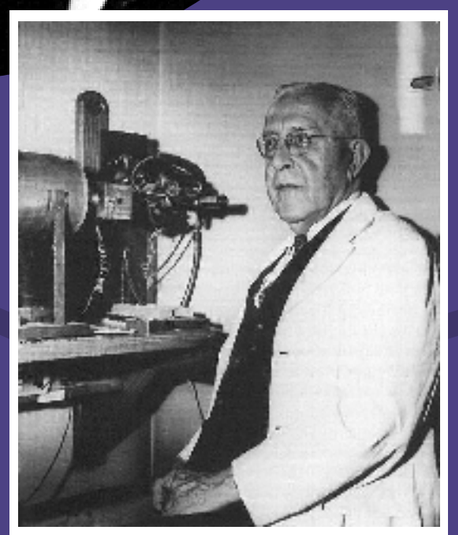
Victor Hess *(1883-1964)*

Today, Victor Hess is best known for his discovery of cosmic rays in 1911. For a few decades after his discovery, however, there was uncertainty about the exact nature of this type of radiation. It was not until 1936, when further research confirmed the extraterrestrial origins of radiation, that Hess received the Nobel Prize in physics. Hess also studied the biological effects of cosmic rays, their seasonal variation and the influence of magnetic disturbances on their intensity. For most of his career, he focused on the medical uses of radium and the nature and diagnosis of radium poisoning.



Victor Hess in his lab at Fordham University's Freeman Hall, circa 1940s.

From 1911 to 1913, Victor Hess, center, took to the skies in a series of daring hot-air balloon flights to demonstrate the existence of cosmic radiation.

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