

each. The arrow represents the up and down line and the vertex of a figure is determined by imagining a line parallel to the arrow drawn through its centre. The fourth figure is the precise view of the maximum phase which will occur at 8 hours 15 minutes 17 seconds standard time. After this hour the obscuration will begin to decrease but continue shifting in the same direction as before. Seven and a half minutes after the view of the last figure (*i.e.*, at 9 hours 38 minutes 36 seconds standard time) the eclipse will end, the point of the last contact being 29 degrees left of the bottom, or where the hour-hand of a watch has its tip two minutes before seven o'clock.

The August Meteors.

BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SECTION.

One of the most important meteoric showers is that of the Perseids of 10th to 12th August. It is a rich annual shower and its meteors are remarkable as rapid and leaving trails of luminous vapours behind them. As the meteors of this shower are not collected into a narrow path on each side of the computed orbit, but spread far on both sides of it, they are also visible some days before and after the above-mentioned dates. It is suggested that if the weather permits observations may be taken of the shower, and in order to facilitate the observations a short description of the constellation Perseus which contains the radiant point is now given. This constellation is situated north of the zodiacal constellations Aries and Taurus. Most persons, I suppose, know the star cluster known as the Pleiades in Taurus. North of this star cluster will be found in a curved line from south towards north the three stars δ , ϵ , and ν Persei. Of these the lowest and the middle one are of the 3rd and the uppermost of the 4th magnitude. North of ν Persei will be found, in a line running from south-east to north-west, the four stars δ , α , γ , and η Persei; their magnitudes are respectively 3.2, 1.9, 3.1, 3.9. On the south and a little towards west of α is the remarkable variable star named Algol or β Persei. On the 10th of August α Persei will rise at Calcutta at 10h. 5m. p.m., and its amplitude or the angular distance from the east point will be $55^{\circ} 30'$ towards north. The R. A. and the declination of the radiant point of the shower are respectively 3 hours and 57° N. On the 10th of August it rises at Calcutta at 9h. 5m. p.m., and its amplitude will be $65^{\circ} 18'$ towards north. It is very near the small star η Persei.