two discs would interfere and the sun be seen partially eclipsed. If we deduct the sum of the semi-diameters 32′ 33″ from the difference in declination we have 27′ 6″ as the parallax in altitude required to bring the discs just in contact. This would be the parallax at the zenith distance of 27° which the moon would have in the latitude of 13° south. At that point, therefore, at noon, the discs would be just in contact. The whole theory of eclipses, with practical examples, will be found in Loomis' standard work on "Practical Astronomy." The method of computing the contact, etc., by Projection is treated exhaustively, and is especially adapted for the amateur not familiar with the more rigorous analysis of the Besselian method.

Venus reaches her greatest elongation on April 29th, being then 45° 34′ east of the sun. She presents a magnificent appearance in the evening sky. Observers will have noticed how much Venus surpasses the brilliant Sirius and the bright stars of Orion which we are now losing sight of. The planet will be occulted by the new moon on the 29th of April, but the phenomenon will not be visible here. The immersion of the 6th magnitude star, 125 Tauri, may be observed that evening at 9h. 50m., about ten minutes before the moon sets.

Uranus will be occulted by the moon on April 12th at 11h. 56m. Mars is placed among the less conspicuous stars of Sagittarius; his apparent diameter is increasing as he approaches the earth, but he is still unfavourably placed for observation, being far south in Declination, and rising at one o'clock a.m. Jupiter is now west of the sun, and towards the end of the month may be observed in the morning twilight.

Among the interesting objects to be observed in the sidereal heavens during April evenings we may note the bright stars of Leo, which form the figure of a sickle in the fore part of the constellation. The brightest, Regulus, is one of the lunar distance stars employed by navigators for determining longitude. There is a companion to this star, easily observable, which is supposed to move with it through space. Third from Regulus in the sickle is γ Leonis, a binary, the components of which are about 3″ apart. This is a good test for separating power in a small telescope. An interesting occultation occurs on April 10th, when the star γ^1 Virginis will be occulted, while the binary γ Virginis close to it remains visible. The immersion occurs at 7h. 2m. p.m., and the emersion at 7h. 13m.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DISMISSAL.—HON. A. S. DRAPER.

THE Superintendent of Education in the State of New York, U. S. A., is elected every three years by the Legislative Assembly of the State. For the last six years the Empire State has had the services of a man of more than average executive ability, noted for his fidelity to the duties of his important public office, and blessed above his fellows with tact and inspiration; a gift to the State of New York for doing her educational work. He had completed two terms in his office this winter. Meanwhile, the House of Assembly changed from Republican to Democrat. The Superintendent has a large amount of State patronage under his control; and Superintendent Draper was Republi-