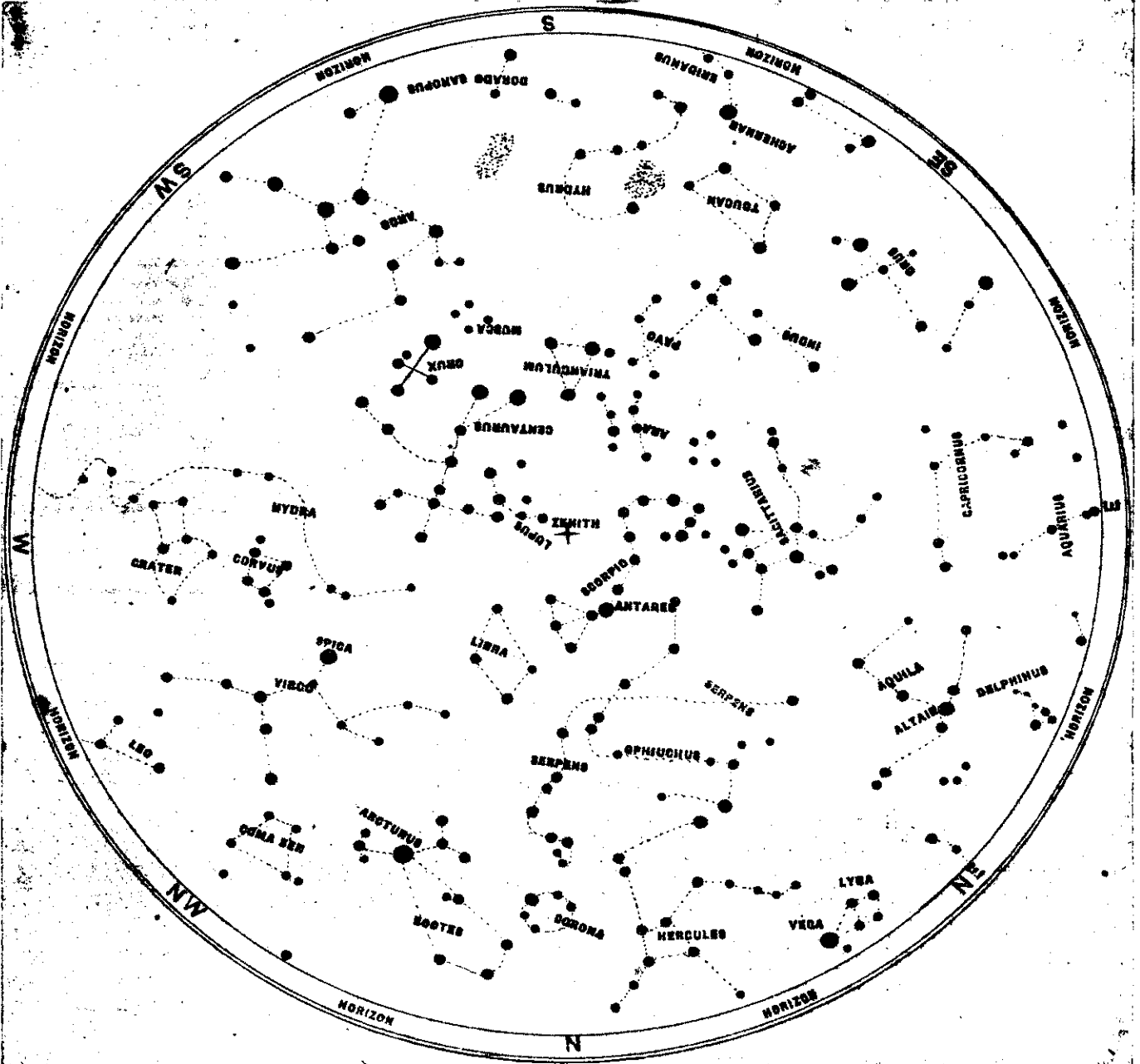


# THE NIGHT SKY IN JULY

THE ABOVE STAR CHART IS SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE "N.Z. GRAPHIC" BY MR. J. T. WARD, DIRECTOR OF THE WANGANUI OBSERVATORY.



THE stars, planets, or other celestial bodies are shown on the above chart as they may be seen at about eight p.m. of the 15th. As the stars rise, and come to the meridian nearly four minutes earlier each succeeding evening, the observer will understand that for an earlier date he will see the stars, as shown; at a later hour, and for a later date the reverse will obtain. The cross at the centre of the chart, marked zenith, represents the point overhead, and the compass points are given at the circumference. The stars are shown as

they appear in the heavens when the chart is held in the corresponding position. Comparing the above chart with that of June, it will be seen that a number of bright stars have disappeared below the western horizon, while many others have made their appearance in the eastern sky. Looking north, we see Hercules and Bootes on either side of the meridian, with the Northern Crown between; above these stand Ophiuchus and Serpens, with Libra and Scorpio towards the zenith. Lyra is rising in the north-east, and Altair, while about due east

Aquarius is seen above the horizon with Capricornus above him, and Sagittarius still higher. In the south-east we see Fomalhaut; in the southern, Fishes with Grus and Indus above. Portion of Eridanus, with Achernar, the brightest star of this constellation, may be seen east of south, while Hydra lies over that point with the two Magellanic Clouds on either side. The Southern Cross and the two bright "Pointers"—Alpha and Beta Centauri—are now well over the Polar upper transit, with Triangulum following closely. Argo is now seen declining towards the south-west, and the fine star Canopus moving

towards his lower transit. Hydra, with Corvus and Crater, are approaching the western horizon. Leo is represented by Denobola and a few stars low down with Virgo, drawing towards its setting, the fine stars, Spica and Arcturus, being especially noticeable towards the north-west at this time. The moon is at this time below the horizon, as is Jupiter, just set. Mars, the star of the evening skies, rising in the south-east, is not yet visible. Venus must be looked for earlier to the north of the sun's setting, when she will be seen white and brilliant in the twilight sky.