found in the east before sunrise. At and near the time of greatest brilliancy Venus may be easily seen in broad daylight and also like the moon she casts a strong shadow.

BRICKS FROM PRESSED DIRT USED IN EUROPE

A compressed brick made from ordinary dirt and suitable for house construction has been developed by two French engineers working under the auspices of the National committee for Scientific Research and Invention.

In the process perfected by MM. Waligorsky and Carriere, ordinary subsoil earth containing five to eight per cent of clay is compressed by tremendous pressure. The resultant bricks have a pressure resistance of 600 pounds per square inch.

Walls are coated with a protective mixture which makes them impervious to moisture. The Committee states that the new bricks are only recommended for low buildings. Their chief value will be on the farm where outbuildings and walls can now be built with materials found on the premises.

The committee is trying to duplicate the results obtained by a German engineer named Hecht who uses a mixture of other ingredients. To greasy, slippery earth is added either foundry waste, coke ashes or other cheap porous substances. Pine needles are kneaded into the mixture which is placed in moulds, compressed by hand and allowed to dry in the open air. The bricks formed are considerably larger than the ordinary variety, thus reducing the labor of brick-laying.

Two workers and an assistant working at Gross-Lichterfeld are able to make 200 to 225 bricks in an eight-hour day, equivalent to 1300 bricks of the ordinary size.

Once they are dry these blocks are sufficiently hard to be laid the same as other bricks. A special mortar has been prepared. Laboratory tests show a resistance of 64 pounds per square inch for blocks four weeks old. Age makes them more resistant. Outside walls are made 9 to 12 inches thick, inside separating walls only 5 inches. Only one-story buildings are constructed but they are dry, warm in winter and cool in summer.

BIG GROUP OF SUN SPOTS MAY BE SEEN

A group of sunspots, visible under good conditions with the naked eye, and easily seen through field glasses of moderate power, is now travelling across the sun's face. The group is the largest seen in several weeks. It consists of four separate spots with a few dark streaks between and has been growing in size for several days. The spots were in almost the middle of the sun's face on May 15, somewhat south of the solar equator. They will disappear around the edge of the orb about May 22 but because of foreshortening will be hard to see for a few days before that time.

Persons trying to see this group of spots should always use heavily smoked or colored glass when looking at the sun. If field glasses are used the smoked glass should be placed between the glass and the sun.