



◊ * * ◦ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

Compare what happens on Dec. 21. Then the sun, at its highest for 40 north latitude, is 63½ degrees from the zenith; that is, it is only 26½ degrees from the horizon. Our yard-square beam of sunlight is then spread over about 2¼ square yards, so its heating effect is less than half as great. This, combined with the shorter duration of sunshine, accounts for the small amount of heat the northern hemisphere gets in winter.

If it were just a matter of the heat coming from the sun, however, we would have warmest weather at the summer solstice, and coldest at the one of winter. But, for some weeks after the summer solstice, the ground gets more heat during the day than it can give up during the night.

Each day is a little warmer than the day before, until the last half of July, when maximum temperatures may be reached. A similar effect, in reverse, accounts for the fact that the coldest weather comes not at Dec. 21, but in January. Not until then does

the earth begin to gain during the day as much heat as it lost during the preceding night, and thus permit general temperatures to increase.

Celestial Timetable for June

June	EST	
3	4:14 a. m.	Moon passes Saturn
4	8:22 p. m.	Moon passes Mars
8	12:07 a. m.	Full moon
10	2:00 a. m.	Moon nearest, distance 225,200 miles
14	3:28 p. m.	Moon in last quarter
18	8:46 a. m.	Moon passes Jupiter
21	6:13 a. m.	Sun farthest north, summer commences in northern hemisphere
22	3:45 a. m.	New moon
25	6:00 p. m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,100 miles
30	8:11 a. m.	Moon in first quarter
	1:12 p. m.	Moon passes Saturn

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

Science News Letter, May 31, 1952

MEDICINE

Men Need to Be Cancer Alerted

➤ MANY MEN have the wrong notion that cancer is a woman's disease. Many others refuse to think about cancer because they have the idea, again a wrong one, that if they get cancer "they're done for."

Actually, as many men die of cancer as women. But very many of them can be saved, just as is the case with women. Most of the cancers that affect men are more difficult to detect than those that affect women. Consequently, if a man wants to be saved from cancer death, for his own sake and his family's, he should be particularly alert to cancer. And remember that pain is not an early symptom of cancer, so don't wait for pain to send you to a doctor to see whether you have cancer.

Things a man can do to protect himself, as given by the American Cancer Society, are the following:

First: Have a thorough checkup (including a rectal examination) by your family physician once a year. This is especially important if you are in the danger period—from age 40 on. Pick a regular time, such as the week before your birthday.

Second: Learn the seven danger signals which may mean cancer—

1. Any sore that does not heal.
2. A lump or thickening in the breast or elsewhere.
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
4. Any change in a wart or mole.
5. Persistent indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Persistent hoarseness or cough.
7. Any change in normal bowel habits.

Third: Don't take home remedies for persistent indigestion instead of seeing your doctor. This symptom (especially after age 40) is always serious and you should immediately learn the cause. A persistent cough or hoarseness should always be investigated. Give your teeth and mouth good care. Don't smoke too much.

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MEDICINE

Aid Brucellosis Treatment

➤ TREATMENT OF brucellosis is from two to ten times as effective when patients are given desensitizing and immunizing shots along with an antibiotic drug such as chloromycetin, Drs. Alberto P. Leon, C. Cano and M. E. Vergara of the Institute of Public Health and Tropical Diseases, Mexico City, find.

Brucellosis, also called undulant fever and Malta fever, is a long drawn-out, weakening sickness with the fever coming and going. It is acquired chiefly by drinking raw milk from cows that have the disease.

Chloromycetin and other antibiotics such as streptomycin, aureomycin and terramycin give prompt but not lasting results in treatment of patients with brucellosis. Dr. Leon and associates point out that relapses come because the body has not built up resistance to the germs during the time they are being held at bay by the antibiotic drug.

Their treatment is designed to increase this resistance.

Brucellosis germs cause an allergic reaction as well as infection, so immunizing shots must be given in small, progressively increasing doses to desensitize the patient to the material so that enough can be given to produce immunity.

Dr. Leon and associates have now treated almost 500 patients by this method. In 79 reported on in detail in the journal SCIENCE (May 23), they state that fever disappeared in an average of three days and other symptoms in "some weeks."

There were only 6.3% relapses over a period of 11.4 months, compared to relapses of 12% to 66% reported by other doctors who used chloromycetin without the sensitizing and immunizing shots used by Dr. Leon and his co-workers.

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