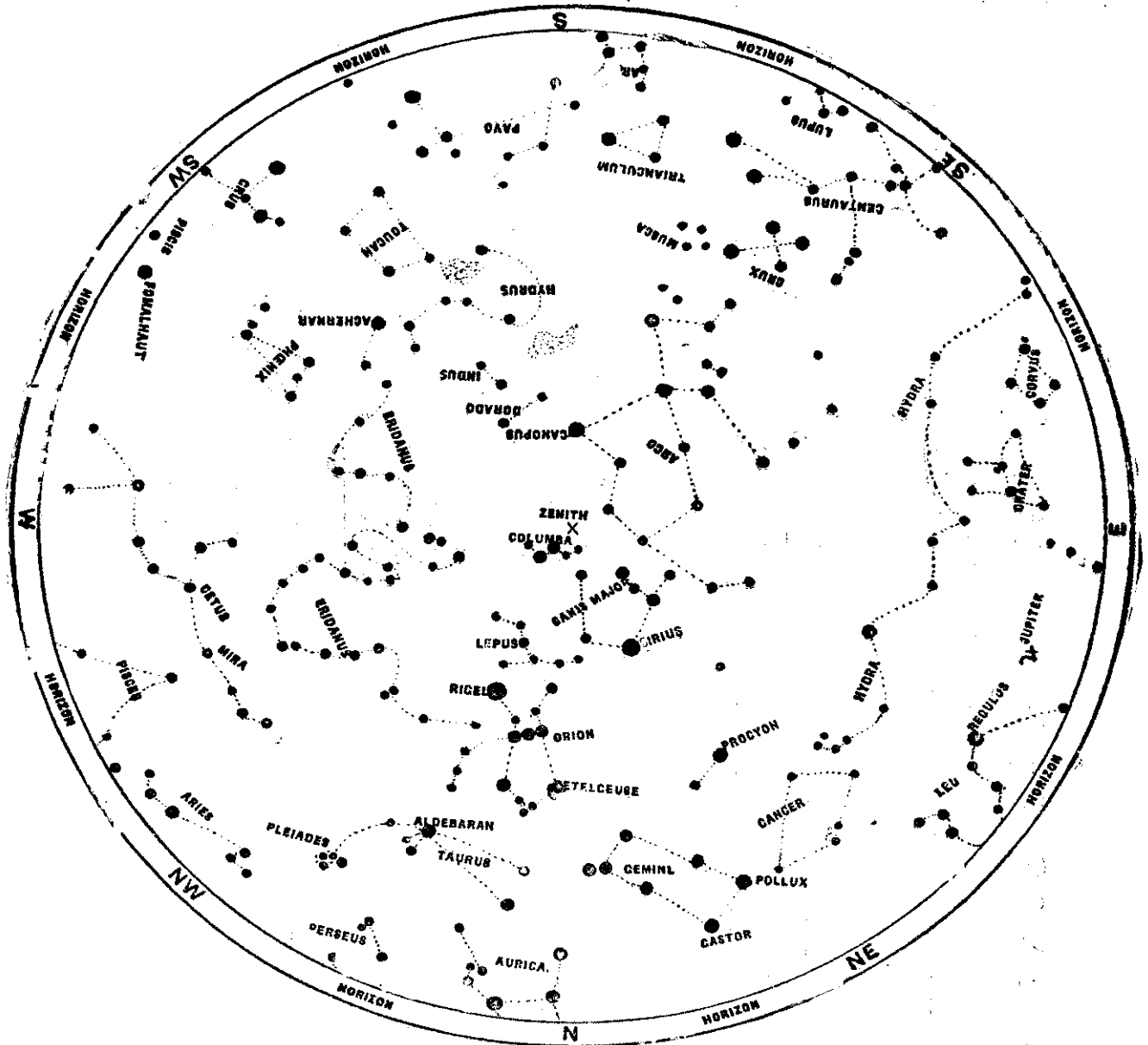


The Night Sky for February 15th at 8.30 p.m.

Specially Drawn for the "Graphic" by J. T. Ward, Hon. Director Wanganui Observatory.



The stars and planets are shown on the above chart as they may be seen on the 15th of the month at about 8.30 p.m. As the stars shift their places night by night on the sky, rising about four minutes earlier each evening, the observer who wishes to observe certain constellations near their rising or setting, must time his observations accordingly.

The cross at centre of chart represents the point overhead, and to see the stars as they appear in the sky, the chart must be held with that point of the compass towards which the observer is looking held downwards.

If this chart is compared with that furnished for January, it will be seen that several new constellations have made their appearance in the eastern sky, while some then visible in the west are no longer to be seen.

Looking towards the north we see portions of Auriga and Perseus, low down near the horizon, while on either side of the meridian may be seen Gemini and Taurus. Over there again are Orion and Lepus, with Canis Major and the brilliant Sirius, the brightest of all the starry hosts as seen from the earth. Cancer lies next to Gemini, and the pretty clus-

ter called "Praesepe," or the "Beehive," in this constellation will well repay observing with a good field glass. Leo is just clearing the eastern horizon, while over him may be seen the long trailing form of Hydra—the Water Snake, and the two small constellations, Crater and Corvus towards the south-east. Turning south, the Cross will be seen well out to the east of the Pole, followed by the Centaur, and Lupus lower down, while the Triangle is on the southern meridian, Hydra and the Toucan, with Grus low down in the south-west, and Picta just setting. The two Magnetic Clouds are now towards the west, and high up in

the south-eastern sky is Argo, and the fire-star Canopus passing over the Pole. Eridanus is now to the west, preparing to descend with Phoenix and Cetus lying between it and the horizon, Pisces is nearing the north-western horizon and Aries is nearing its setting. Saturn is close to the horizon in Pisces, and Jupiter is just rising in Leo in the north-east. Jupiter is now the most attractive object in our evening sky, and any fairly powerful hand telescope will show his four principal satellites, which, with the great planet, form an object of much interest with these means. The moon is not visible at this time.