As very few students of astronomy have ever seen this far-away orb—with its mean distance from the sun of seventeen hundred and seventy millions of miles; where the very existence of such an atom as our earth is entirely undiscoverable; its diameter of about thirty-two thousand miles; its year equal to eighty-four of ours; and its beautiful system of four moons, named respectively Ariel, Umbriel, Titania and Oberon—I would direct their attention (from about the end of March) to its place in the sky. On March 24th it is 3° 39′ N. of the Moon. If the eyesight fails to pick it up, have recourse to optical aid—say an opera glass or small telescope—when the planet cannot be mistaken. It will look larger than an ordinary star, will not twinkle or flicker, but shine with a steady light, like a tiny moon, of about the size, to the naked eye, of a star of the fifth or sixth magnitude. When the amateur has seen this, he can satisfy himself with the knowledge that few, with the most powerful telescopes, have seen much more. We know very little of its surface markings, and four satellites only, out of a probable host, have as yet been discovered. At times, the closest scrutiny in the best glasses has indicated traces of faint belts, similar to those of Saturn, just discernible, stretched across a pale blue (or green) disc. So little is known of these markings, by which alone its rotation or length of day can be ascertained, that the time of rotation is still a question of doubt.

The disc of Uranus is not sharply defined, especially in a small telescope. Its discoverer suspected that it had rings similar to Saturn, but this idea has long been discarded. Herschel also announced that it was attended by six satellites; but two of these were afterwards proven to have been faint stars in the neighborhood.

To the student who may feel discouraged at seeing so little of this body, I would say that Uranus is placed at such a distance, that light itself, travelling at a rate of nearly 187,000 miles in a single second, takes over 2h. 28m. to pass over the interval which separates the Earth from Uranus when at the point of closest approach (Opposition). Only those with telescopes of large apertures—say 7 inches and upwards—can therefore hope to glimpse the Uranian satellites.

To those who have to be content with unaided eye observations—or at best a very little optical aid—the dates when Uranus is near the Moon during 1894 will be of interest, viz.:—January 29th, February 25th, March 24th, April 21st, May 18th, June 14th, July 11th, August 7th, September 4th, October 1st, October 29th, November 25th, and December 23rd.