

Charioteer, another first magnitude star.

Now let us look at the western sky. Half way from horizon to zenith, resting on one corner, is the great square of Pegasus, the upper star of which is in Andromeda. Just north of Andromeda is Cassiopeia, the familiar W-shaped constellation, which is supposed to represent a seated woman. In the southwest is Deneb Kaitos, part of Cetus, the sea monster that was sent to devour the fair Andromeda while she was chained to a rock, but from which Perseus rescued her, with the aid of Pegasus, on which he was mounted. In the northwest is Cygnus, the swan, sometimes called the northern cross. The cross is now vertical, with the brilliant Deneb at the top. To the north of Cygnus and close to the horizon can be seen Vega, part of Lyra, which is soon to disappear from the evening sky for a few months.

No planets are well placed in the evening sky this month. Venus is in the constellation of Capricornus, which sets soon after sunset. It is so bright now, however, of the minus 4.3 magnitude, that it can easily be seen in the gathering dusk. No other star or planet is so bright. Mars is in the same constellation, but much fainter and still closer to the sun, so that it is now quite invisible. The same thing is true of Saturn, which is close to Mars. On the seventeenth, these two planets are within nine minutes—less than a third the diameter of the full moon, of each other. If they were in a part of the sky where they could be seen, this would be a beautiful spectacle.

Jupiter, largest of the planets, is in the morning sky, near the star Spica, in Virgo, which rises about 1:00 a. m.

Phases of Moon

In January the moon goes through its phases as follows: on the 8th it is at last quarter, on the 15th new, on the 22nd first quarter and on the 30th full. On the latter date it will partly enter the shadow of the earth producing a lunar eclipse, which, unfortunately, will not be visible from this country.

On January 2 the sun was in perihelion, which means that it was closer to the earth, by several million miles, than at any other time of the year. Despite its proximity, this time of the year is cold. This is because the sun is so low in the sky that its light and heat reach us in the northern hemisphere at a glancing angle. Thus the heat is more widely dispersed than in the summer when the sun, though further away, is more nearly overhead.

During the coming year there are several interesting astronomical events scheduled. Most important, perhaps, is a total eclipse of the sun, visible from the middle of the Pacific Ocean, on the 13th and 14th of February. More details of this will be given next month.

On August 10 there will be another solar eclipse, visible in South Africa, but this will be annular, with a ring of the sun's disc remaining visible around the moon even while the eclipse is at its height. Another partial eclipse of the moon will occur on July 26 and will be visible in the western part of the United States.

The brightest star to be eclipsed, or occulted, as seen from the United States, is sigma Sagittarii, of the second mag-

nitude. On April 6, the moon will pass in front of this body for the people in the western states. But those in the East need not feel disappointed, for it will be occulted again on July 25, and this time they will see it. On November 21 the moon passes in front of a number of the Pleiades.

Several comets are expected to make their return this year, among them being Encke's, which was discovered in 1786, and returns every three and a third years. It has been observed on nearly every return since it was first found, but it never becomes brilliant enough to be seen without the aid of a telescope. In addition, several hitherto unknown comets are certain to make their appearance.

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PSYCHIATRY

Need for Affection May be Cause of Stomach Ulcers

THE CAUSE of stomach ulcer and other gastrointestinal disorders is often mental; they are brought about by a continuous exciting of the functions of the digestive organs by the unconscious mental processes of the patient, Dr. Franz Alexander, of the Chicago Institute of Psychoanalysis, reported to the American Psychoanalytic Association meeting at Washington, D. C.

A study of the personality of sufferers from peptic ulcer revealed to Dr. Alexander that they are typically of the go-getter, independent, efficient, successful type. They are those who delight in doing for others, in giving to others and having others dependent upon them. But underneath all this successful and independent exterior, there is suppressed an overwhelming desire for love and affection from others, he found. Although they do not admit it even to themselves, these individuals have a vital need for the care and affection such as a mother gives.

Since this need for love and protection is associated in very early life with the receipt of nutrition, it automatically sets off the digestive functions of the stomach which normally are dependent upon the process of nutrition. Dr. Alexander explained. When the need is overwhelming and suppressed, the stomach and digestive organs are kept constantly in the state normally aroused only when food is taken or about to be taken.

The irritation from this constant overwork of the digestive processes produces the ulcer.

One patient, cited by Dr. Alexander, was cured of his trouble when he fell in love with a quiet, motherly type of woman who was ardently devoted to him.

Another type of personality was found by Dr. Alexander to be characteristic of the patient suffering from elimination diseases such as mucous colitis. These individuals are aware of their need for service and affection and in fact are constantly complaining that they do not receive all they deserve in view of what they do for others. The service given by these persons is most generally confined to lip-service instead of real doing.

Still another type is found in the chronic sufferer from constipation. These persons excuse their lack of willingness to do for others by saying that no one does anything for them. They do not expect anything and so do not need to give. They cannot relax because of a real, although unconscious, fear of "starvation."

Dr. Alexander told of one patient who was afforded relief from her symptoms when her husband unexpectedly brought her home a gift—the first he had given her in many years of marriage.

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