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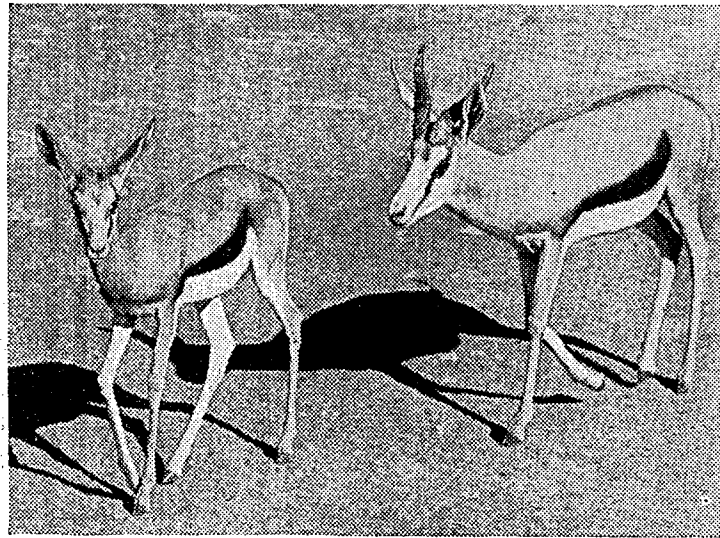
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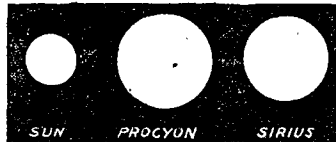
### The original Springboks

These gazelles photographed in the South African sunlight are of the species called the Springbok. The name is popularly used for touring South African cricket and Rugby teams.

### LOOKING AT THE SKY

# BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE SOUTHERN SKY

IN spite of the moonlight next week, two of the brightest stars in the southern sky may be readily identified; these are Sirius and Procyon, both of which are of great interest as they are the nearest of all the stellar host that can be seen in the evening at present.



Sirius is almost due south between 8 and 9 o'clock. It is unmistakable, being much the brightest of all the stars. Procyon appears some way above Sirius, almost midway between it and overhead.

These two stars have been known since the most ancient times as the "Dog Stars." Within the last century it has been found that these stars have so much in common as to make them a pair. Not only are they the nearest of the bright stars to be seen in that direction of the Heavens, but they are also nearest to each other. They are very similar in size, as may be seen from the accompanying diagram which compares them to the size of our Sun, and each has a most astonishing world revolving round it.

#### MAJOR AND MINOR

Sirius is the chief and brightest star in the most ancient constellation of Canis Major, the "Greater Dog," and its name is believed to be derived from the ancient Egyptian god Osiris. Apart from Alpha Centauri, which we never see in Britain, Sirius is the nearest of all the great suns to our own Sun. Even so it is more than 543,000 times farther away.

Procyon, the chief star of Canis Minor, the "Lesser Dog," is 665,000 times farther than our Sun. The light from Sirius takes

8 years and 7 months to reach us; from Procyon it takes about 10 years and 5 months.

Though Sirius represents the "Greater Dog" it is actually somewhat smaller than Procyon, with a calculated diameter of 1,300,000 miles, against Procyon's 1,700,000 miles. Procyon is an older sun with a surface less hot and brilliant than Sirius.

The difference in colour reveals this even to the naked eye.

Sirius has an average surface temperature of 11,000 degrees Centigrade compared with between 6500 and 7000 degrees of Procyon, not so much greater than that of our Sun's average of nearly 6000 degrees.

The marvellous worlds that revolve round Sirius and Procyon must be reserved for future consideration.

THE new comet Arend-Roland is still much too faint to be seen without telescopic aid, although it is some eight million miles nearer than a fortnight ago and increasing in speed and brilliance as it approaches the Sun. Unfortunately the moonlight next week will prevent the comet being glimpsed even with binoculars.

JUPITER is another celestial delight in store for the spring evenings. At present rising at about 8.30 p.m., Jupiter may be recognised soon after, low in the east, being much the brightest object in that part of the sky.

Jupiter is coming nearer and brighter, and rising earlier each evening, thus getting into a much better position for observation. At present it is 429 million miles away.

The Moon will appear below Jupiter on the evening of February 17 and will, of course, greatly dim the planet's apparent brilliance.

G. F. M.

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