

WAR WITH ROCKETS PICTURED BY OBERTH

Hungarian Inventor Says Nations Are Testing Ways to Shoot Half Around the World.

FORECASTS RAIN OF POISON

In Lecture at Vienna He Predicts Mail Will Be Sent From Vienna to New York in Half an Hour.

By JOHN MacCORMAC.

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VIENNA, Jan. 30.—The arrival of letters in New York which had left Vienna but a half hour earlier, and the destruction of the entire populations of great cities from an equal distance and with equal rapidity, are two seeming miracles which will be practicable possibilities in the near future, according to Professor Hermann Oberth, Hungarian pioneer in space-rocket flight experiments, who lectured tonight at the Vienna Meteorological Institute of Urania.

Professor Oberth related the results of his twenty years of experimenting with the problems of rocket flight, which were first ridiculed, then exploited by a motion picture company, finally are accepted today as important scientific research work. For his last rocket, which weighed, empty, eight kilograms (nearly eighteen pounds) and, charged, forty kilograms (eighty-eight pounds), Professor Oberth employed a secret liquid fuel. This rocket consumed 250 grams of fuel a second, attaining a speed of 3,000 metres (9,750 feet) a second.

Practical developments in rocket employment about to be realized, according to Professor Oberth, are, first, analysis of the upper strata of the atmosphere by means of meteorological apparatus carried by the rocket and attached to a parachute; second, photographing war-time enemy positions by cameras carried by rockets, which the enemy would be unable to shoot down but which

would return, boomerang-like, behind the firer's lines; third, map-making of inaccessible and untraversable territory by means of rocket photographs, which later would be combined by the Scheinepflug process into maps; fourth, the dispatch by a single rocket from Vienna of thirty kilograms of mail, which by shooting up beyond the earth's air envelope and consequently dropping attached to a parachute would reach New York less than half an hour later (the cost, Professor Oberth estimated, would not at the highest exceed five to eight times the present cost of ordinary mail); fifth, as the propellant of airplanes traveling at great heights; and sixth, for bombarding from the other side of the earth an enemy country with a murderous rain of rockets carrying poison-gas containers capable of exterminating whole populations in a few minutes. Compared with rockets, said Professor Oberth, airplanes will be little more than obsolete scrap iron within a few years.

Every War Office of the great powers, with the sole exception of Germany, declared Professor Oberth, is feverishly pushing experiments with deadly death-rockets. He himself is experimenting with these possibilities, but believed it was really in the nature of pacifist work, since the horrors of warfare by the sole method which it would be possible to employ, once the experiments reached a certain stage, by gas rockets, would force the world, in self-protection, to outlaw all war, promptly and effectively.