




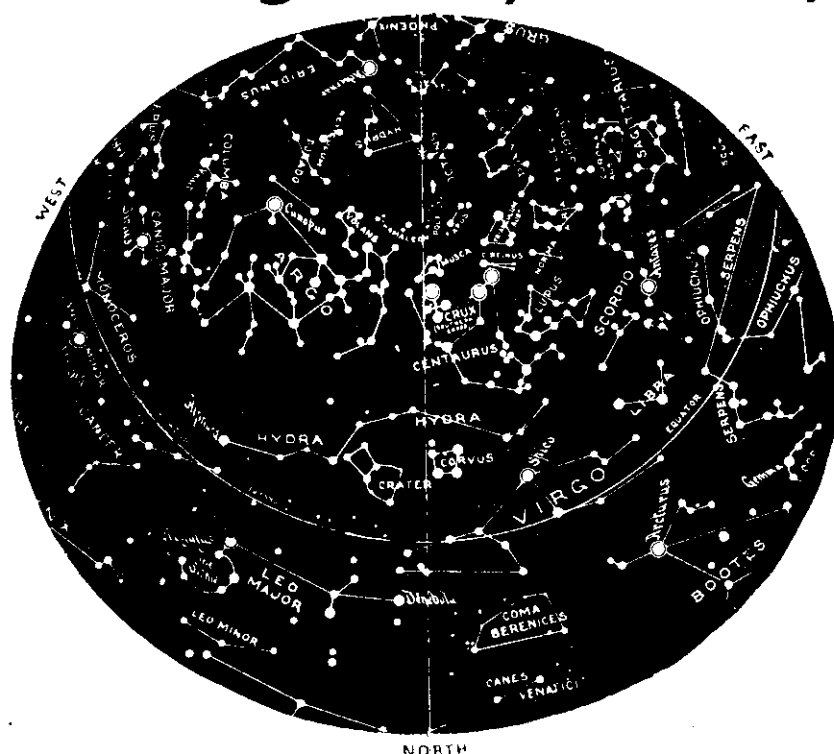
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The Night Sky in May



THE next talk in the series *The Night Sky* will be heard from 2YA at 9.15 p.m. on Monday, May 5, when the speaker will be R. A. McIntosh, of Auckland, a past president of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand.

Readers will have noticed how the stars as shown in the chart for May have altered in position as compared with the chart for April. This change, which appears considerable when compared month by month, is going on gradually from day to day. Thus, while our present chart is designed for May 1 at about 9.0 p.m. it can also be used for May 2 at 8.56 p.m., May 3 at 8.52 p.m., and so on; that is, the time is to be taken four minutes earlier for each succeeding night. The change for a complete month is about two hours. Next month a new chart will appear for June 1 at 9.0 p.m.

The moon may be used as an indication to certain objects in the sky. Distances as seen in the sky are referred

to in terms of degrees, and then may be appreciated better when it is remembered that the moon has a diameter of half a degree. On May 3, at 9.0 p.m., Spica is five degrees above the moon; on May 5 Jupiter is eight degrees to the right of the full moon and three-and-a-half degrees to the left on May 6. Observers in South Africa on May 6 will see the moon pass right in front of Jupiter—a phenomenon known as an occultation.

The red star, Antares, is three degrees above the moon on May 7. The crescent moon will be in line with the constellation Castor and Pollux on May 24. Pollux is the star nearer the moon. On May 25 Saturn is six degrees to the left of the moon. By May 30 the moon will have about completed the circuit of the heavens and will be 18 degrees below Spica. On May 21 a total eclipse of the sun occurs, but it will not be visible in New Zealand. It will be seen in certain parts of South America, the mid-Atlantic and Central Africa.

"The Night Sky in May" will also be heard from 3YA—on May 6, at 7.15 p.m. — and from 1YA and 4YA the following week.

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

Australian Inland Stations

THE Australian Broadcasting Commission has three stations on the shortwave band which (although mainly directed to listeners in Australia who live outside the coverage area of the national stations on the broadcast band) may be heard at quite good strength in New Zealand. It will be noticed that VLQ3 and VLH3 carry the Interstate programme and VLR the National programme.

Stations, Frequencies, and Wave-lengths: VLR, 9.54 mc/s, 31.45 metres, 6.30-8.30 p.m.; VLR2, 6.15 mc/s, 48.78


metres, 8.45-10.0 p.m.; VLH5, 15.24 mc/s, 19.69 metres, 6.30-8.15 p.m.; VLH3, 9.58 mc/s, 31.32 metres, 8.30-10.0 p.m.; VLQ3, 9.66 mc/s, 31.06 metres, 6.30-10.0 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday these stations may be heard during the afternoon.

At 8.58 p.m. the National programme broadcasts the main features in its nightly programme. Listeners may notice that some special features in the programme are broadcast by all three stations, so it is suggested that each be checked for this and for the best signal strength.

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