Deneb has no sensible proper motion, and hence has been considered as deserving the term, generally inappropriate, of a "fixed star"; but spectroscopic investigations made at Greenwich seemed to show motion at the rate of thirty-six miles a second toward the earth, and so only apparently stationary. Such motion, Newcomb says, would eventually carry it at some time,— probably between 100,000 and 300,000 years hence,— past our system at about $\frac{1}{1600}$ part of its present distance, making it the nearest and the brightest of the earth's neighbors. But Vogel's recent and more trustworthy measures at Potsdam give its rate as about five miles a second.

Elkin estimated its parallax in 1892 as 0″.047,— practically insensible. Its spectrum is Sirian.

Photographs by Doctor Max Wolf, of Heidelberg, in June, 1891, show that it and γ are involved in one vastly extended nebula.

It rises in the latitude of New York City at sunset on the 12th of May, culminating on the 16th of September, and lies so far to the north that it is visible at some hour of every clear night throughout the year.

β, Double,— perhaps binary, 3.5 and 7, topaz yellow and sapphire blue.

Albireo, the now universal title, is in no way associated with Arabia, but apparently was first applied to the star from a misunderstanding as to the words *ab ireo* in the description of the constellation in the 1515 *Almagest*. **Albirco** in the *Standard Dictionary* undoubtedly is from a type error, as also may be **Abbireo, Alberio,** and **Albeiro,** which occasionally are used.

The Arabians designated β as **Al Minĥar al Dajājah,** the Hen's Beak, where it is still located on our maps. Riccioli wrote this **Menkar Eldigisgich**; and also had **Hierizim.**

β is one of the show objects of the sky, and Miss Clerke, calling its colors golden and azure, says that it presents "perhaps the most lovely effect of colour in the heavens." Being 35″ apart, the components can readily be resolved by a field-glass. The system, if binary, has a very long period of revolution, as yet undetermined, the present position angle being 56°.

Close to β appeared a *nova* on the 20th of June, 1670, described by the Carthusian monk Anthelmus of Dijon. This disappeared after two years of varying brilliancy, but may still exist as a 10th- to 11th-magnitude variable, discovered, in the supposed location, by Hind in 1852.

In the neck of the Swan, not far from β, is the variable χ^2, ranging from 4.5 to 13.5 in 406 days. Sometimes, at its maximum, it is of only the 6th magnitude.