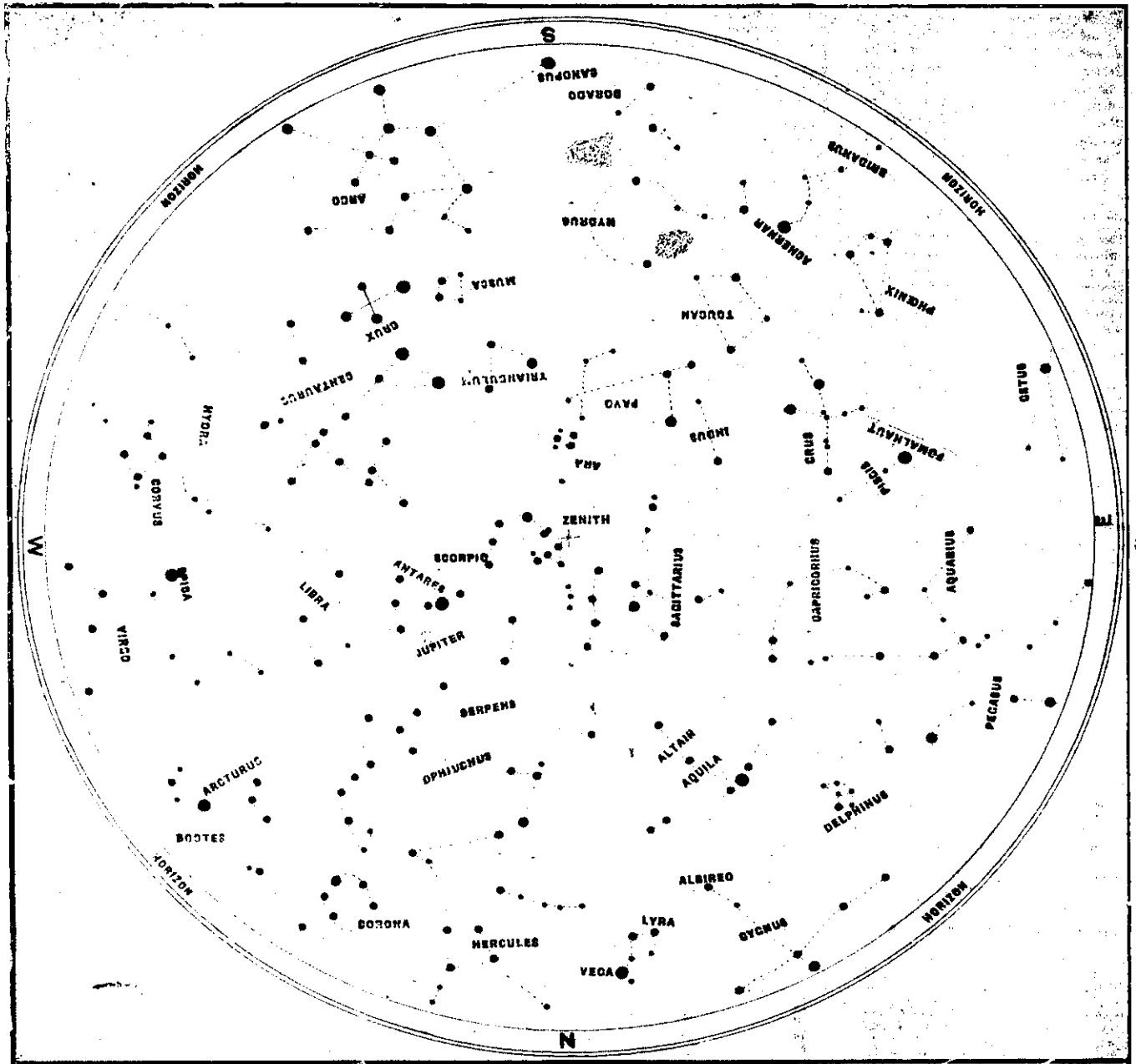


# THE NIGHT SKY IN AUGUST.

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



THE stars and other celestial bodies are shown on the above chart as they may be seen in the sky at about 8.30 p.m. of the 15th. It will, however, serve for other dates by adding four minutes per day for any date previous to the 15th, or deducting the same amount for any number of days after; thus the same appearance of the night sky may be seen on the 1st at 9.30, on the 15th at 8.30, and on the 30th at 7.30 p.m. The chart, as printed, serves for the northern view. It should be held upside down for the southern, and on either side for east or west. In all cases the point of compass, shown on rim of chart, should be

underneath, the cross at centre of chart is then the point overhead. In comparing this chart with that drawn for July, it will be noticed that several constellations then visible in the west have now disappeared below the horizon, while others not then to be seen have made their appearance in the eastern sky. Turning to the north we see that Lyra, and the brilliant star Vega, is just to the right of the meridian and nearest the horizon, and Hercules occupies the same position on the left. Aquila and Serpens with Ophiuchus are over those again, while Cygnus is now well risen in the north-east. Round by the east may be seen Pegasus, just rising, and stretching from horizon to south are Aquarius,

Capricornus and Sagittarius in the order named. Eridanus is emerging in the south-east, the bright Achernar leading -- on his right and left are Hydra and Phoenix, while above these are Crux and Toucan, Indus and Pavo. Canopus is at this time nearly due south, and at this low altitude is observed to scintillate very rapidly and change colour as he scintillates. Argo, of which he is the leading star, follows to the right. Above Argo is the Cross and the two bright "Pointers," Alpha and Beta Centauri. Virgo is low down in the west with the tail of Hydra, the Water-Snake, and Corvus; over these are Libra and Scorpius. In the north-west Boötes, with the brilliant Arcturus, is just setting, followed by that small constella-

tion, Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. The moon has just set, at the hour for which this chart is drawn, in Virgo, in which constellation she may be seen on the two following nights, after which she will move into Libra on the 18th and 19th, Scorpio on the 20th and 21st, and nearest Antares on the 20th, Sagittarius from the 22nd to the 24th, Capricornus from the 25th to 26th, Aquarius 27th to the 29th, and Pisces till the end of the month. Jupiter is the only one of the bright planets visible at the time given. He will be seen to the left of and below the red star Antares in Scorpius, and is at this time a very interesting object in the telescope.