THE SUNSTROKE THEORY.

The Influence of the Planets—Jupiter in 1866 and in 1878.

[From the Rock Island Union.]

ROCK ISLAND, July 20.—It is rather remarkable to notice how faithfully natural forces repeat themselves from time to time with similar positions of the planets and with similar effects after certain periods of time, and how completely we forget these results afterward. The following is from the "Almanac of Planetary Meteorology" for 1876—page 66:

"The first or greatest electric effect, or sunstrokes, are produced under the violent electric action at the times of the near approach of the opposition [opposition means when the earth is between the sun and the planets] passages of Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn; also the inferior conjunctions of Mercury and Venus during the summer seasons."

The following extract is from page 13 of the work on "Cholera and Planetary Epidemics":

The greatest number of sunstrokes in New York city in 1872, occurred within ten days of the time that Saturn passed its opposition, July 9. This was the case in the city of New York in July, 1866, when Jupiter reached its opposition July 20. There were 246 cases of sunstroke registered the week previous to Jupiter passing the point. And in the same city in 1870 there were 44 cases of sunstroke in June, and many in the first part of July. Mercury came to its inferior conjunction with the sun June 4, and Saturn reached its opposition June 15, 1870.

The following is from the work entitled "The New Law of Gravitation," page 25:

"It may be seen that Jupiter goes through its cycles, giving us fine, mild, and warm weather at each succeeding opposition when not neutralized by planets on the opposite side of the sun at about the same time. Jupiter's opposition occurs about one month later each year. In the winter, spring, and autumn months it produces mild and warm weather. In the summer it is hot and generates sunstrokes."

"The great slaughter from sunstroke in New York, Philadelphia, and other parts of the country during the first two weeks of July, 1876, occurred under the influence of the planet Venus coming to its inferior conjunction with the sun, which point it reached July 13."

The last severe sunstroke term at St. Louis previous to this one occurred within forty-three hours of the time of the planet Mercury passing its inferior conjunction with the sun, which point it reached on the 25th of July, 1874. There was a small though sharp sunstroke wave struck Paris, France, on the 12th of July, 1875, as Saturn reached its opposition on the 15th of the same month. There was no opposition or inferior conjunction of the planets in July, 1877.

But here we are, twelve years later, in the midst of a heated and sunstroke term—under the same influence and position to Jupiter as we were in July, 1866. Jupiter reached its opposition on the 20th of July, 1866. It will arrive at the same position July 24, 1878, which should prove to be the turning point of the present heated and sunstroke period.

Therefore we may expect relief from the present heated sunstroke term by the 24th, and a termination of its fatal effects by the day of the eclipse of the sun, July 29, or the day following, at the latest. But this reduction of temperature must be followed by heavy rains, as the atmosphere, from this continued elevation of temperature, will be unusually saturated with vapor, much of which must necessarily be precipitated between the 24th of July and the 1st of August. After a rest from the present heated term we may expect moderately warm weather again through the greater part of August and September, as the planet Mercury comes to its inferior conjunction with the sun Sept. 9, and Saturn arrives at its opposition Sept. 22.

There are planetary phenomena to-day (20th), and again on the 22d, but I anticipate very little relief from them, and nothing lasting, until we have passed the maximum force of Jupiter on the 24th. This brief outline of this sunstroke theory must suffice at this time.

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