

Celestial Time Table for February

Feb.	EST	
1	7:26 p.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum brightness
3	11:08 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
5	12:01 a.m.	Moon passes Saturn
6	2:01 a.m.	Moon passes Mars
7	2:00 p.m.	Moon farthest from earth, distance 252,100 miles
11	4:38 p.m.	New moon
15	6:03 a.m.	Moon passes Venus
	12:00 p.m.	Jupiter opposite sun and near-

19	12:22 a.m.	Algol at minimum
	4:21 a.m.	Moon in first quarter
20	8:00 p.m.	Mercury farthest east of sun
21	9:11 p.m.	Algol at minimum
23	1:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 225,900 miles
24	6:00 p.m.	Algol at minimum
25	5:57 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
	8:41 p.m.	Full moon

est earth, distance 407,000,000 miles
 Science News Letter, January 28, 1956

GENERAL SCIENCE

Critical Skills Listed

➤ THE LIST of critical skills that can spell a shorter time on active duty in the armed forces for many of the nation's young scientists and technicians was made public.

The Office of Defense Mobilization lists 24 occupations and 10 activities that will be used by the Selective Service System as guides in selecting those men who will be eligible to enlist in the Ready Reserve.

Under the new Reserve program, young men who are selected as eligible can complete their active duty for training in from three to six months. The rest of their military obligation will then be made up in Reserve training.

Whether young men with the proper skills and in critical jobs can enlist for the special program depends on the current needs of the military itself and critical defense-supporting industries.

For this reason, four occupations were not included in the list just issued, because the military is in short supply of these occupations. They are aircraft and engine mechanic, electronic technician, instrument repairman, and machinist.

Included in the critical civilian skills eligible for consideration by the local draft board are clinical psychologist, die setter, design engineer draftsman, all branches of professional engineer, geologist, geophysicist, laboratory apparatus glass blower, jig and template maker, professional nurse, orthopedic appliance and limb technician, osteopath, patternmaker, tool and die maker,

signer, and tool and die maker.

In addition, the following skills, whose holders have a master's or doctor's degree or the equivalent experience, education and training (generally considered not less than one year beyond bachelor degree level) are included: chemist, mathematician, micro-

biologist including bacteriologist, plant or animal parasitologist, pharmacologist, physicist and medical physiologist.

The list also includes college and vocational teachers of critical occupations and high school teachers who teach mathematics, and physical and biological sciences only.

There was no change in the list of ten activities as derived from the List of Critical Occupations and the List of Essential Activities issued previously by the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce respectively.

Science News Letter, January 28, 1956

HEMATOLOGY

Extract More and Purer Anti-Bleeding Factor

➤ MORE AND PURER anti-bleeding material for patients with hemophilia has been extracted from human blood plasma by use of the Blood Fractionator, Dr. Douglas M. Surgenor of Harvard Medical School reported at the Protein Foundation conference in Boston.


By collection through an exchange resin column to prevent coagulation, separation of plasma with removal of platelets, and treatment with dextran sulfate, Dr. Surgenor was able to obtain a concentration of the antihemophilic factor 20 times greater than had previously been attained.

The Blood Fractionator is a device for speedily separating plasma from red blood cells and then separating various components of plasma from each other.

Science News Letter, January 28, 1956

Each 1,000 acres of the irrigated portion of the North Platte Valley of Wyoming and Nebraska supports 134 persons on farms and in towns, compared with only five people per 1,000 acres of adjacent dryland areas.

OPTICAL STAR FINDER



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Not a telescope but a brand new optical method of positioning the outlined figures of the constellations on the night sky and directly naming the stars.

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