowers will be dropped.

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