# TWO DAYS TO REACH MOON FROM EARTH

## French Engineer Figures Trip Is Possible in Closed Vessel Driven by 414,000 Horse Power Motor.

## EASY AFTER 4,000 MILES

### He Admits Passengers Would Have Some Unpleasant Sensations, but Thinks These Might Be Overcome.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, March 8.—A stir was caused by a paper read this week before the members of the French Physical Society by Robert Esnault Pelterie, the brilliant young engineer, on how to get from the earth to the moon in forty-eight hours.

M. Pelterie insists that his idea is practicable, based on scientific calculations, and not reminiscent of Jules Verne's romance.

The vehicle for the first travelers to the moon will, he says, be a closed vessel of extreme lightness, provided with a motor of great power, a combination which the astonishing advances of locomotion during the past hundred years brings well into sight.

Since there is no atmosphere in the space between our planet and the moon, no system of propellers would be of any use, and the only possible means of driving the vehicle forward would be an adaptation of the rocket principle, which, he says, works as well in a vacuum as in air.

The motor then would work a kind of continuous rocket, and M. Pelterie has made calculations of just how much power the engine must have to carry the vehicle along the 240,000 odd miles between the earth and its satellite.

For a vehicle weighing one ton the motor would have to be of 414,000 horse power. For added weight the horse power must be proportionately increased. When this combination was realized the journey would be divided into three parts. The first would be to drive the vehicle with increasing speed until the sphere of the earth's attraction was passed. During the second the vehicle would continue its journey by inertia until it reached the point where the moon's attraction began, while the third would be the simple matter of dropping onto the latter's surface, no motive force being necessary.

The first of these phases, according to the lecturer, would last 24 minutes and 9 seconds; the second phase, 48 hours and 50 minutes; the third, 3 minutes and 46 seconds, giving a total of 49 hours 17 minutes 55 seconds.

During the first 4,000 miles, he says, the passengers would have the sensation of weighing one-tenth more than usual, but afterward they would cease to weigh at all and have the sensation of falling indefinitely into space.

To remedy the bad physical effects, which might result from these phenomena, special appliances, says M. Pelterie, might be installed.