

The moon will be at apogee (farthest from the earth) on February 12, and it will be at perigee (nearest the earth) on February 24.

*Mercury* will be in Aquarius. Its apparent motion during the first half of the month will be eastward, but during the last half its apparent motion will be westward. On February 9 Mercury will be at greatest elongation east, and at that time it will set approximately an hour after the sun. On February 24 Mercury will be at inferior conjunction.

*Venus*, early in the month, will be in Sagittarius. Late in the month, however, it will cross into Capricornus. On February 14 Venus will be in conjunction with Mars. At that time they will rise about two and a half hours before the sun.

*Mars* will be moving eastward near Venus. At the end of the month it will be on the border of Capricornus. As has been stated before in the notes on Venus, Mars will be in conjunction with Venus on February 14.

*Jupiter* will be an evening star in the constellation Pisces. At the end of the month it will set about an hour and a half after the sun.

*Saturn* will be a morning star in the southern part of Ophiuchus. During the middle of the month it will rise approximately four and a half hours before the sun.

*Uranus* will be in the evening sky near Jupiter in the constellation Pisces. At the end of the month it will set approximately an hour and a half after the sun.

*Neptune* will be in Leo near Regulus ( $\alpha$  Leonis). On February 17 it will be in opposition, and at that time it will be above the horizon all night in northern latitudes.

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#### **The Transit of Mercury at Manila, November 10, 1927.—**

Though the sun shone brightly three or four minutes before the first contact, clouds appeared just at the crucial moments and no observations at all could be made of first and second contacts, thus disappointing the array of half a dozen eager watchers ready to record the contacts.

The third and fourth contacts were also tantalizingly missed in a similar manner. However, the Repsold Transit was used for determining the passage of the planet across our central meridian. The clouds lifted just in time to obtain the passage across the five cross-hairs following the middle. The passage of the centre of the planet was recorded, the average deviation for the five measures being one-tenth of a second. This is comparatively large, and is due to the fact that the planet was visible only through a thin veil of clouds. The time of meridian passage *observed* was  $3^h 40^m 41^s 12$  G.M.T. Using the *Connaissance de Temps*, the *calculated* time of passage is  $3^h 40^m 40^s$  G.M.T.

Using a camera attached to the finder of the large equatorial, some photographs were obtained. The situation was interesting, since Mercury passed close to a large group of sunspots near the centre of the sun. However, due to a veil of clouds, sharp definition was impossible, and the photographs when enlarged, as would be necessary for publication, are rather disappointing.

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**Observations of Venus in 1924.** — In the year 1924 when the planet Venus was near eastern elongation, 100 drawings of the surface details were made at the astronomical observatory of the school in Petrograd. Of these drawings, 29 were made by the writer and 18 by Ludmila Antropova. The instrument used for the observations was the 108 mm apochromat made by A. A. Tchichin. Almost