



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

seen with the naked eye under the most favorable conditions, but these do not prevail around a large city. However, even there, on a clear night it should be possible to see Uranus with a pair of binoculars, or even opera glasses, if one knows where to look.

In May we are provided with a convenient guide with which to find Uranus, namely Jupiter, which passes its brother planet on the afternoon of May 10 at 4:00 p.m. EST.

When closest, Uranus is only one minute of arc to the north, a distance only a thirtieth of the apparent diameter of the moon. By that evening, of course, they will have moved apart a little, but will still be close. So take a pair of opera glasses on the evening of May 10 and look at Jupiter, the brightest star or planet in the sky. The much fainter body nearby will be Uranus.

**Celestial Time Table for May**

May	EST	Event
4	early a.m.	Meteors visible radiating from constellation of Aquarius.
6	5:14 p.m.	Full moon.
7	1:22 a.m.	Moon passes Saturn.
8	7:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,300 miles.
9	1:00 a.m.	Saturn nearest, distance 825,900,000 miles.
10	4:00 p.m.	Jupiter passes Uranus.
14	8:42 p.m.	Moon in last quarter.
19	8:43 p.m.	Moon passes Venus.
21	3:58 p.m.	New moon.
	5:00 p.m.	Mercury farthest east of sun.
	11:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 220,100 miles.
23	5:26 a.m.	Moon passes Mercury.
	1:07 p.m.	Moon passes Venus.
25	12:16 p.m.	Moon passes Jupiter.
28	9:01 a.m.	Moon in first quarter.

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

Science News Letter, April 23, 1955

CHEMISTRY

**Material Resistant to Acid**

➤ AN IVORY-LIKE substance similar to graphite in resistance to acids was announced as a new material with unusual properties at the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Chemically it is boron nitride. Besides being white instead of black, boron nitride differs also from graphite in its high electrical resistivity. Its structural strength is greater than that of graphite at low temperatures, although it is somewhat weaker at high temperatures.

It can be heated to 700 degrees centigrade, nearly 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit, without burning, and oxidizes only slowly from there up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. It is resistant to corrosive chemicals.

Boron nitride was prepared by the Carborundum Co., Niagara Falls, N. Y., and was described to the meeting by Dr. K. M. Taylor of Carborundum's research and development division.

Other refractory materials described to the meeting as suitable for use at high temperatures or for handling corrosive

liquids were listed as fused oxides of aluminum, calcium, magnesium, thorium and zirconium. Data on how to use them were given by Dr. O. J. Whittemore Jr., of the Norton Co., Worcester, Mass. Carbides of silicon, titanium and zirconium, and borides of carbon, titanium and zirconium were also listed by him as available for similar uses.

Silicon carbide, long known as an abrasive, can be bonded with silicon nitride to form tools and machine parts of intricate shape from acid-spray nozzles, burner tips for acid sludge, immersed thermocouples in corrosive melts, pumps for abrasive slurries, and agitating blades operating under difficult conditions, the meeting was told by Dr. Frank C. Roe of the Carborundum Co., Perth Amboy, N. J.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1955

The *clavicle*, or collar bone, can be dispensed with without any significant impairment of body function, a group of physiicians report.

PSYCHOLOGY

**Tactile Sense Loss in Brain-Injured Veterans**

➤ VETERANS SUFFERING from a penetrating injury in the brain lose their ability to learn a pattern through the sense of touch.

Experiments with 53 men with such injuries were reported to the Eastern Psychological Association in Philadelphia. Each patient reached under a curtain into a box. There a metal pattern mounted on a wood block was placed in his palm. Then he was required to choose from among six other patterns the one that felt like the sample.

He was given three trials and any improvement in matching up the patterns was noted.

Those with an injury on one side of the brain did not improve with repeated trials with the opposite hand—that controlled by the injured side of the brain.

Men injured on both sides of the brain showed no improvement with either hand.

A comparison group of veterans with no brain injury but only leg wounds showed learning with both hands.

The loss of touch learning ability showed up in the brain injured group whether or not they had suffered any noticeable sensorimotor defect.

The study was reported by Drs. Lila Ghent, S. Weinstein, Josephine Semmes and H. L. Teuber, of the New York University College of Medicine.

Science News Letter, April 23, 1955

*Milk* has a higher percentage of solids than carrots, beets, onions or tomatoes.

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