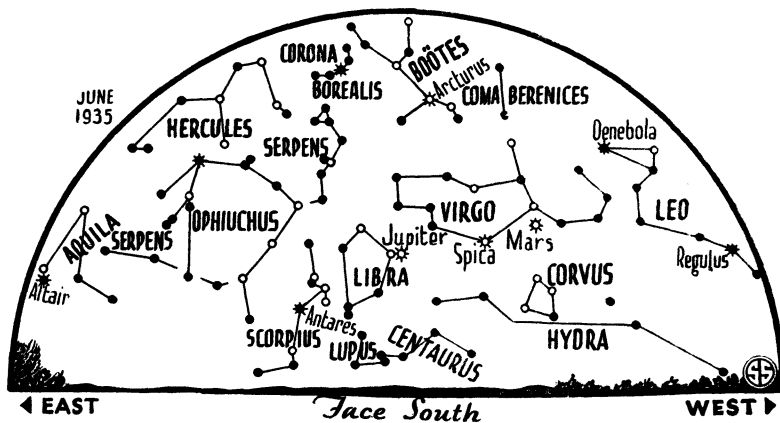


☆ * ∘ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS



75,520,000 MILES AWAY

Ruddy Mars is travelling away from us and growing fainter, but even by the end of the month it will still equal the bright star Vega in brilliance.

This month is somewhat unusual in having two new moons. One will occur, of course, on June 30, for only at the time it is new can the moon eclipse the sun. The other will happen on the first of the month. The moon's distance also changed during June. On the 8th it will be at apogee, or farthest away, at the distance of 251,150 miles. Perigee, when the moon is closest the earth, will come on the 20th, when 227,950 miles will separate us. On the evening of June 2, the moon passes Mercury at a distance to the north of less than twice the moon's apparent diameter. But this will be so soon after the moon is new and both bodies will be so near the sun, that it will be almost impossible to observe. The moon will pass Venus on the fourth, Mars on the 11th and Jupiter on the 13th. It will go by Saturn, which is seen after midnight in the east, on the 22d.

The three bright planets that came into the evening sky a few months ago are now drawing closer together, and all shine with great brilliance in the evening skies of June, along with the stars that always appear at this time of year. The brightest of all is Venus, directly west, in the constellation of Cancer, the crab. It is indicated on the accompanying maps, which show the evening skies of June as they appear at ten p. m., standard time, at the beginning of the month, nine p. m. on the 15th and eight p. m. on the 30th.

A little higher, and south of Cancer, is Leo, the lion, in which appears the bright star Regulus, at the end of the handle of the "Sickle," a smaller group forming part of the lion. Next to Leo, towards the south, is Virgo, the virgin. The bright star Spica, about 40 degrees

above the horizon in the south, is in Virgo, and, at present, so is the planet Mars. Jupiter, third planet of the June evenings, is about as high as Spica, but farther east, in Libra, the scales.

The planets are members of the solar system, bodies similar to the earth, which revolve around the sun. The stars are suns themselves, only far more distant than the one that forms the heart of our system. Vega is the brightest star that we can see these June evenings. It is in Lyra, the lyre, towards the east and about as high as Jupiter above the horizon. Just below is Cygnus, the swan, sometimes called the "northern cross," with the cross horizontal, and the star Deneb at its northern end. Altair, in Aquila, the eagle, can be seen low in the east.

Low in the southeast is another brilliant sun, Antares, part of Scorpius, the

scorpion. To the south, above Virgo, is Boötes, from which Arcturus shines. Hanging downwards from the zenith, toward the northwest, is the great dipper, in Ursa Major, the great bear. Below it, near the horizon, can be seen several stars that were conspicuous in the south a few months ago. Next to Cancer, to the north, is the part of Gemini, the twins, still remaining in view, and this part contains Castor and Pollux, the latter to the south. And still lower, farther to the north and hard to see unless you have a clear horizon, is Capella, about all that can be found of Auriga, the charioteer. Directly north can be found Cassiopeia, shaped like the letter W.

Science News Letter, May 25, 1935

PHYSIOLOGY

Doctors Okay Peppermint Candy After Heavy Meal

THE POPULAR custom of offering guests peppermint candy or peppermint cordials after a heavy meal has scientific support in the findings of four Chicago physicians, Drs. H. I. Sapoznik, R. A. Arens, Jacob Meyer, and Heinrich Necheles (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, May 18).

Tests made both on dogs and on human beings showed that the oil of peppermint that is present in peppermint candy has a decided motor action on the stomach. Digestion is speeded up, and the stomach empties an hour faster. The peppermint is particularly useful after a meal with a high fat content, making the person's stomach feel less full and distended.

Science News Letter, May 25, 1935

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