

## BOOK NOTICES.

*Webb's Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes, 2nd Vol.*—By REV. T. E. ESPIN, M.A., F.R.S. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co.

Rev. Mr. Espin, Director of the Observatory at Tow Law, Darlington, England, is to be congratulated upon the manner in which he has edited the second volume of *Webb's Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes*, an advanced copy of which has reached us. The book, which has upwards of 250 pages, is stored with information of the greatest interest and value to astronomers, embracing, as it does, many thou-

sands of stellar objects, arranged under the heads of constellations and selected so as to be suited to telescopes such as are commonly met with. In addition, it is embellished by beautifully executed plates, showing the types of stellar spectra, according to Secchi, and by a cut, from a photograph, of the lovely cluster in Hercules. Observers will gladly hail the appearance of a work which should be on the shelf of every astronomer, and will appreciate the labors of Mr. Espin, who has carefully re-examined, checked over, and has nearly all the objects catalogued. The volume reflects credit on editor and publishers alike. G. E. L.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

The planet Mercury will be at its greatest elongation east from the sun on the morning of October 19th, its distance being  $24^{\circ} 31'$ . In the evening, for several days, the planet will set shortly after the sun, but the twilight will be too bright for good observation.

Venus will still be a morning star in October, but too near the sun to be well seen.

Mars is nightly improving in position. On 20th of October, he will be in a line with the sun and earth. His distance from us will be about forty millions of miles, or nearly five millions of miles greater than in August, 1892, when his presence in the sky created such widespread interest in Astronomy in general, and in Mars in particular. The planet, though farther off, is being seen to greater advantage from northern latitudes than in 1892, as his position in the sky is  $33^{\circ}$  north of his position in that year. Already, some very interesting observations have been reported. In several of the more notable observatories special preparations have been made with a view to taking every possible advantage of this present opposition. Mars, which is in constellation Pisces, moved eastward until about the 15th of September, when he turned the loop in his course, and began to retrograde toward the west. On the 1st of October, this planet will rise shortly after nightfall, or at 6.30 o'clock. Its risings will

occur earlier and earlier, until by the end of the month it will rise about 4.30, or in broad daylight.

Jupiter is daily increasing in brilliancy, and may easily be picked up a little to the north and east before midnight, as he rises on the 1st of October about 10 p.m., and on the 31st at about 8 p.m. Jupiter was in quadrature with the sun on the 28th of September. The planet is in the feet of Gemini, and is moving eastward, but will begin to retrograde on the 24th of October.

Saturn and Uranus are near the sun, and therefore, for the present, lost to the observer. Neptune may be well seen after midnight, as he is in Taurus, near the star *lambda*.

On the 1st of October, Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Pisces and Cetus are prominent constellations on the meridian at midnight, while Cancer and Orion are rising, and Hercules and Capricornus are setting. In Andromeda, situated in R.A. 0 h. 37 m., and north declination  $40^{\circ} 41'$ , is a large and irresolvable nebula in the form of an elongated ellipse. A splendid group of stars, situated in the Sword Handle of Perseus, may, in October, be observed to great advantage in the absence of moonlight.

There are no bright showers of meteors in October.

G. E. L.

