



☆ * ○ ● SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

of railroad tracks. As a result, in the early morning of August 12, you may be able to see about a meteor a minute. Fortunately, this year the moon does not greatly interfere. It is then about eleven days old, between the first quarter and full, and sets about 1:30 a.m., so after that, the sky will be dark, and the meteors will shine without any serious competition.

Meteor observation is a task in which many amateurs help the professional. One thing that he wants to know is the number of meteors seen. A count by half hourly periods, i. e., from midnight to 12:30, 12:30 to 1:00 a.m., 1:00 to 1:30, etc., is helpful. One astronomer who is glad to receive such reports is Dr. Charles P. Olivier, of the University of Pennsylvania and president of the American Meteor Society, whose address is Flower Observatory, Upper

Darby, Pa. In reporting such data, give the location from which you observed, and also a statement of the extent of cloudiness during the period you watched.

Celestial Time Table for August

Aug.	EWT	PHENOMENON
4	4:26 a.m.	Moon passes Venus.
8	11:26 p.m.	Moon in first quarter.
12	early a.m.	Meteors of Perseid shower.
15	4:00 a.m.	Moon nearest: distance 222,100 miles. Partial eclipse of moon (see text).
	3:34 p.m.	Full moon.
22	11:37 a.m.	Moon passes Mars.
	12:04 p.m.	Moon in last quarter.
24	2:29 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn.
28	3:00 a.m.	Moon farthest: Distance 252,300 miles.
	4:34 p.m.	Moon passes Jupiter.
29	1:00 a.m.	Mercury farthest east of sun.
30	3:59 p.m.	New moon.
31	2:00 a.m.	Moon passes Venus.

Subtract one hour for CWT, two hours for MWT, and three for PWT.

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helping to pave the way for better understanding between the groups of nations who use different systems of weights and measures."

An Inter-American Department of the American Standards Association has been formed which is now conducting a survey among South American standardization groups and business men.

This country's experience in formulating standards for the goods of commerce is being used by a committee of Chinese technical men now in this country. They are formulating standards with an eye on the postwar period as part of a study of the economic rehabilitation of China.

More active cooperation with Mexico is also developing since a Department of National Standards was formed out of the old Department of Weights and Measures.

In Peru a project is under way to establish an official standardizing body for the first time. Chile expects to have a similar group in the near future, either sponsored by the engineers or under government support.

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RESOURCES

Stove Shortage May Be Eased By Ceramic Heater

► **SHORTAGE** of heating stoves, developing due to lack of metals, may be eased by ceramic heaters designed at Ohio State University under the supervision of Prof. George A. Bole of the Engineering Experiment Station.

Successful stoves require careful blending of the raw clays, Prof. Bole explains, and more than one type of mixture is needed to make a completed stove.

Designs have already been developed to the point where manufacturers can take over, as a result of the research project initiated at the suggestion of the War Production Board.

Planned as a war measure, the new stoves made of non-strategic materials might also find a place in the post-war era, ceramic experts believe. Members of the Ohio Ceramic Industries Association met July 23 to discuss manufacture of the heaters.

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PHYSICS

Need Uniform Standards

Latin-American countries are now being surveyed in effort to develop inter-American standards for the goods of everyday life.

► **HOW** the good neighbor policy is being extended to develop inter-American standards for the goods of everyday life was disclosed to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers meeting in Cleveland by Alberto Magno-Rodrigues of the American Standards Association.

The metric system of measurement, using centimeters and grams instead of inches and ounces, has been one of the biggest obstacles in adopting mutual standards between countries. Germans and other Europeans who use the metric

system along with the Latin-Americans have long capitalized on this advantage.

Mass production, which makes standardization so valuable, now reduces the importance of the unit of measurement, Mr. Magno-Rodrigues explained, as compared with the specified size of the product. This makes the "go" and "not go" type of gauge popular over the inspector's scale and micrometer formerly used.

"The acceptance of the 25.4 ratio for the conversion of the inch to millimeters," the engineers were told, "is also

● RADIO

Saturday, Aug. 7, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Paul Weiss, zoologist of the University of Chicago, will discuss the possibility of establishing nerve banks.

