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NEBULA HYPOTHESIS.

One of the Most Interesting Propositions of Science.

WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS.

That the Sun, Planets and All Matter Were Once a Vast Mass of Incandescent Gas All Jumbled Together In an Enormous Chaotic Cloud.

Everybody has heard the phrase, the nabula hypothesis, but what is it? In a few words this is the meaning of "nebula hypothesis;" That the sun, the planets and all that is in them were at one time in the inconceivably remote past a vast mass of chaotic, incandescent gas all jumbled together in an enormous nebula, or cloud.

To begin with, the first conception that science has dared to make, however, takes us one step further back Without mentioning the origin of matter itself science conceives that in the beginning all matter was uniformly distributed throughout space - that there were no stars, no planets, no satellites, but that all space was filled with the matter we now have divided up into very fine particles some distance apart. The consistency of such material was perforce very thin indeed, much more rarefled than the highest vacuum we can obtain now by air pumps. From this state to the nebulous state the theory has a missing link, one that can only be satisfied by supposing divine command, for it assumes, in the words of Professor Todd, that "gradually centers of attraction formed and these centers pull-

cles. As a result of the inward fall-

ing of matter toward these centers, the

tion upon each other the material masses grew hotter and hotter. Nebulae seeming to fill the entire heavens of the centrifugal force. But this parwere formed-luminous fire mist, like the filmy objects still seen in the sky, though vaster and exceedingly numerous." This process is supposed to have gone on for countless ages, faster in some regions than in others, Many million nebulae were formed and set in rotation around their own axes. This happily can be explained by science. Whenever particles are attracted toward a center and are kept from falling directly to this center a whirlpool is formed, rotating in one direction. An example of this, though humble and not exactly analogous, is the rotation of water in a basin when the stopper is pulled out of the bottom. Gravity attracts the water immediately above the hole, which starts flowing out, thus leaving a space to be filled. The rest of the water rushes in from all sides to do this, and the whirlpool Is the result.

Now each of these whirling nebulae became exceedingly hot, and each formed what is known as a star or on, our sun being one. The earth and other planets had not then come into separate existence, of course, as it is supposed that they were thrown off later from the sun.

Our sun in its nebulous form and rotating swiftly on its axis gradually flattened at its poles on account of centrifugal motion. This phenomenon is entirely familiar to those who have seen a ball of clay on a potter's wheel gradually flatten. The motion was so swift and the mass so nebulous that the sun to be took the shape of a disk. As time went on the outer part became cool and somewhat rigid, while the inner part continued its cooling and contracting. Thus the inner part drew away from the outer, leaving a ed in toward themselves other parti- ring of matter whirling around on the is supposed to be hastened by the in the opinion of some scholars.-A. collision of its particles and their fric. | ability of the outside to keep up the Hodge in New York Tribune.

swift motion of the central mass, both on account of the slight cohesion and ticular part of the argument has nothing to stand on if the first law of motion is true,

In the successive stages of the sun's contraction this process was repeated over and over again, until several rings were whirling around the central orb. They would necessarily be in the same plane. Now, these rings, not being uniform la mass or thickness. would each gradually accumulate toward the densest portion until they, too, would form a ball which would subsequently flatten, and if the substance continued nebulous and the ball was large enough they would also slough rings. Of course the rings the sun discard-

ed have become the planets, which, as required by the theory, are all very nearly in the same plane. The rings that the planets formed have become moons or satellites. So we are driven to conclude that our sun at one time filled all the space from his present position to the farthest planet in the

From this theory there is another thing that we have to believe, and that is that every star in the heavens has gone through this same process and has a family of planets sailing around it, just as our sun has. It would be impossible to see these planets, of course, for it is impossible to see a star, even with the greatest telescope.

except as a mere point of light. As regards the proving of this nebula hypothesis, of course it cannot be done. But everything points to its ac curacy. Many nebulae are seen even now among the stars that seem to be going through the delayed process of world forming. Around one of the planets of our own solar system, Sacurn, are three rings, which are probaoutside. This breaking off of the ring by destined in time to become mosts



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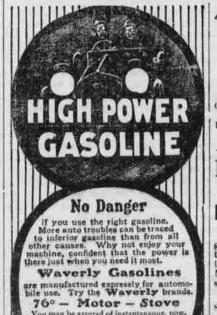


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