

itself against the dark background of the sky, it is large enough to be readily visible to a keen eye. Whether it, or the whole four, have been detected in the bright light of the planet, is doubtful. For one cannot help asking the question how is it the ancients did not see them? There was no suspicion of their existing until Galileo pointed his telescope to Jupiter on the 7th January, 1610.

The most interesting planet to the telescopic observer after Jupiter, is Saturn. Saturn shines with a dull white light. Owing to its vast distance from us, it is by no means so bright as Jupiter, nor are its markings so distinct. Belts it has, but they are shadowy and ill-defined. Saturn has many moons, but only one conspicuously visible in a three inch telescope. It is called Titan, and is about the size of the planet Mars. Neither it or its fellows, even in the largest telescope, compare in interest with Jupiter's moons. This is owing partly to their deliberate movements, and partly to the inclination of the plane of their orbits to that of Saturn. Consequently they do not appear to come between us and their primary to anything like the extent as do the moons of Jupiter.

But what is lacking in Saturn's moons is amply made up for in the wonderful rings which encircle the planet.

There is a division in the main ring which shows like a narrow black line running round the entire length. It is said to be easily visible in a good 3-inch glass, but I never succeeded in seeing it with such an instrument.

The rings, however, show up perfectly well, except at intervals of 15 years, when, owing to the relative position which Saturn occupies to the earth at these periods, we see the rings edge on, which means we do not see them at all. Just now they are exceptionally well placed for observation, and there is this compensating advantage about Saturn, to make up for his immense distance from us, that for some reason, of which I am ignorant, he bears magnification better than any other planet. Where Jupiter will stand a power of 100, one can commonly use 150 on Saturn.

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