fireworks that had been exhibited, that good fellowship prevailed and that good fellowship would continue. He spoke in a complimentary way of the character of the papers that had been read before the convention. They were of a practical and instructive nature, drawn from the personal experience of those who prepared them, and it seemed that every sentence in those papers came directly from the minds and hearts and souls of those who read them. He had to thank them all for the kindness exhibited towards him, as chairman. Unfortunately the chairman was obliged to assert himself sometimes. He could not always escape the necessity of exerting the authority of his position to cover up a difficulty. With perhaps one exception, he had been supported throughout in his movements, and he thanked them heartily for that support, and would bespeak the same kind consideration for the gentleman who was to take his place."

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

NOVEMBER.

THOMAS LINDSAY.

OBSERVERS of the heavens interested in planetary work, have not, during the past summer, been at all fortunate, there having been, so to speak, a dearth of planets in the evening skies. And for some little time yet it is in the early morning that the amateur may show his enthusiasm; lacking that, he will probably not observe at all. From August to October Jupiter was either lost in the sun's rays, or but feebly visible, and the satellites quite too faint for observation. But he presents his beautiful disc now before sunrise, reaching the meridian about 8 o'clock, and is well worthy of observation. His position on the celestial equator is among the stars of Virgo, and on the morning of Nov. 15th the planet will be in the same field of view in the telescope with Eta Virginis, a 4th mag. star. It may aid the observer to note that the four satellites will be on the west side of the planet and the star west and a little north of the more or less straight line running through the system, the whole forming a very pretty telescopic field.

For Mars we need not look at all; the little fiery planet is directly in the sun's rays and quite harmless to evoke a renewal of the discussion on the origin of his surface markings, for this year at least. In connection with this, we are reminded of the peculiar argument given by Mr. Percival Lowell in support of his views. He says the lines on Mars "look" artificial. It may not be strictly scientific, but we can all understand how he might become impressed in this way if his telescope does really give the exquisite definition credited to it.

Saturn is, like Mars, close to the sun and invisible. It is some little compensation, however, to know that when he does pass round to the position of morning star the ring will be more broadly opened out than it has been for years past. Recently published reductions of measures made by Prof. Barnard, at Lick Observatory, seem to decidedly negative the theory at one time advanced, that the rings were slowly drawing in upon the planet; the delicate micrometer thus supports mathematics in the demonstration of the stability of the Saturnian system.

Venus still shines beautifully in the morning sky, but is waning in lustre as she passes away from us in that part of her orbit concave to the earth. The crescent form of the planet is now almost lost, and the disc appears in the telescope nearly circular.

Mercury is as disappointing as the