

couple of third magnitudes in Ursa Major's paw, Lambda and Mu, reading from above downward. Near Leo Minor's tail is the couple of a third and fourth magnitude stars in the other hind paw of Ursa, Nu and Xi. While right above the tail of Lynx is the third couple of third magnitude stars, Iota and Kappa, in one of Ursa's fore-paws.

#### Sextans

has only one fourth magnitude, and six fifth magnitude stars.

#### Crater,

the cup, has one third magnitude (Delta), four fourth magnitudes, reading downward and to the right, Theta, Gamma, Beta, and Alpha. This latter is called *Alkes*, and is remarkable on account of its red color. Near by, across the boundary, is Nu, of Hydra. Beginning at the top, these stars make the outline of a cup or dipper, Theta and Delta forming the handle.

#### Hydra,

the water serpent, is one of the longest constellations, stretching for more than one hundred degrees from west to east. Its principal star, Alpha (called also Alphard), is of the second magnitude, and down in its body. It is, therefore, also called *cor hydrae*, the heart of the water serpent. Zeta and Epsilon are the two third magnitude stars in its upraised, crested head.

### Astronomical Notes for April.

*Mercury* is near the sun, in *superior* conjunction, on the twenty-fifth, from which time it becomes an evening star.

*Venus*, which, as a brilliant evening star, was moving eastward towards Taurus last month, becomes stationary during the second week of April, about five moon-breadths north of Epsilon Arietis, a double star of the fourth and sixth magnitudes. It then proceeds westward to meet the sun and is more and more robbed of its glory by the growing twilight until on the last day of April at 11 p. m., 60th meridian time, it passes the sun to the west about seven or eight sun diameters to the north of him, and a few days after it will make its appearance with growing brilliancy as a morning star. As Venus is then nearly directly between us and the sun this is called its *inferior* conjunction. It takes place not far from the centre of the constellation Aries.

*Mars* will be evening star in Aries, passing Venus in the third week of the month some distance to the south, and at the end of the month will be entering Taurus.

*Jupiter* is morning star, nearly stationary the whole month in Sagittarius, moving eastward during the

whole month only about one moon-breadth. It is low down in the southern horizon and will be on the meridian about 4 A. M.

*Saturn* will be actually stationary about the middle of the month in Cancer opposite the Sickle in Leo, near where the line 9h right ascension is intersected by 18° north declination in our star map. Gamma and Delta Cancri are its nearest neighbors to the west, a little higher up than the planet. These are the pair of fourth magnitude stars in the centre of Cancer in our map, Delta being the lower one. Just west of these and nearly between them is a very interesting cluster of stars called the "Praesepe" which looks like a faint nebulous comet.

In fact it has often been mistaken for a comet. Within the last year or two, a writer in one of our daily metropolitan papers announced this discovery. There was a bright planet in the neighborhood as at present. First, he saw the nebulous patch of light distinctly, night after night. Second, he noticed that it was changing its distance from a bright star. (?) It must, therefore, be a comet, and accordingly the announcement was made. But, first, it was the bright star (planet) which was changing its position while the little cloud of light was fixed. Second, a mariner's telescope or a good field glass would have shown over thirty small stars in this cloud, and a more powerful glass would show over 150.

*Uranus*, on the 9th, may be readily found two degrees north of Spica Virginis, as a star of the sixth magnitude. A small telescope will transform it into a small sphere of a delicate green tint.

#### Inspector's Notice.

To the Teachers of District No. 10:

I have to compliment you on the success of our Nature Lessons for the winter term. Your intelligence and zeal in placing them before your pupils went far beyond my expectations. Never before, to my knowledge, has the science work of our schools been so systematically and successfully performed. Of 230 teachers, about 10 only have neglected this work. For the remaining few weeks I would advise a general review of the subject, applying the lessons as closely as possible in the direction of cleanliness, effect of impure air and water, and their purification, good and bad diet, some advice about clothing and exercise, etc. Our science work for the summer will be, principally, botany. I hope to send you an outline of that work early in May. I can promise, also, that the REVIEW will lend you a helping hand in the study and teaching of this delightful subject.

Very truly your friend.

E. J. LAY.

Amherst, April 1st, 1889.

P. S.—School returns were forwarded to Trustees last fall, enclosed in registers.