

COSMOGONY

New Nebular Theory Explaining Origin of Planets Proposed

Report to Royal Academy of Sciences, Holland, Holds Earth and Other Planets Came from Disk-Shaped Nebula

A NEW nebular hypothesis of planetary origins is being discussed in Amsterdam as a substitute for the theory that the planets are fragments torn from the sun by the enormous tidal forces generated when another huge star passed too close to the sun.

The new evidence against the "tidal forces" theory is based on observations and calculations made and reported by H. P. Berlage, Jr., of the Meteorological Observatory in Batavia, Java. His paper was communicated to the Royal Academy of Sciences by Prof. H. A. Kramers.

Disc Extended to Neptune

Berlage's theory is that the planets had their origin in a nebula surrounding the sun and having the shape of a thin, flat disk. From what is known of the way in which the present planets differ in their respective densities it follows that if there actually was such a nebula it must have had this disk shape at least as far out from the sun as Nep-

tune. Moreover, the densities for each planet, calculated on the assumption that the new theory is correct, agree remarkably well with the actual known densities. For example, according to the theory the greatest density should be along a circle which is nearly the same as the earth's orbit. The earth is actually the most dense of the planets.

Additional supporting evidence is found in the distances of the planets from the sun. Careful examination of the known facts about these distances reveals that the figures agree much better than has ever been believed with the positions which the planets should occupy, according to this theory, with respect to the sun.

More Planetoids

If the planets did originate from a great disk-shaped nebula, it is easy to understand the presence of the great bulk of planetoids between Mars and Jupiter; they arose from an unstable

and highly turbulent zone in the gaseous disk. Even the puzzling arrangement of these planetoids can be simply explained on the proposed basis.

If the theory is correct, there should have been another, lesser zone of turbulence, and so there should be another family of planetoids. It is considered probable that the recent discovery of Pluto brought to light the first known member of such a group of planetoids, thus giving the theory added confirmation; and it is suggested that if these planetoids are discovered, they might appropriately be called plutoids.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Portable Bed-Sitting Room Made for Egyptian Queen

A PORTABLE bed-sitting room that can be set up in fifteen minutes.

No, it is not the latest equipment for automobile tourists announced in the mail order catalogs. It is an invention 5,000 years old, come to light from a royal tomb of Egypt, belonging to Queen Hetepheres I.

The Harvard-Boston Expedition, which cleared the queen's possessions from her secret tomb, recognized what the strips of gold-encased, decayed wood represented, and bent every effort to salvage the important piece of royal furniture. Dr. George A. Reisner, noted Egyptologist of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, now reports that the restored canopy has been delivered to the Cairo Museum, where the bed and head rest belonging inside the canopy are already deposited.

Gold-Cased Posts

The queen's canopy consisted of a wooden framework 10.5 feet long, over eight feet wide and about seven feet high. When the gold-cased, wooden posts and beams were set up and curtained with fine linen hangings, the queen had a very private and comfortable little room. A bed, arm-chair, and jewel box furnished the canopied enclosure.

Describing the canopy, which was presented to the queen by her husband Sneferuw, Dr. Reisner says: "The canopy can be taken down in about fifteen minutes and set up in about the same time. There can be no doubt that this canopy was transported for the use of the queen whenever the king changed his quarters from palace to palace."

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BED-SITTING ROOM: UNFOLDED FOR A QUEEN IN 15 MINUTES

Queen Hetepheres I, of Egypt 5000 years ago, apparently took her bed with her when she went from palace to palace with her husband, this discovery of the Harvard-Boston expedition reveals. An expert opinion on the nature of the wood has not been obtained, but it is thought that cedar of Lebanon was probably used.