



but that which we cross on November 15 has one large concentrated part, which takes about 33 years to go around. We went through it in 1833 and 1866, but on the two occasions since, when we might have met it again, it missed us, having been switched aside by the gravitational pull of Jupiter.

By now, however, we are approaching another part of the stream, which is probably still on its usual track. On most nights at this time of year we can see an average of 10 to 15 meteors per hour, but on the 15th, or better still, in the early morning of the 16th, one should see about twice as many.

The meteors of the shower may be distinguished from any strays that might come at the same time by reason of the fact that the former all seem to radiate from the constellation of Leo, the lion, which can be seen to the northeast soon after midnight. For this reason they are called the Leonid meteors.

They do not really radiate, however,

but are moving in parallel paths. The radiating effect is one of perspective, the same thing that makes the parallel lines along the wall of a long, straight tunnel seem to come together in the distance.

Science News Letter, October 28, 1939

Celestial Time Table for November

Saturday, Nov. 4, 8:12 a. m., Moon at last quarter. **Tuesday, Nov. 7,** 4:00 p. m., Moon nearest—228,100 miles; 10:00 p. m., Mercury farthest east of sun. **Saturday, Nov. 11,** 2:54 a. m., New moon. **Sunday, Nov. 12,** 10:42 a. m., Moon passes Venus; 7:24 p. m., Moon passes Mercury. **Monday, Nov. 13,** 1:00 a. m., Uranus opposite sun and nearest earth—distance 1,731,000,000 miles. **Wednesday, Nov. 15,** Leonid meteors. **Saturday, Nov. 18,** 6:21 p. m., Moon at first quarter. **Sunday, Nov. 19,** 7:22 a. m., Moon passes Mars; 2:00 p. m., Moon farthest—251,200 miles. **Tuesday, Nov. 21,** 4:49 p. m., Moon passes Jupiter. **Thursday, Nov. 23,** 7:49 p. m., Moon passes Saturn. **Sunday, Nov. 26,** 4:54 p. m., Full moon.

Eastern Standard Time throughout.

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MEDICINE

Sulfanilamide Saving Babies Threatened With Peritonitis

BABIES and small children threatened with death from a highly fatal form of peritonitis can be saved by a new treatment including use of the chemical remedies, sulfapyridine and sulfanilamide.

Details of the treatment which cut the death rate from 73% to 20% at Children's Hospital, Boston, are reported by Drs. William E. Ladd, Thomas W. Botsford and Edward C. Curnen, of Harvard Medical School. (*Journal, American Medical Association, Oct. 14*)

Peritonitis generally brings to mind the dangerous complication of appendi-

citis when operation has been too long delayed. In the case of these babies (most of the patients were under four years old) there was no appendicitis and the peritonitis, called a primary type, followed infections of the nose and throat in more than half the cases.

Treatment consisted of making a small surgical incision into the abdomen, usually under local anesthetic, and drawing out a bit of the pus for examination to determine the germ causing the trouble. A drain is left in the wound to draw off more of the pus, and sulfanilamide is immediately given by hypo-

dermic injection until the patient is able to take it by mouth. If examination of the pus shows that the germ is the pneumococcus (in most of these cases it is either the pneumococcus or the streptococcus) sulfapyridine is given instead of sulfanilamide and anti-pneumonia serum of the correct type is also given.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Safety Commandments For Fall Hunting

HUNTING season is upon us again. Sportsmen, seasoned and tyro, will be packing guns over hill and dale, hoping for a buck, or a duck, or anyhow a rabbit.

With a well-calculated sense of timeliness, one of the leading American manufacturers of sporting powders has prepared Ten Commandments of Safety for hunters. They are worth quoting in full:

1. Treat every gun with the respect due to a loaded gun. This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.
2. Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp, and home.
3. Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you stumble.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
7. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.
8. Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun.
9. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water.
10. Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.

Science News Letter, October 28, 1939

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