

which is the star Regulus, of the first magnitude. In summer nights the zodiacal constellations Scorpio and Sagittarius are very remarkable and beautiful. But perhaps the easiest way to note the position of the zodiacal constellations is to watch the progress of the Moon from night to night during any lunation. She describes, with sufficient accuracy for such purposes as this, the same path as the Sun, and in one thirtieth part of the Sun's period ; so that while the Sun takes about 30 days to pass from one of the zodiacal constellations to the next, the Moon covers the same space in little more than two days. If then the Moon's place in the zodiac be known when first she is seen (at the new), she will mark out the next constellation of the zodiac (eastwards) in about 55 hours from that time. Her brightness, especially at the full, makes it difficult to recognize the detail of the constellation in which she is situate ; but the constellations east and west of this one may be easily and satisfactorily examined.

Once the observer has made himself well acquainted with the belt in the heavens known as the zodiac, he will find no difficulty in assuring himself that the Moon is not the only celestial sphere which traverses this path. At different hours of the night and at different times of the year he will see the planets Jupiter, Saturn or Mars as very brilliant stars—differing only by the steadiness of their light from the other bright stars—in one or other part of the zodiac. At the present time Jupiter is the most brilliant star in the sky, and is in the constellation Taurus, a little south of the Pleiades. But Jupiter, Saturn and Mars may easily be distinguished from the true stars by the fact that they change their places with regard to these. It is on this account that they are named *Planets* (wanderers), and it is a peculiarity of their movement to which I would specially ask your attention to-night. Speaking broadly, any of these planets will be seen to travel over the same course as the Moon, that is from west to east, among the zodiacal constellations—but, of course, with much greater slowness. If we could view the Earth's motion in the zodiac from the Sun as our station of observation, (and though this cannot be done in fact, it may easily be done with the aid of imagination), we should see the Earth complete the circle from Virgo, in March, to Leo, in the following February ; in