

The star in the Sickle marked by a small "g" also appears as two when seen through a telescope. One is orange, the other greenish yellow. This is called gamma Leonis, and is a true binary star. Its two components really are rather close, and they revolve around the center of gravity between them. Of the numerous double stars in the sky, this pair is generally considered one of the finest.

**Celestial Timetable for April**

APRIL	EST	
3	2:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 224,300 miles
5	6:14 a.m.	Full moon
6	8:00 a.m.	Venus farthest west of sun
12	12:29 p.m.	Moon in last quarter
15	1:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,800 miles
16	8:00 a.m.	Moon passes south of Venus
17	3:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Saturn
18	4:00 a.m.	Moon passes south of Mercury
	6:00 a.m.	Mercury farthest west of sun
20	3:36 p.m.	New moon
	EDST	
25	4:00 a.m.	Moon passes north of Jupiter
27	11:50 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
29	1:00 a.m.	Mars behind sun

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

• Science News, 89:202 March 26, 1966

**ASTRONOMY**

**Ionized Particles Can Polish Mirrors**

► THE ACCIDENTAL discovery that a beam of charged particles can be used to polish telescope mirrors holds promise of the possibility of making surfaces of mirrors flat to a higher accuracy than obtained by other methods.

The more highly polished, or flat, a mirror is, the clearer the photographs taken with a telescope, other factors being equal.

The discovery of what is termed "ionic polishing" was made by Drs. A. B. Meinel and S. Bashkin of the University of Arizona, Tucson, and Dr. A. Loomis of Kitt Peak National Observatory, also in Tucson.

It happened this way: The new atomic accelerator at the University of Arizona was being tested. A beam of ionized particles was supposed to be focused on the rough side of a piece of fused silica, in order to check on the beam size.

By mistake, the good side was used. When this was discovered, examination showed that this ion-bombarded surface had a polish at least as good and probably better than before it had inadvertently been exposed to the beam.

The surface was surprisingly uniform, the scientists found. They estimate roughly that each ion removed one atom of the target.

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