

at "last quarter." Continuing to increase in its illuminated portion, it finally appears full and round again before reaching "Superior Conjunction" once more, and disappearing behind the Sun, passes from a "morning" to an "evening star."

Mercury should be visible about the 16th, just before sunrise, in the eastern sky. On that date he is at his "greatest elongation west" of $18^{\circ} 38'$. The little planet is in perihelion on the 24th and in conjunction with *Alpha Leonis (Regulus)* on the last day of the month.

The Moon is eclipsed on the 3rd and the Sun on the 18th. Both eclipses are invisible here.

Saturn and Mars, both "morning stars," are in conjunction on the 23th, the two being then but $49'$ apart.

Luna is near Neptune on the 12th, Mars on the 16th, Saturn and Mercury on 17th, Venus and Uranus 21st, and Jupiter on the 23rd.

ASTEROIDS AT OPPOSITION.

The four leading Asteroids arrive at opposition this year. Three out of the four have yet to make their opposition passages and become "evening stars," viz.: Pallas, on August 29; Ceres, October 10, and Juno, October 15. Vesta, the largest, who becomes visible to the unaided eye at her oppositions, passed her nearest point to the Earth on April 16, and astronomers will have to wait until the next opposition (Sept. 29, 1888), ere she is again as favorably placed. Those who have moderate sized telescopes and fairly good star maps ought to have no difficulty in locating the other three in their turn. Pallas, at opposition (overhead at midnight) on August 29-30, is then in Right Ascension $22^{\text{h}} 7^{\text{m}} 40^{\text{s}}$, Declination $5^{\circ} 30' 24''$ North. Her motion in declination is then South. Her place in the heavens is in the constellation *Pegasus*, near *Theta Pegasi*. She is the smallest of the four primary Asteroids.

Ceres reaches opposition Oct. 10. At transit that night her R. A. is $1^{\text{h}} 26^{\text{m}} 11^{\text{s}}$; Dec. $6^{\circ} 30' 48''$ South. Her motion in declination is then Southerly. This particular spot in the heavens is in the Constellation *Cetus*, near *Theta Ceti*.

Juno swings into line with the Sun five days later, passing opposition and becoming an "evening star" at midnight on Oct. 15-16 in R. A. $1^{\text{h}} 42^{\text{m}} 46^{\text{s}}$, Dec. $3^{\circ} 43' 9''$ South. This places her in the Constellation *Cetus* also, a little East of her sister Ceres, and on a level with *Mira*, "the wonderful star," which is then about 30 min. in R. A. to the East of Juno.

Ceres and Juno are in conjunction during the last days of August, when they are about 8° apart, Juno passing North of her sister planetoid.

CONSTELLATIONS IN AUGUST.

On August 15th, at 10.30 p. m., the *Pleiades* in *Taurus* are rising, below *Auriga*, wherein is the bright star *Capella*, now almost North-East. To the right is *Perseus*. Above *Perseus* is the "W" of *Cassiopeia*, and to the left of the latter, *Cepheus*, almost over head. *Aries* has just risen, below it is *Triangulum* and *Andromeda*. The great square of *Pegasus* is a prominent object, lying between the East and South-East, below one part of it is the Constellation *Pisces*, and below the western portion, *Aquarius*. *Capricornus* is nearly due South. Above *Capricornus* is *Aquila*, with its brilliant *Altair*, and to the latter's left *Delphinus*. Above, just southing, is *Cygnus*, with its principal stars forming a cross, the brightest of them being named *Aried*. In the S. S. E. *Sagittarius* is setting, with *Ophiuchus* also near the horizon. *Serpens* is to the right, and above the latter is *Hercules*. *Lyra*, with *Vega*, has passed the meridian. To the right of *Hercules* is *Corona Borealis*, then *Arcturus* in *Bootes*, while N. W. may be noticed *Cor Caroli* alongside *Ursa Major*, now Northing. Above the latter is *Draco* and *Ursa Minor* with *Polaris*.

REVIEW.

Solar Biology: A scientific method of delineating character; diagnosing disease; determining mental, physical and business qualifications, conjugal adaptability, etc., from date of birth. By Hiram E. Butler, 1 vol., octavo, 350 pp., Boston, 1887: Esoteric Publishing Company, 478 Shawmut Avenue.

According to those learned pundits who pose as the leading scientific authorities of the day, a belief in the possibility of outside influences affecting not only the earth generally, but the atoms, active and inert, of which the earth is composed, is as "dead as ditch water," and moreover unfit to be accorded even the very faintest shadow of credence by anyone except the most illiterate and superstitious. Those who are in a position to judge, however, know that some of the most intelligent minds are at work on the question, which has been an important one ever since man began to intuitively know himself surrounded on all sides by a universe of matter, of which the individual is a unit. Were there no intelligent students it were the greatest folly to publish such a volume as this, for it is well bound and well printed on heavy paper, price \$5.00, and will doubtless find its way into many libraries, especially into the libraries of persons given to the purchase and study of curious books and occult theories. As many of my readers understand what is meant by "Solar Biology," I need scarcely explain that Mr. Butler's new volume deals largely with the relations of man to the universe, discussing at

length the supposed influences of sun, moon and planets, on individuals, rules being laid down by him by which conclusions, said to be superior to those arrived at by phrenologists, are obtained. Similar, in some respects, to nineteenth century Astrology, the author widely departs therefrom in some instances, as, for example, when he draws conclusions from the heliocentric places of the planets, rather than the geocentric. His conclusions are consequently Copernican rather than Ptolemaic. Mr. Butler, one gladly notices, is not argumentative, he having doubtless arrived at the sensible conclusion that parties antagonistic to his theories are hardly likely to purchase much less read. Accordingly, he gives all room to elucidation. A glimpse of the subject matter may be had from the headings of some of the chapters, viz.:—"Bible History of Solar Biology," "Man's Triune Nature," "Selection of Partners in Marriage," "Polarities of the Signs," "Positions of the Planets," "Parental Conditions," "How to overcome Bad Habits," "Cause of Inharmony in Married Life," "Directions for Reading Character," etc. An appendix by John Latham, dealing with "A Lost Planet," is not by any means the least interesting portion of this work, which also contains tables of the Heliocentric positions of the planets from 1820 to 1900.

Sebold Melbin;

OR,

THE WORLD OF MARS.

By Walter H. Smith.

"World of Mars:
Lives there a human brotherhood on thee
Without the sins and errors of mankind."

CHAPTER VIII. (Continued.)

I readily assented to this proposition of the fair Martian.

"What then will you say," continued Myrina, "when I tell you that we—the eyes of our spiritual minds being opened by infinite wisdom—have been able to weigh all matter, and by so doing ascertain exactly the influences that have been, are now being, or will in the future be brought to bear on any individual atom or accumulation of atoms?"

"As one of the earth-born, to me it seems incredible. That is all I can say," was my reply.

"But why? Have not even your Astronomers arrived at sufficient precision to calculate the return of accumulations of atoms (which they call comets)? Can they not carefully compute and allow for every perturbation that a comet will go through on its lengthy march through space? They can. But our wise men