

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

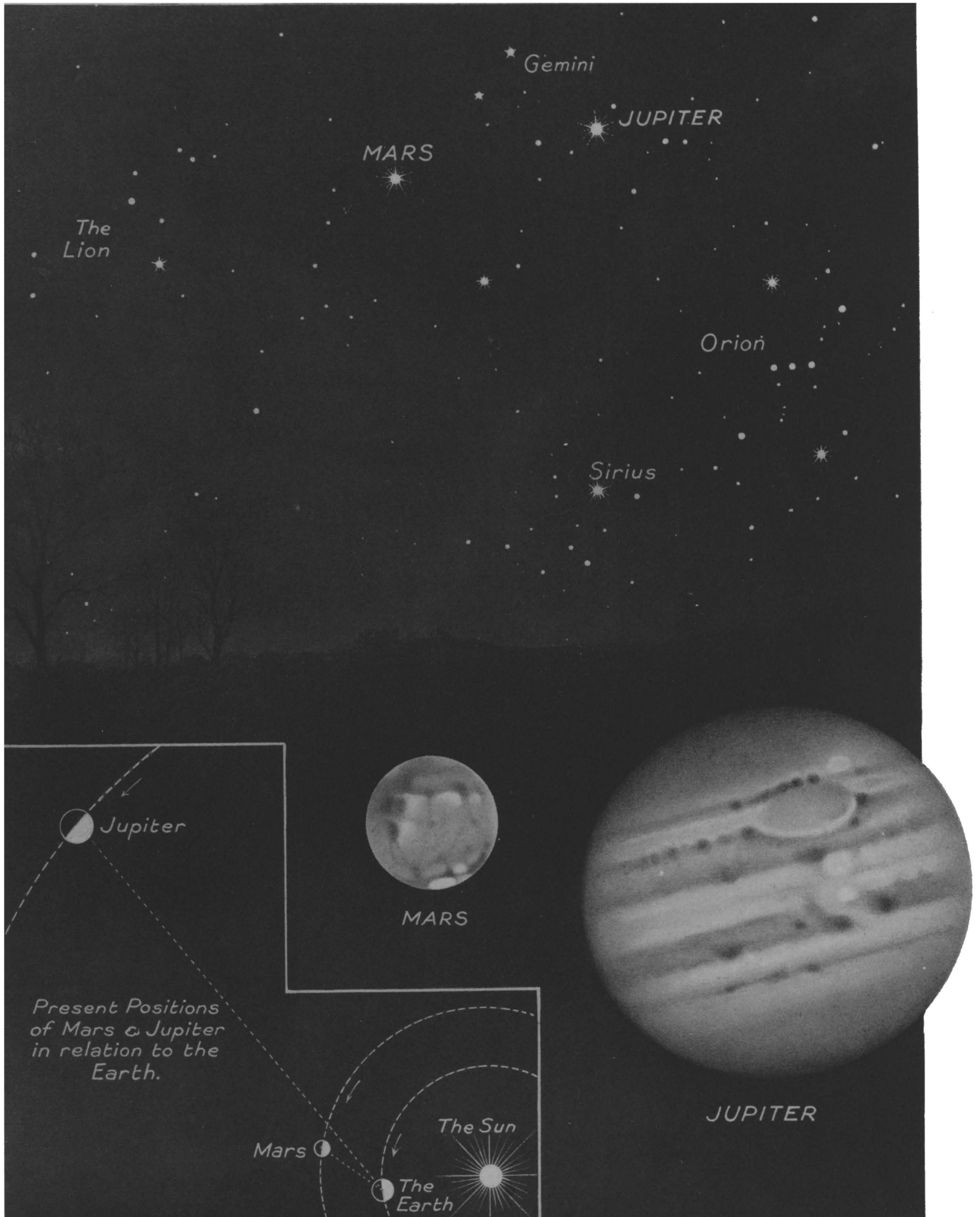


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MARS AND JUPITER IN ALL THEIR SPLENDOUR IN FEBRUARY.

DRAWINGS AND DESCRIPTION BY M. LUCIEN RUDAUX. (COPYRIGHTED.)



THE CONJUNCTION OF MARS AND JUPITER VISIBLE IN FEBRUARY: THE PLANETS, WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS IN THE SKY (ABOVE); A DIAGRAM SHOWING HOW THE EFFECT OF A CONJUNCTION OF THE PLANETS—ACTUALLY MILLIONS OF MILES APART—IS PRODUCED ON THE EARTH (BELOW, LEFT); AND THE PLANETS AS THEY APPEAR—THEIR NORTH POLES DOWNWARDS (RIGHT).

"The planets Mars and Jupiter," writes M. Lucien Rudaux (the well-known French astronomer, whose work has frequently been reproduced in our pages), "are shining at the moment amid the magnificent constellations normally visible at this time of year—that is, they are to be seen in a southerly direction, in the positions illustrated here. Jupiter's brilliance eclipses all the stars in his neighbourhood; while Mars can also be seen shining brightly, with an orange glow like that of a hot coal. The apparent diameters of the two planets are depicted as they would appear when viewed through a small telescope. Their proportional sizes are the result of their widely different distances from the Earth: Mars seems relatively large, lying as

he does at a comparatively small distance (119 million kilometres); while Jupiter is 602 million kilometres away from us. Actually Jupiter's globe is twenty-one times as big as that of Mars. At the moment Mars has reached the place in his orbit which corresponds to springtime on his northern hemisphere, and will be at Summer Solstice on May 21. In this position he turns his North Pole to the Earth" (in the illustrations the North is seen below, as in a telescope), "so that the Polar snow-cap is clearly visible, shrinking steadily as summer draws on there. Jupiter's huge disc is even more easily observable, at times, surrounded with satellites. The astronomer may note further changes on the surface of the curious world it constitutes."