

☼ * ○ • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

exposed photographic film should be used. Sun glasses or welder's goggles are not sufficient protection.

Mercury, which appears at the middle of April, has mean distance from the sun of only 36,000,000 miles, somewhat more than a third the earth's distance of 93,000,000 miles.

As it swings around the sun, it appears alternately to the west and east of that body. In the former case it moves ahead of the sun as they make their daily trip around the sky. Then it may appear just before sunrise, in the morning twilight. When east of the sun, as it is in April, it remains above the western horizon after the sun has set. However, this does not always bring it into our view.

When such an eastern "elongation" occurs in the autumn, it is not nearly as favorable for evening viewing as when it occurs in the spring.

In April this year conditions are almost at their best, so take advantage of your opportunity.

Even when Mercury does thus come into view, it never remains visible after twilight has faded and it is never seen very high in the sky, while the period over which it can be easily observed is not more than about a week.

The great Polish astronomer Copernicus, who showed that the planets revolve around the sun, is said never to have seen Mercury. Even at an elongation, the low-flying mists usually obscured it.

Celestial Time Table for April

APRIL	EST	
4	10:41 p.m.	Moon passes Mars.
7	3:32 p.m.	Moon at first quarter.
11	8:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 226,100 miles.
12	9:02 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter.
14	7:09 a.m.	Full moon.
	8:00 a.m.	Venus passes behind sun.
15	4:00 a.m.	Mercury farthest east of sun.
17	9:41 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn.
21	10:00 a.m.	Neptune nearest, distance 2,724,000 miles.
	6:00 p.m.	Moon in last quarter.
23	4:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,500 miles.
29	6:54 p.m.	New moon—partial eclipse of sun visible in northwestern North America.

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

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Demands Too Much In Health Insurance

► THE PUBLIC is demanding too many benefits from health insurance policies, Dr. Carll S. Mundy, Toledo, Ohio, vice chairman of the American Medical Association's council on rural health, said.

The trouble lies with the public's demand for benefits which do not belong in an insurance policy, he told the 12th National Conference on Rural Health meeting in Louisville, Ky.

Many of these items are small and insignificant, but they increase the cost of the policy out of all proportions to the benefit gained. Although they are not traditionally "insurable" under the basic laws of insurance operations, the public wants them regardless of the increase in costs, he said.

"Home and office calls, the annual health examination, annual X-rays . . . routine vaccination, are all events we know will happen to us and our children," he said.

Trying to cover them by insurance not only increases the premium but it abuses the original purpose of insurance. Events that are covered should be "predictable" for large groups or areas but "unpredictable" for the individual. They should not be events that recur at a given frequency or at regular intervals, he explained.

Hospital and medical insurance should be expected to cover the unpredictable and larger expenses, but if the public wants modern medicine with all it involves, it will have to expect a premium in proportion to the cost of the services.

Premiums would be materially less if only strictly insurable items were covered by the policies. The other small items should be taken care of outside the health insurance, he reported.

Science News Letter, March 23, 1957

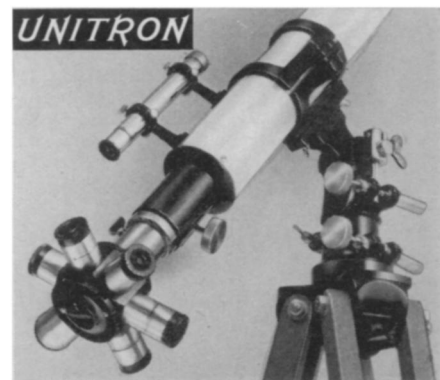
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