

bluish green color, and they move with great velocity—leaving behind them bright trains; the Perseids are yellow, and move at a medium rate.

The meteors belonging to a group taken as a whole travel in an elliptical belt around the sun as shown by the diagram. Although they are to be found throughout the entire belt yet they are not evenly distributed in it; rather, they are aggregated along a considerable portion of it, known as the "gem of the ring." Here millions of meteors travel closely together, if interplanetary distances may be spoken of in such terms. Now when the earth in its annual revolution enters this region its atmosphere is pelted by these bodies which, on becoming vaporized owing to the heat caused by the impact and by friction, produce the grand display of heaven's fireworks called a METEORIC SHOWER.

Astronomers have predicted that the Leonids of this year will present a scene of dazzling splendor provided the sky is clear. This will occur at some time between the 12th and 15th days of the month, but the exact time is not known. It is thought however that the appearance of the Leonids which usually takes place about the 15th may be delayed for a day owing to the retarding influence of Saturn and Jupiter, to which they made a close approach in 1870 and 1898 respectively. The best time for observation will be between 2 o'clock a.m. and daylight. By repeated observations of the paths of the Leonids astronomers are enabled to locate their position throughout their period of revolution with considerable precision. After investigating the facts relating to the showers of 1799 and 1833, Professor Newton foretold the occurrence of the shower of 1866 with so great a degree of exactness as to both time and place, that the determination of the orbit of the Leonids as well as of their period of revolution—about $33\frac{1}{4}$ years—is no longer a matter of uncertainty. Professor Adams also arrived at practically the same conclusions.

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