The consequence was that attempts were made to knit together all these new discoveries and hypotheses into one cosmogonic theory, in which solar systems and the formation of galactic systems are discussed perhaps rather more from electromagnetic points of view than from the theory of gravitation.

One of the most peculiar features of this cosmogony is that space beyond the heavenly bodies is assumed to be filled with flying atoms and corpuscles of all kinds in such density that the aggregate mass of the heavenly bodies within a limited, very large space would be only a very small fraction of the aggregate mass of the flying atoms there.

And we imagine that an average equilibrium exists in infinite space, between disintegration of the heavenly bodies on the one hand, and gathering and condensation of flying corpusles on the other.

I cannot conclude this great work without expressing my warmest thanks to my numerous assistants for their most able collaboration. If I mention them according to the number of years in which they have faithfully helped me, I must begin with my good old friend, now dead, schoolmaster DIETRICHSON, who for ten years continued to work every day at my side. In the next place there are some young, energetic men, a few of whom have already begun independent work — Mr. KROGNESS, now manager of the Haldde Observatory, Mr. VEGARD, now a tutor at our university, Mr. SKOLEM, a very skilful mathematician, and Mr. DEVIK, a capital experimenter. Further Captain BULL, of the Norwegian Navy, and Mr. NORBY, have done a large amount of calculation, and Mr. NATRUD and Mr. B. TOLSTAD, assistants at the Norwegian Geographical Survey, have made many drawings. The translation of also the whole of this volume has been done very satisfactorily by Miss JESSIE MUIR.

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Kr. Birkeland.