

of miles per second, ever travelling on, on, with no return; always on a new track, meeting new constellations, passing great systems, on, and still on for eternity.

In the first days of the New Year came an unannounced comet. It was first seen, it is said, by Prof. Drake in South Africa. Its orbit has not yet been calculated, but it is probably a transient.

Our whole Solar System is moving onwards through space, how fast or slow we cannot tell, on account of the enormous distances of the fixed stars. Perhaps in the interstellar spaces are nebulae which are constantly coming under the influence of the sun's attraction and being light, are easily acted upon. These may form some of the comets.

Joseph Hamilton, a recent writer upon this subject, states that he does not think that the sun is the influential body, but that somewhere out in space, from whence the comets come and whither they go, there is an influence of which we know not. At the best, the theories regarding comets are speculative, though there are some things—such as the repetition of their acts, as in the return of some of these wanderers at the exact period calculated—which lead us to believe that there is some truth in these speculations.

But their origin? What do astronomers say of that? Some may be nebulae, as has been said, and caught by our sun. Others may be masses travelling through space which enter the field of our solar attraction. Others may be the result of an explosion in a star. Others may have