

THE HEAVENS IN JANUARY.

A Conjunction of Venus and Mars on Wednesday, Jan. 2—Eclipse of the Sun.

Astronomical data for January, 1889, furnished by the Washburn observatory: Times of sunrise and sunset—Jan. 1, 7:25 A. M. and 4:27 P. M.; Jan. 11, 7:23 A. M. and 4:37 P. M.; Jan. 21, 7:18 A. M. and 4:49 P. M.; Jan. 31, 7:09 A. M. and 5:03 P. M.

The phases of the moon are as follows: New moon, Jan. 1, 3:08 P. M.; first quarter, Jan. 8, 6:41 P. M.; full moon, Jan. 16, 11:37 P. M.; third quarter, Jan. 24, 9:57 A. M.; new moon, Jan. 31, 3:10 A. M.

Interesting planetary phenomena occur as follows: A conjunction of Venus and Mars on Jan. 2. The nearest approach of the planets occurs at 6:47 A. M., when the planets are below the horizon, but the distance on the evenings of Jan. 1 and 2 will be less than a degree. Mercury reaches its greatest elongation from the sun on Jan. 29, and its maximum brilliancy on Jan. 31. It will then be an evening star and may be seen soon after sunset about 18 degrees distant, above and to the south of the point in which the sun disappeared. Saturn is again coming into a favorable position for observation and may be seen late in the evening in the eastern sky near the constellation Leo. Its brightness and clear yellow light will easily identify the planet and distinguish it from any fixed star.

The year 1889 is remarkable for the concurrence of three central eclipses of the sun, a very unusual number. Of these only one is visible in Wisconsin and that is a partial eclipse about the time of sunset on Jan. 1. The computed time of the beginning of the eclipse for Milwaukee is Jan. 1, 3:19 P. M. Sunset occurs at very nearly the middle of the eclipse. This eclipse will be total in the Aleutian Islands, and in parts of the Pacific ocean, California, Nevada, Idaho and British America, and provision has been made by astronomers for observing it along the central line of totality.

This eclipse will be followed on Jan. 16 by a partial eclipse of the moon, the maximum obscuration amounting to seven-tenths of the moon's diameter. The moon enters the earth's shadow and eclipse begins Jan. 16, 9:58 P. M. Eclipse ends Jan. 17, 1:01 A. M.

The principal fixed stars visible during the month, are in the east and south Sirius, Regulus and the brilliant constellation Orion. Visitors will be received at the Washburn observatory on the evenings of Jan. 2 and Jan. 16, from 7:30 to 9:30 P. M., if the night is clear.

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