

misprinted procession) of the equinoxes, a slow wobbling movement of the earth's axis by which in the course of nearly 26,000 years it traces out a large circle in the sky, bringing various stars into the position of the pole star.

In Lyra several interesting objects are revealed by the telescope. With Vega there are two fainter stars which form a little equilateral triangle. The most northerly one is epsilon Lyrae, sometimes called the "double double." To a very keen eye what seems at first a single star appears as two, while the telescope shows that each member of the pair is itself double. In Lyra also is the famous Ring nebula, a globe of glowing gas which looks, through the telescope, like a smoke ring in the sky. It cannot be seen at all with the naked eye.

Also close to Vega, just across the border in the next-door constellation of Hercules, is the place where we are going. That is, the entire solar system—sun, planets, and all—are moving through space toward this part of the sky at a speed of 12.2 miles per second. The result of this, incidentally, is that the movement of the earth is in a helix, or corkscrew, and not in a plane circle. This is a fact that has been well-known to astronomers for years, and is fully described in many textbooks, although once in a while some uninformed person suddenly finds it out and thinks he has made a great discovery!

To the south is the figure of Sagittarius, the archer, which has some points of interest, because it is the direction of the center of our celestial city—the Milky Way, or galaxy. All the stars that we see, and a vast number that are only revealed

by the telescope, form a system that has the shape of a bun, or rather thick watch, so large that light takes about 100,000 years to cross it. This, even though the speed of light is 186,000 miles every second. The center, toward Sagittarius, is about 30,000 light years away.

The glowing path of light that we call the Milky Way is simply the edge of the galaxy, for when we look toward it we see more stars than when we look to the sides. But vast though this galaxy is, it is only one of many such systems in the sky, which again makes us realize the minute part of creation that is occupied by man and his works.

Celestial Time Table for September

Sept.	EWT	
2	6:57 a.m.	Moon passes Saturn
3	6:41 a.m.	Moon passes Venus
4	5:49 p.m.	Moon passes Mercury
6	8:00 a.m.	Mercury farthest west of sun
	9:43 a.m.	New moon
7	8:04 p.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
10	8:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,000 miles
14	1:38 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
21	4:46 p.m.	Full moon
22	midnight	Moon nearest, distance 223,500 miles
23	5:50 a.m.	Sun crosses equator, autumn commences
28	7:24 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
	7:39 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
29	4:26 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
30	7:00 p.m.	Moon passes Mercury

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

Science News Letter, September 1, 1945

MEDICINE

Sailors and Marines Used Cold Cream and Lipstick

➤ **HARDBOILED** sailors on our fighting ships used cold cream, and Marines on sun-scorched Pacific isles carried lipsticks. These now-it-can-be-told secrets

came out in the course of a radio address by Rear Adm. Harold W. Smith, chief of the research division in the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

However, the cold cream was anything but a boudoir luxury. It was a specially developed protection against the painful type of injury known as flash burn, which our men risked whenever they went into action stripped to the waist.

Similarly, the lipstick wasn't an item you'd be likely to find in any lady's handbag. Its color is a most unglamorous gray-brown—but it is an effective preventive of the painful sunburn that afflicts men's mouths and noses where the sun pours on an excess of "hot" ultraviolet rays.

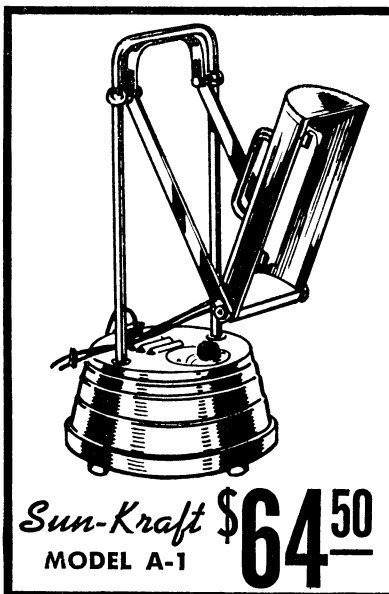
These, of course, are relatively minor products of naval medical research, Admiral Smith explained. As examples of larger undertakings that saved many lives under strenuous field conditions he cited the whole prepared blood program, the anti-G suits that kept flyers from "black-ing out" at the bottom of a high-speed dive, and the emergency kits with which all life rafts are now equipped.

Admiral Smith spoke as guest of Science Service on the CBS public service feature "Adventures in Science."

Science News Letter, September 1, 1945

Tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers and squash can be trained to the garden fence.

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