

This object is visible only through a telescope. A small one, say with a lens three inches in diameter, shows it as an oval patch of light, while a larger instrument reveals it as a ring of nebulosity. This is called the "ring nebula in Lyra," a member of the class of "planetary" nebulae. They were called this in the early days because, through smaller telescopes, they resembled planets.

At the center of the Lyra ring there is a star of the 15th magnitude, visible only through good-sized telescopes. Somehow, the radiations from this star seem to excite the whole nebula to brightness.

But even this does not end the interesting points about Lyra.

The star delta Lyrae, for example, is also shown by a pair of binoculars to be double. And beta Lyrae is a famous variable star. Every 12.9 days it drops from magnitude 3.4 to 4.5. At maximum it is brighter than its neighbor, gamma, but at minimum it is fainter. These changes can be observed with the naked eye.

Thus Lyra, small though it is, offers much of interest to the amateur astronomer.

Celestial Time Table for July

JULY EST	
2	8:00 p.m. Earth farthest from sun for 1957, distance 94,452,000 miles
3	5:12 a.m. Moon passes Jupiter
	midnight Mercury on far side of sun
4	7:09 a.m. Moon in first quarter
8	12:14 p.m. Moon passes Saturn
11	2:00 p.m. Venus passes Mars
	5:50 p.m. Full moon
15	10:00 p.m. Moon farthest from earth, distance 251,900 miles
19	9:17 p.m. Moon in last quarter
26	11:28 p.m. New moon
28	5:00 a.m. Moon nearest earth, distance 223,400 miles
	9:44 a.m. Moon passes Mars
29	3:02 a.m. Moon passes Venus
30	6:41 p.m. Moon passes Jupiter

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

Science News Letter, June 22, 1957

EDUCATION

U.S. Schools Rival Europe's

➤ AMERICAN colleges and universities have gained enough stature in the past ten years to rival western European institutions as the most sought-after seats of learning.

This is implied in a report issued by the National Science Foundation showing there are now as many foreign students studying in this country as there are foreign students studying in all the universities of Western Europe.

Based on enrollments in 1953-54, the report indicates there are two main reasons for the influx of foreign students to the United States.

"The increase," the Foundation notes, "is indicative of the demand for professional and technical personnel in all parts of the world, as well as the fact that United States institutions of higher learning have achieved internationally recognized status."

The report, based on surveys made by the Institute of International Education, New York, also shows the majority of U. S.

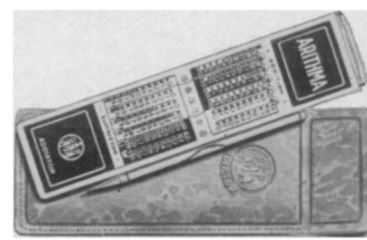
students who now study abroad do so at the graduate level, while the majority of foreign students in this country are studying at the undergraduate level.

Last year, 36,500 foreign students, of whom 13,600 were at the graduate level, were studying in the United States. This is in contrast to the fact that, 30 years ago, western European universities attracted three times as many foreign students as those in the United States.

Based on the 1953-54 enrollment figures, 5,150 foreign graduate students here were taking courses in the fields of natural science and engineering. This number, more than 50% of the total figure, far surpassed the 26% of all American graduate students in the U. S. taking similar programs.

The study was made to complement a report of graduate school enrollment and stipends in the academic year 1953-54 to be published by the Foundation.

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