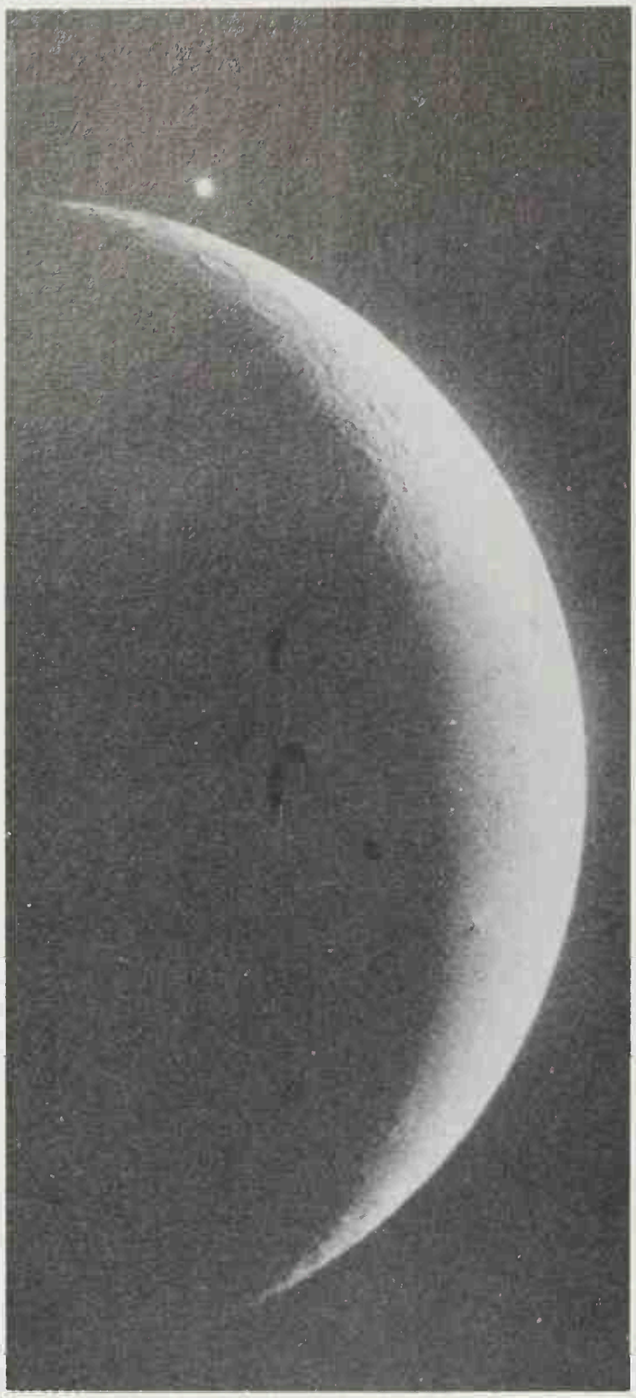
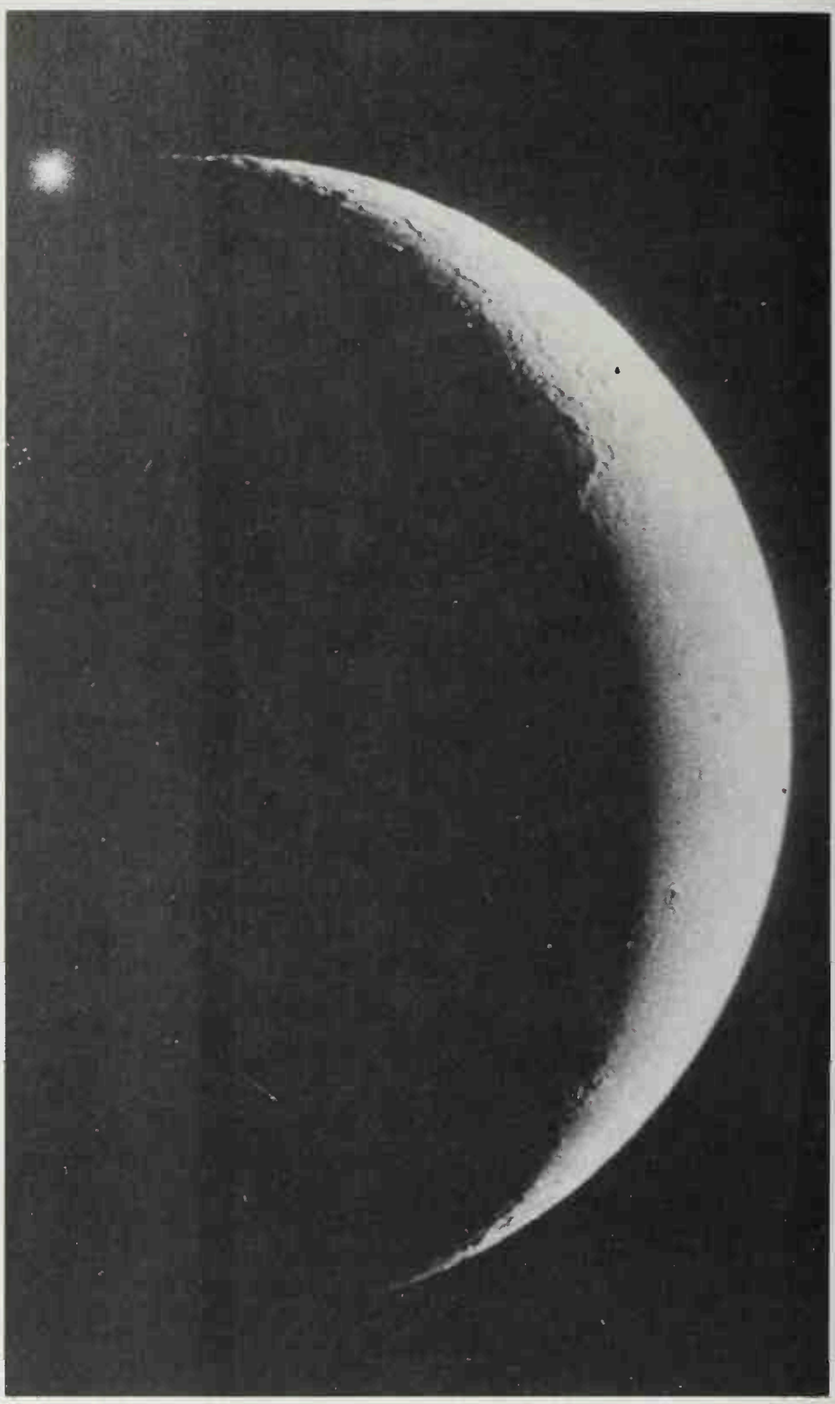
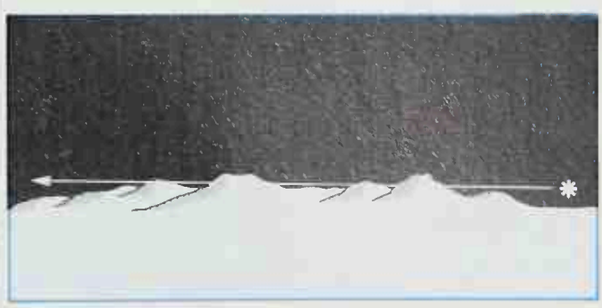
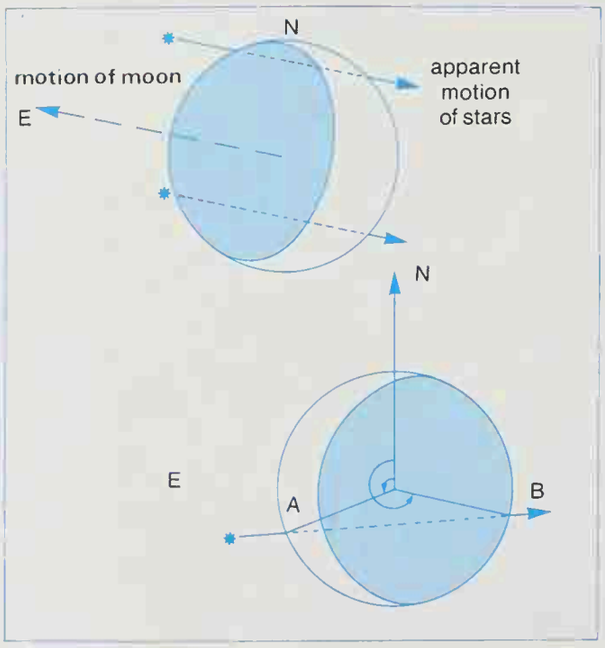




reappearances may also be observed and timed, but there is a tendency for these to be less accurate, mainly because bright-limb disappearances are more difficult to follow, and because the position of reappearances is usually a little uncertain.

Sometimes stars appear to fade gradually, or rather in two stages, instead of disappearing instantly, and this has been shown to be related – at least in some cases – to the fact that they are actually binary systems, unresolved by the telescope. Indeed in a few events the binary nature of previously unknown systems has been established.





Venus, photographed (left) *just before occultation by the Moon, and just after* (right), *21 minutes later.*

Far left:
Observations of a grazing occultation may be used to provide a very accurate profile of that part of the Moon.

Left:
Occultation predictions include position angles (see page 68), but bright limb disappearances (A) and all reappearances – even at the dark limb (B) – can be difficult to observe with accuracy.