



cular absorption bands in its spectrum that take out some of the colors, leaving the green part to predominate.

So, when you look at the stars, compare their colors, and see how they differ. This will add a new dimension of pleasure to those one can get from a knowledge of the skies that shine above us nightly.

Celestial Time Table for July

July	EST	
2	4:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,200 miles.
4	5:00 p.m.	Earth farthest from sun for year, distance 94,448,000 miles.
5	12:28 a.m.	Full moon.

9	6:00 a.m.	Mercury farthest west of sun, visible for a few days about now low in east just before sunrise.
12	3:31 p.m.	Moon in last quarter.
17	3:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 224,400 miles.
19	6:34 a.m.	New moon.
26	10:59 a.m.	Moon in first quarter.
27	1:38 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn.
28	early a.m.	Meteors visible radiating from constellation of Aquarius, the water-carrier.
29	5:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,600 miles.

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

Science News Letter, June 25, 1955

MEDICINE

Vitamins for Bruises

➤ A BEFORE and after treatment to reduce the bruises and black-and-blue marks of athletes engaged in football, soccer, lacrosse and other contact sports was reported by Dr. A. Lee Lichtman of Manhattan's Polyclinic Hospital, New York, at the National Athletic Trainers' Association meeting at Indiana University.

For runners and others needing to get more oxygen to their muscles, Dr. Lichtman suggests anti-anemia vitamin B-12.

The before-bruise treatment consists of doses of ascorbic acid, or vitamin C, and hesperidin, a chemical found in citrus fruits. This, Dr. Lichtman believes, will strengthen the walls of even the smallest capillary blood vessels.

A bruise, he explained, is chiefly a mass of damaged capillaries that let blood leak into surrounding tissues. The leaked blood gives the black-and-blue discoloration.

The after-bruise treatment consists of injections of the enzyme, trypsin. This is given immediately after the bruise-causing blow, or as soon after as the rules of the game permit. Trypsin, in some still unexplained way, moves rapidly to the affected area to reverse the inflammatory process.

With this treatment, bruises that ordinarily would be painful for 10 days "subside almost overnight," Dr. Lichtman reported. He said unusually bad bruises are over in three days instead of two weeks.

The treatment was given to 124 athletes who suffered bruise-causing blows. Results were excellent in 85, Dr. Lichtman reported, and good in 36. In the other three cases, there was no response, but in these three, veins had been ruptured, thus giving a different treatment problem.

The vitamin B-12 treatment for helping athletes make better use of the oxygen in the air for extra energy is still in the experimental stage, Dr. Lichtman said.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1955

AERONAUTICS

"Flying Venetian Blind" Takes Off in Tests

➤ A FOUR-ENGINE "flying Venetian blind" model has taken off and landed vertically in tests at Langley Field, Va., the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics has revealed.

The small experimental model gets its name from the bank of slats attached to its wings behind the propellers. This large blind-like device deflects the propeller backwash downward to achieve lift. Large wing flaps that bend vertically downward also help lift the plane from the ground.

The plane is designed to be convertible. When it reaches flying altitude, the "blinds" fold into the wings and the flap moves to

horizontal position. In this form, ready for fast forward flight, the craft looks very much like a conventional air transport.

The small-scale model can also hover like a helicopter, but rather unsteadily, scientists pointed out. It hovers with its nose pointed 20 degrees upward from the horizontal, an acceptable attitude.

Take-offs and landings were easily performed, though the model had a tendency to move forward as it took off or neared the ground for a landing. This would probably not be a great disadvantage to the pilot of a full scale model, the report pointed out.

The research, reported by Louis P. Tosti and Edwin E. Davenport, is part of a concerted Government effort to solve the basic problems enabling design of planes that will take off and land at sharp angles, eliminating the need for long runways.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1955

ORNITHOLOGY

Swifts Move Wings In Unison, Films Show

➤ TO OUR naked eyes, most birds move their wings in unison, but the swift, a champion speedster, seems to beat his wings alternately. This apparent difference caused disagreement in the bird-watching world, until a high-speed movie camera settled the argument once for all. Slow-motion shots of swifts in flight revealed that swifts also move their wings in unison but they keep tilting their bodies from side to side as they fly, A. C. Bent reported in the National Museum Bulletin 176.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1955

MEDICINE

Test Shows Who Should Use Brains, Not Back

➤ TESTS TO show which persons should use their brains and not their backs in making a living are advised by Drs. Rex L. Diveley and Rial R. Oglevie of Kansas City, Mo.

The tests consist of careful examination of the back, including X-ray pictures. The Kansas City doctors advise them even for teen-agers, so that youngsters can be advised early to go into suitable occupations where they will not be putting too much strain on backs that cannot take it.

Of more than 6,000 persons given pre-employment examinations, only 39.9% had what could be called normal backs, the doctors reported at the meeting of the American Medical Association in Atlantic City, N. J. The rest had congenital abnormalities, spinal arthritis, postural defects and other adverse spinal conditions that made them susceptible to low back injury or disability.

As a result of such examinations, the doctors said, industries can be saved compensation claims and workers can be saved time lost, not to mention the aching backs.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1955