



when it is a crescent, and hence appears larger. Also, on account of its approach to us, it continues to become brighter, until the crescent becomes extremely narrow. On the tenth of March it will reach maximum brightness, but then will be only about a third brighter than it is now.

Celestial Time Table for February

Feb. 2	EWT Noon	Moon farthest, 251,700 miles
	6:00 p.m.	Venus farthest east of sun

5	5:55 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
10	5:38 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
12	1:33 p.m.	New moon
13	4:48 a.m.	Algol at minimum
14	8:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, 224,700 miles
15	4:07 p.m.	Moon passes Venus
16	1:38 a.m.	Algol at minimum
18	10:27 p.m.	Algol at minimum
19	4:38 a.m.	Moon in first quarter
21	5:03 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
	7:16 p.m.	Algol at minimum
24	4:06 p.m.	Algol at minimum
26	8:07 p.m.	Full moon
28	1:43 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter

Subtract one hour for CWT, two hours for MWT, and three for PWT.

Science News Letter, January 27, 1945

MEDICINE

Sleeping Sickness Weapon

A new chemical for treatment of the African disease may be able to cure patients in the early stages in less than two weeks.

► A NEW CHEMICAL weapon against African sleeping sickness is announced by Dr. Harry Eagle, of the U. S. Public Health Service and Johns Hopkins University (*Science*, Jan. 19).

The chemical is gamma-(p-arsenophenyl)-butyric acid. Large-scale field trials, planned to include over 1,000 patients, were started last summer with the collaboration of the Sleeping Sickness Services of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, the Belgian Congo and the British Forces in West Africa.

Results of treatment of more than 200 patients so far show that with this drug it may be possible to cure patients in the early stages of the disease in less than two weeks. Treatment with other drugs may have to continue for as long as 12 or 15 weeks, according to some published reports. Results with the new drug in treatment of late stages of the disease are not encouraging, however.

The new drug is given by injection into a vein. In the field trials it was given twice weekly, three times weekly and daily, the variation being planned

to determine the best schedule. More than 800 injections of it were given to over 100 patients, with no toxic reactions except for occasional nausea and vomiting after about 2% of the injections.

The drug seems to be active against strains of trypanosomes, the germs of African sleeping sickness, which are resistant to the widely used sleeping sickness remedy, tryparsamide, and other arsenicals. It may be effective against some, though not all, forms of the disease in animals.

Mass treatment of this widespread scourge of tropical Africa may be greatly simplified, Dr. Eagle suggests, and considerable time and money saved by this new drug.

Science News Letter, January 27, 1945

Baby minks, which finally produce fur for ladies' coats, weigh only about one-eighth of an ounce at birth; in six weeks they are the size of red squirrels and at six months of age are some 20 inches long.

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