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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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REMOVAL OF AERIAL ELECTRIC WIRES IN NEW YORK.

The work of removing the aerial telegraph, telephone, and electric supply lines in this city, with a view to forcing the electrical supply companies to use the subway system in such streets as contain it, has been vigorously prosecuted during the past week.

A very impressive feature of the operations is the comparative darkness to which the city in these parts is relegated at night. The gas lamps are quite unable to supply sufficient light for the people, who have now been accustomed to electric illumination.

A NEW SUIT UNDER ELECTRIC DYNAMO CONSTRUCTION PATENTS.

The initial proceedings in a suit brought by the Westinghouse Electric Company, through its lessee, the United States Electric Light Company, against the Manhattan Electric Light Company, were taken on April 18. The suit, presumably the first of an extensive series, is notable from the patents under which it was brought.

DELAY IN GRANTING APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS.

On April 16, 1889, two patents were granted to Edward Weston, which bid fair to be basis of many and extensive suits for infringement. They illustrate the evils of the present system of granting patents, as regards the delay in concluding the proceedings.

It may well be asked what good is attained by judicial contests before the Commissioner of Patents. The infringement suits brought under a patent that has been contested under interference proceedings in the Patent Office are not accelerated by the contest before the examiners of interference.

those of infringement, be fought in the Federal courts. This would be a move in the right direction, and in that of simplification. It would tend to make attorneys more careful in drawing up claims, and would multiply immensely the number of examiners, for every inventor personally would be his own examiner.

POSITION OF THE PLANETS IN MAY.

VENUS

is morning star. She is a charming object in the eastern sky before sunrise, as she oscillates westward from the sun, rising earlier every morning and increasing in brilliancy as a larger portion of her illumined disk is turned toward the earth.

JUPITER

is morning star. There will be a fine opportunity for contrasting the two planets. Venus is the more brilliant, but her luster is dimmed by the radiance of the dawn, while Jupiter seems almost her equal in brightness as he shines with the midnight sky for a background.

SATURN

is evening star. He is in quadrature with the sun on the 3d, is then on the meridian about sunset, and finely situated for observation. He may be found in the west when it is dark enough for the stars to come out, slowly approaching Regulus in the handle of the Sickle, but his light grows dim as he approaches the sun.

MERCURY

is evening star. He reaches his greatest eastern elongation on the 24th, and is 22° 49' east of the sun. He may be easily seen at that time, and for a week before and after, by the unaided eye. Observers will be sure to find him, for his position is most favorable.

MARS

is evening star. As he moves westward from the sun he meets Mercury moving eastward. The planets are in conjunction on the 5th. Neptune overtakes and passes Mars on the 12th. Mars sets on the 1st at 7 h. 53 m. P. M.

NEPTUNE

is evening star until the 22d, and then morning star. He is in conjunction with the sun on the 22d, rising and setting with the sun, and passing to his western side. Neptune sets on the 1st at 8 h. 23 m. P. M.

URANUS

is evening star. He sets on the 1st at 4 h. 1 m. A. M. On the 31st he sets at 2 h. 2 m. A. M. His diameter on the 1st is 3".8, and he is in the constellation Virgo.

Salt Beds in New South Wales.

The Sydney Daily Telegraph says: What may be a discovery of great value has been made at Ellalong, near Maitland, and about 16 miles from Allandale station. There a deposit of crystallized salt, 4 feet thick in places, has been found, and it is expected that a body of rock salt will be reached below.