

planet comes into "new moon" position. The disc is now forty-two seconds of arc in diameter, very much larger than that of Mars at his nearest. The observer at the telescope learns how tantalizing it is to look at Venus, remembering how close the planet is, and then finding it impossible to make out satisfactorily any clearly defined markings on the disc.

In the path of the October full moon lies the Pleiades group, observers in northern latitudes having an opportunity of seeing a beautiful series of occultations. Here the effect of parallax throws the moon too low. There will be an occultation of two of the stars in the constellation Pisces on the evening of October 25th, visible in Ontario, about eleven hours thirty minutes. The moon will be then ten days old, and consequently the stars disappear on the darkened limb, and, though of magnitude respectively of four and six, should be seen very well in a field glass.

Those interested in meteoric displays will be preparing to systematically observe the Leonid meteors due on November 13th; there will be no moon at that time, and, if we are favored with a clear, star-lit sky, the meteors will be better seen than in 1899, when the earth plunges into the thickest of the swarm. Of wandering meteors, astray, perhaps, from their companions, the most brilliant that has ever been noted in this country was seen on July 5th, as most of our readers are, no doubt, aware; it may be of interest to note that the president of the Astronomical Society has collected about one hundred reports of observation, and from a study of these hopes to be able to present a complete history of the object, having reference to point of entering the atmosphere, track pursued, size, degree of luminosity, and where it fell. If this can be done, and it is well worth trying, the record will be practically unique.

THOS. LINDSAY, Toronto.

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