As to its color astronomers are not agreed; Smyth calling it bright white; Professor Young yellow; and others say blue or red, which last it was asserted to be by Ptolemy, Al Ferghani, and Riccioli; while those whose eyes are specially sensitive to that tint still find it such.

Capella perhaps has increased in lustre during the present century; but, brilliant as it is, its parallax of 0″.095, obtained from Elkin's observations, indicates a distance from our system of 34¼ light years; and, if this be correct, the star emits 250 times as much light as our sun.

Its spectrum resembles that of the latter; indeed spectroscopists say that Capella is virtually identical with the sun in physical constitution, and furnishes the model spectrum of the Solar type,[1] yellow in tinge and ruled throughout with innumerable fine dark lines.

Vogel thinks it receding from our system at the rate of 15¼ miles a second. It is the most northern of all the 1st-magnitude stars, rising in the latitude of New York City at sunset about the middle of October, and culminating at nine o'clock in the evening of the 19th of January. Thus it is visible at some hour of every clear night throughout the year.

β, 2.1, lucid yellow.

Menkalinan, Menkalinam, and **Menkalina** are from **Al Mankib dhi'l 'Inān,** the Shoulder of the Rein-holder, which it marks, the solstitial colure passing it 2° to the east; the star itself being about 10° east of Capella. It is supposed to be a very close binary, receding from us about 17½ miles a second; the two practically equal stars that compose the pair being only 7½ millions of miles apart, and revolving in a period of about four days, with a relative velocity of fully 150 miles a second. This discovery was made by Pickering from spectroscopic observations in 1889. The lines in the spectrum double and undouble every two days.

γ, 2.1, brilliant white,

was **Al Ḳa'b dhi'l 'Inān,** the Heel of the Rein-holder, of Arabian astronomy, so showing its location in the figure of Auriga. From the earliest days of descriptive astronomy it has been identical with the star **Al Nath,** the β of Taurus at the extremity of the right horn, and Aratos so mentioned it. Vitruvius, however, said that it was **Aurigae Manus,** because the Charioteer was supposed to hold it in his hand, which would imply a very different drawing from that of Rome, Greece, and our own; and Father Hell, in 1769,

1 This is the ad of the classification of Father Angelo Secchi, the modern Roman astronomer.