

distance of 32.6 light years. Thus, the absolute magnitude of Altair is 2.2, of Vega 0.5. For Deneb it is minus 7.1, which means that it is more than 1,500 times the brilliance of a first magnitude star.

Celestial Time Table for September

SEPT.	EDT	
2	1:00 a.m.	Moon passes Saturn
3	3:34 p.m.	Full moon
6	3:00 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
	12:00 noon	Moon nearest; distance 226,800 miles
10	7:43 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
17	4:51 p.m.	New moon
20	10:00 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
22	9:00 a.m.	Moon farthest; distance 251,900 miles
23	2:24 p.m.	Sun over equator; autumn commences in Northern Hemisphere
29	8:00 a.m.	Moon passes Saturn

Subtract one hour for CDT, two hours for MDT, and three hours for PDT.

• Science News Letter, 84:122 Aug. 24, 1963

ZOOLOGY

Mice Drink More Alcohol Before Nine Weeks Old

► MICE APPEAR to lose their taste for alcohol when they are about nine weeks old.

Young mice given a choice between tap-water and a ten percent alcohol solution chose the alcohol solution about one-third to one-half the time, on the average. Older mice chose the alcohol solution less than one-fifth of the time.

Two different sets of tests were conducted, one in which independent groups of mice ranging in age from three to 20 weeks were used, and one in which the same group of mice was tested at four weeks and 16 weeks of age.

Results from both tests indicate that the young mice have a much higher preference for alcohol than do the older mice, and the three-to-20-week test indicated that the change occurs about the ninth week.

However, no significant differences due to sex were discovered. Dr. Gerald E. McClearn and Miss Ryoko Kakihana of the department of psychology of the University of California, Berkeley, reported in *Nature*, 199:511, 1963.

• Science News Letter, 84:123 Aug. 24, 1963

Do You Know?

Fish protein is easily digested, making it ideal for special diets of children and older citizens.

Astronauts on long-range trips may become sleepy from living in a gravity-free environment, according to some experts.

Overweight is the most frequent physical abnormality found in the general population of the United States.

If a car is going 30 miles an hour, an impact will create a force 30 times the strain of gravity.

• Science News Letter, 84:123 Aug. 24, 1963

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