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**"WHY IS A COMET?" BY PROFESSOR SWEZEY**

**MYSTERY OF HALLEY'S 'PROTEGE' IS CLEARED.**

**TELLS WHY IT MISSED THE EARTH**

**Origin of Comet Is Volcanic—Bent Its Tail on Trip Near Sun—Why It Traveled Tail First.**

Convocation this morning was devoted to a general study of the mystery of mysteries—Halley's comet, under the guidance of Prof. G. D. Swezey of the University of Nebraska. Memorial Hall was filled to the galleries with university students, the crowd probably being even larger than it would have been had not the comet been discernable last night.

Professor Swezey's lecture was not confined to a scientific treatise of Halley's comet, but rather was prepared with great simplicity, in view of the fact that very few of the students had an extensive knowledge of astronomy. To increase the clearness of his discussion, Professor Swezey displayed many stereopticon views of photographs of Halley's and other comets, taken by astronomers of high repute. Because of an apparent inability of the students to understand the many different directions in which the views showed the comet to be traveling, the lecturer explained by practical illustrations the fact that parallel lines converge in a point, and that many lines seemingly not parallel really are.

**Hurled Into Space.**  
 The comet, he declared, travels in an orbit and requires seventy-five years to make a semi-revolution. At some unknown time this body was hurled into space. It continued straight until the great gravity of the sun caused it to describe a short curve and return in practically the same orbit it made on the outward journey. As it nears the sun, it makes a short dip, which if pursued would end in the body of the sun. Its extreme velocity at this time, however, causes it to be sharply deflected, to narrowly miss the sun, and dart off again on a seventy-five year jaunt, only at the expiration of this time to repeat the same trip.

He attributed the origin of the comet in question to some volcanic eruption of the sun's surface, during which this great body of matter or gas was hurled into space. By means of stereopticon views, he proved that similar eruptions had occurred, and that huge bodies had been expelled into space because of the infinite solar power.

Professor Swezey accounted very clearly for the earth's failure to pass through the tail of the comet as predicted. While treating this phase of the subject, he also took particular care to vindicate all the astronomers in their unanimous decision on the exact time this incident should occur. Their determinations, he said, were regarding the exact moment that the head of the comet should pass through the earth's orbit, between the earth and the sun. The astronomers' predictions were accurate. The head of the comet did pass through the defined space at the required time. But a revelation was made relative to the tail of the comet. This tail was sup-

Continued on Page 2

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 the rest of the year  
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