



◊ \* ○ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

the bulk of the light coming from one only.

**Time Table for January**

Jan.	EST	Event
1	6:00 a. m.	Mercury farthest east of sun
3	1:00 a. m.	Earth nearest sun, distance 91,445,000 miles
4	2:48 a. m.	Full moon
8	11:53 p. m.	Moon passes Saturn
10	5:08 a. m.	Moon passes Mars
11	5:31 a. m.	Moon in last quarter
13	1:00 a. m.	Moon nearest, distance 225,700 miles
	2:15 a. m.	Algol at minimum

16	11:04 p. m.	Algol at minimum
17	noon	Mercury between earth and sun
18	2:59 a. m.	New moon
19	8:37 a. m.	Moon passes Venus
	7:53 p. m.	Algol at minimum
22	4:42 p. m.	Algol at minimum
25	5:00 p. m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,200 miles
	11:39 p. m.	Moon in first quarter
31	2:00 a. m.	Venus between earth and sun

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, December 31, 1949

GENERAL SCIENCE

# Vogt's Stand Costs Job

► URGING birth control as a means of reducing populations and therefore conserving a nation's natural resources has cost a man his job.

The man is William Vogt who has been chief of the Pan-American Union's conservation section since 1943. In that position, Mr. Vogt studied soil and other conservation problems in Latin America and advised the governments of those nations on resources and conservation problems. His work has been internationally recognized by fellow scientists.

Last month Mr. Vogt quietly resigned from his post at the Pan-American Union. Digging into the situation, Science Service found the following facts:

1. Mr. Vogt had been told last July to cease his literary activities. This followed publication in the Saturday Evening Post of his article on weaknesses of President Truman's Point Four Program.
2. A year earlier, in May or June, 1948, Ambassador Felix Nieto del Rio of Chile had voiced objections before the Pan-American Union's governing board to parts of Mr. Vogt's book "Road to Survival" following their publication in Harper's Magazine. (An embassy spokesman, in the absence of Ambassador del Rio who he said is out of the country, said the objection was not to Mr. Vogt's scientific observations

but to his political references. The ambassador felt, said the spokesman, that Mr. Vogt should make a choice: either "continue to propagandize or leave the Union.")

3. Dr. Alberto Lleras, Secretary General of the Pan-American Union, declined to comment on the assertion that Mr. Vogt had been muzzled, saying, "There seems no reason to issue a statement. Mr. Vogt knows why he submitted his resignation. He did so voluntarily. I did not ask him for it."

4. Another official of the Pan-American Union, who refused to allow use of his name, stated that the question had arisen "whether you can appropriately work for an international organization and at the same time write popular articles which criticize member governments."

In his book and other writings Mr. Vogt has bluntly charged that governments in Latin America as well as throughout the world have failed to handle their problems of reducing populations and conserving natural resources. He contends that unless steps are taken to check the growth of population, there will never be enough food and other resources, no matter how carefully they are conserved.

Mr. Vogt himself when asked to comment said, "As far as I am concerned, there is no controversy between me and

the Pan-American Union.

"I would prefer to tell you about my new book," Mr. Vogt said. It will be about "how the Scandinavians have come to terms with their environment. It will be a sort of sequel to 'Road to Survival,' answering some of the questions raised there," he said.

When his present researches on it are finished, he plans to go to Europe next year to gather further material for the book.

Science News Letter, December 31, 1949

MEDICINE

## Pattern of Diabetes Heredity Explored

► A TENDENCY, or predisposition, to diabetes is inherited through a single recessive gene, Drs. Arthur G. Steinberg and Russell M. Wilder of the Mayo Clinic reported at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A gene is a unit in the chromosome which carries a hereditarily transmissible character.

When both parents are diabetic, every one of their children is a potential diabetic, the Mayo scientists stated. Half the brothers and sisters of a diabetic person are potential diabetics if one parent is diabetic, and one-quarter of a diabetic's brothers and sisters are potential diabetics if neither parent is diabetic.

The report, the doctors stated, is preliminary and based on the first 422 case histories which have been collected. The study was undertaken to clarify the nature of the hereditary pattern in diabetes, which has been a matter of "considerable disagreement." Because the disease starts at a "variable and usually late age," the doctors pointed out, the "possibility of prevention is great."

The age of a diabetic parent at the time the diabetes started does not influence the age at which the diabetes will start in diabetic children.

The disease is more frequent, the doctors found, in children of lower birth order, that is the first born children, than among those of higher birth order.

If neither parent of a diabetic is diabetic, about 6% of the diabetic's brothers and sisters have the disease. If one parent is diabetic, about 12% of the brothers and sisters of the diabetic have the disease.

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The U. S. Bureau of Mines has several *minerals reference "libraries"* containing drill-core samples of ore and records of each sample; these specimens are cylinder-shaped, being bored out of the earth with hollow drills.

The new roof on the U. S. Capitol at Washington contains a two-inch insulation of "glass" in the form of a special type composed of millions of tiny glass cells filled with air.