

★ * ○ ● SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

But owing to a slow movement of the skies, called "precession," which takes nearly 26,000 years to complete, the equinox slips around the heavens toward the west. However, the name "first point of Aries," was given when it really was in that group, and has been retained in spite of the fact that this is no longer true.

This, incidentally, is one of the reasons why astronomers completely reject the claims of the astrologers that the position of a planet in the sky exerts some mysterious influence upon the earth, particularly upon people born at the time. What the astrologers use are the "signs," which are the places where the constellations used to be, not the positions where they are at present.

Surely if there were any influence of the planets, depending on what distant background of stars they happened to stand against, it would be reasonable to suppose that it would be the stars actually in the background and not those that would have been there many thousands of years ago.

Celestial Time Table for December

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Science News Letter, November 24, 1951

MEDICINE

Debate Milk's Cancer Role

➤ WHETHER HUMAN breast milk carries a cancer-causing virus, as mouse milk can, is still an unanswered question, it appears from reports at the New York Academy of Sciences conference on viruses as causative agents of cancer.

Numerous sphere-shaped, submicroscopic particles that might be cancer virus were found on electron microscope examination of breast milk from mothers with a record of cancer in some member of the family, Drs. Ludwik Gross and Kenneth S. McCarty of the Veterans Administration Hospital, Bronx, N. Y., and Dr. Albert E. Gessler, of Interchemical Corporation, New York, reported.

Mothers from families apparently free of cancer had these particles in some samples of their milk, but not in almost all as the cancer-family mothers did.

These particles may be normal components of human milk, but "it may well be," the scientists point out, that "some of them, at least," are disease agents, including perhaps a cancer agent.

More of such particles were found in material extracted from breast cancers and from breast milk of women with breast cancer than in milk from apparently healthy women, Drs. L. Dmochowski and R. D. Passey of the University of Leeds, England, reported.

The number of specimens they examined, 38 in all, is too small, the English scientists state, "to permit any final conclusions."

Science News Letter, November 24, 1951



Stimulating Books in the field of

Human Behavior

Bases of Human Behavior: A Biologic Approach to Psychiatry by Leon J. Saul, M.D. New, 1951. 150 Pages. \$4.00
Emotional Maturity: The Development and Dynamics of Personality by Leon J. Saul, M.D. 1st Edition, 1947. 339 Pages. \$5.00
Principles and Practice of the Rorschach Personality Test by W. Mons, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 2nd Edition, issued in America in 1951. 176 Pages. \$4.00
Handbook of Psychiatry by Overholser and Richmond 1st Edition, 1947. 252 Pages. \$4.00
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