

the work and deduce the solar parallax. The photographs taken at Greenwich were reduced, and a value of the parallax determined under the direction of Sir William Christie, then Astronomer Royal ; but most of the other co-operating observatories entrusted their photographs, or their visual observations, to Mr. Hinks, who has derived from the photographs  $8\cdot807''$  as the value of the Solar Parallax, and  $8\cdot806''$  from the micrometric measures, and for this work he deservedly receives this high honour from the Royal Astronomical Society. He has already been honoured in France, for the Paris Academy of Sciences last year awarded him the Leconte Prize for the same work.

A parallax of  $8\cdot806''$  corresponds to a mean distance of the Earth from the Sun of 92,830,000 miles, so that if we say roughly that the Earth is 93 million miles from the Sun we are not far wrong ; but we are fully justified in saying more correctly that it is ninety-two million nine hundred thousand, for all recent direct determinations cluster about  $8\cdot80''$ , which corresponds to that length. The final result of the Greenwich determination abovementioned was given as  $8\cdot800''$  with a possibility of its being a little larger. A variation of  $0\cdot01''$  in the parallax corresponds to 100,000 miles in the distance. It will be understood that astronomical observation gives only the angle, and to deduce from it the distance of the Sun in miles, it is necessary to use a value of the radius of the Earth's equator. In finding the above figures Colonel Clark's second value has been used ; but an early determination of the size of the Earth differing much from this would have caused an alteration, if it had been used, of only about twenty thousand miles on the Sun's distance.

[*English Mechanic.*

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## Memoranda for Observers.

Standard Time of India is adopted in these Memoranda.

*For the month of April 1912.*

Sidereal time at 8 p.m.

				H.	M.	S.
<i>April 1st</i>	...	...	...	...	8	38 19
„ <i>8th</i>	...	...	...	...	9	5 55
„ <i>15th</i>	...	...	...	...	9	33 31
„ <i>22nd</i>	...	...	...	...	10	1 6
„ <i>29th</i>	...	...	...	...	10	28 42

From this table the constellations visible during the evenings of April can be ascertained by a reference to their position as given in a Star Chart.

### Phases of the Moon.

		H.	M.	
<i>April</i>	2nd Full Moon ...	...	3 35	a.m.
,,	9th Last Quarter ...	...	8 54	p.m.
,,	17th New Moon ...	...	5 10	p.m.
,,	24th First Quarter ...	...	2 17	p.m.

### Meteors.

Date.	Radiant.		Character.
	R. A.	Dec.	
<i>April</i> 20th—23rd	189°	-31°	Slow, long.
,, 20th—21st	261	+36	Swift, bluish white.
,, 20th—22nd	271	-2	Swift, streaks.
,, 20th—25th	218	-31	Slow, long paths.
,, 30th	291	+59	Rather slow.

### Planets.

*Venus*.—Is a Morning Star. On April 15th at 8 p.m. its position will be R. A. 0 hr. 15 mts. 53 secs. Dec. 0°-2'-18"N. The time of its rising will be 4 hrs. 16 mts. a.m. on the 16th April.

*Saturn*.—The position of the planet on the 15th April at 8 p.m. will be R. A. 3 hrs. 11 mts. 44 secs. Dec. 15°-48'-19" N. The time of its setting will be 7 hrs. 44 mts. p.m. on the 15th February.

*Mars*.—The position of the planet on the 15th April at 8 p.m. will be R. A. 6 hrs. 24 mts. 23 secs. Dec. 25°-7'-18" N. The time of its setting will be 11 hrs. 14 mts. p.m. on the 15th April.

*Jupiter*.—The position of this planet on the 15th April at 8 p.m. will be R. A. 16 hrs. 55 mts. 39 secs. Dec. 21°-48'-33" S. The time of its rising will be 9 hrs. 34 mts. a.m. on the 15th April.

### Moon.

A partial eclipse of the Moon will take place on the 2nd of April 1912. The following are the Calcutta times of the different phases :—

	H.	M.	
First contact with the penumbra ...	...	1 48	a.m.
First contact with the shadow ...	...	3 19	a.m.
Middle of the eclipse ...	...	4 8	a.m.
Last contact with the shadow ...	...	4 56	a.m.
Last contact with the penumbra ...	...	6 28	a.m.

The magnitude of the eclipse is nearly  $\cdot 2$ , considering the Moon's diameter to be unity.

### Sun.

A central eclipse of the Sun, invisible in Bengal, will take place on the 17th April 1912. The approximate limit below which it will not be visible in any part of India is latitude  $25^{\circ}$  N.

## Notices of the Society.

### Election of Members.

The attention of members is invited to Bye-Law No. 14, regulating the election of persons who desire to join the Society. It is hoped that those who are already members will induce others to join. Forms of application can be had from the Secretary, Mr. P. N. Mukherji.

### Change of Addresses.

It is particularly requested that when members change their addresses, they will kindly notify the new address to the Secretary. The omission to do this is likely to cause the loss of the Journals and other communications.

### Telegraphic Address.

The address of the Society has been registered at the Telegraph Office, Calcutta. Telegrams should be addressed "Astronomy, Calcutta."