number; but 27 appears as their number in the list which is found in the Taittirīya Saṃhitā[22] and elsewhere.[23] The number 28 is much less well attested: in one passage of the Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa[24] Abhijit is practically marked as a new comer, though in a later book,[25] in the Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā,[26] and in the Atharvaveda list,[27] it has found acceptance. It is perfectly possible that 28 is the earlier number, and that Abhijit dropped out because it was faint, or too far north, or because 27 was a more mystic ($3 \times 3 \times 3$) number: it is significant that the Chinese Sieou and the Arabic Manāzil are 28 in number.[28] Weber,[29] however, believes that 27 is the older number in India.

The meaning of the number is easily explained when it is remembered that a periodic month occupies something between 27 and 28 days, more nearly the former number. Such a month is in fact recognized in the Lāṭyāyana[30] and Nidāna Sūtras[31] as consisting of 27 days, 12 months making a year of 324 days, a Nakṣatra year, or with an intercalary month, a year of 351 days. The Nidāna Sūtra[32] makes an attempt to introduce the Nakṣatra reckoning into the civil or solar (*sāvana*) year of 360 days, for it holds that the sun spends $13\frac{1}{3}$ days in each Nakṣatra ($13\frac{1}{3} \times 27 = 360$). But the month of 27 or 28 days plays no part in the chronological calculations of the Veda.[33]

The Names of the Nakṣatras.—In addition to the two mentioned in the Rigveda, the earlier Atharvaveda[34] gives the

[22] iv. 4, 10, 1-3.

[23] Kāṭhaka Saṃhitā, xxxix. 13, but Maitrāyaṇī Saṃhitā, ii. 13, 20, has 28; Taittirīya Brāhmaṇa, i. 5, 1, 1-5, in lists of Nakṣatras. See also Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā, ix. 7; Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa, x. 5, 4, 5; Pañcaviṃśa Brāhmaṇa, xxiii. 23; Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa, v. 1; Śāṅkhāyana Āraṇyaka, ii. 16; Taittirīya Saṃhitā, vii. 1, 2, 2; Jyotiṣa, 18. 20 (verse 34 has 28, but it is interpolated); Śāṅkhāyana Śrauta Sūtra, xiv. 78, etc.

[24] i. 5, 2, 3. *Cf.* Weber, 1, 360, n.

[25] iii. 1, 2, 6.

[26] ii. 13, 20.

[27] xix. 7, 1; 8, 1 = Nakṣatrakalpa, 10. 26. So in Śāṅkhāyana Gṛhya Sūtra, i. 26.

[28] Whitney, *op. cit.*, 409-411; *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 8, 390.

[29] *Op. cit.*, 2, 280; *Indische Studien*, 9, 446; 10, 223, 224, 226, 227.

[30] iv. 8, 1 *et seq.*

[31] v. 11. 12. See Weber, 2, 281-288.

[32] Thibaut, *Astronomie, Astrologie und Mathematik*, 7.

[33] See **Māsa.**

[34] *I.e.*, books i-xvi.