

CHRISTMAS TREE NOW WORLD INSTITUTION AND ONE THAT IS DESTINED TO ENDURE

Venerated Emblem of Yuletide Varies in Different Localities, but Fruit of Joy It Bears for Youngsters Is Practically Same in All Parts of Country.



Whole-sale Christmas Tree Market Where Dealers Purchase Their Trees.

Street Corner Christmas Tree Dealer.

sharp knife cut along these lines, forming a little groove which goes only about halfway through the thickness of the cardboard.

Fold the cardboard on this cut so that the two sides form right angles with the bottom of the bed. The cut in the cardboard must come where the sharp outside edge of this turn is made. When these creases are made, lay the cardboard out flat again, and cover both sides with cretonne, sewing it around the edges as described above. When covered again turn up the edges on the crease made in the cardboard, and sew the head and foot in place to this piece which forms the bottom and sides of the bed. Where the head and foot join the sides an overcasting stitch is used. The bed is complete, and ready for the mattress and pillows.

Fig. 2 shows the chifffonier, which is made from two pieces of cardboard, the patterns for which are given at the right of the illustration. Cut the pieces from the cardboard, and crease on the dotted lines with a knife for the corners as described for the bed. Cut two pieces of cretonne for each piece of cardboard and cover the cardboard, as before with the cretonne. Fold the large piece of cardboard over to form the chifffonier, and while the two open edges together. These edges are the left edge of the back of the chifffonier, and the left edge of the left side. Place the rectangular piece forming the top in place, and overcast it to the edges of the base of the chifffonier. On the front mark off spaces to represent drawers, by making lines in an outline stitch with colored thread or drawing them with a colored pencil. Sew on small buttons for the drawer pulls.

Fig. 3 illustrates two chairs, which are made alike, except for the material pieces on one of them. Cut the pieces for the chairs from the cardboard, and crease as before. The seat, front and back pieces are made alike. Cover with cretonne, and sew the necessary edges together to form the chairs. A glance at the illustration will show how this is done. For the wing chair make the two arms and sew them in place.

When selecting the cretonne for this furniture, a light weight is desirable and the figure should be as small and dainty as possible. Any other figured light weight material may be substituted. If the cardboard is not of a heavy weight, the furniture will soon become broken.

A Modern Kriss Kringle.

BY HAROLD BARNES.
Kriss Kringle laughs with a merry glee:
"I'll fool the children this year," says he;
"They think I am coming with deer and sleigh of bells, in the same old way.
"Tis time that my reindeer were given a rest,
And my sleigh is old and not at its best;
And the boys and girls—there are millions more—
Than there used to be in the days of yore.
From house to house I must speed with might,
To finish my work in a single night.
"But I'll do it," he says, with a knowing wink,
As he opens his hangar—and what do you think?
There stands in its shed like a waiting train,
The finest brand of an aeroplane.
It is roomy and strong and it holds with ease
The thousand and one pretty things that please
The good little children throughout the land,
From the arctic zone to the coral strand.

Then he looks at his watch and he looks at the moon,
And he says to himself, "I must start very soon."
So he puts on his headgear, his goggles and coat;
Tucks in his white beard from his breast to his throat,
Then springs to his place in the big aeroplane.
As nimble as though he were twenty again,
He straps himself in very tight and secure,
"In order," he says, "that I'll be very sure
Not to slip from my seat and so
Whirling through space—
For a fall from such heights might disfigure my face."

He turns on the motor; anon comes the whirling propeller, and then the glad stir
Of spinning propeller, and then the glad stir
Of the wheels as they move o'er the hard frozen snow.
As swift as the eagle, it circles and climbs
The far dizzy heights of the air; and he speeds
St. Nicholas glides to the south as he speeds
On his mission of love; for he knows
And the wishes of all. "There's no chance to be late,"
He chuckles, then cries out, "Oh, boy, boy, this is great!"
O'er ice-covered fields where the Eskimos ramble,
Where blizzards are born and where polar bears scamble;
He speeds like the wind, till his quick journey ending,
"Tis time," he murmurs Santa, "that I were descending."
The outline of houses appears soon in sight,
And now, murmurs Santa, "'tis time to alight."
He knows how to do it—his skill is the proof,
As he settles with ease on the top of a roof.
And pours out a blessing on each girl and boy,
Then listening a moment, he turns on his toes
And quick as a flash up the chimney he goes.
He springs to his seat, sets the motor to purring,
Calls out "Merry Christmas!" to any one stirring.
At last with the dawn all his journey is done.
"Ah-ha," shouts St. Nicholas, "now for some fun!"

So saying, he noses his plane to the sky,
And swiftly and gracefully clambers on high.
Remains in the air for a moment brief,
Then suddenly drops like a falling leaf.
Then near to the earth you could hear him call,
"Kriss Kringle is here! Merry Christmas to all!"
Then he clambers again to the sky-bine dome
And hurries his aeroplane straight toward home.

Visuals to Build More Homes.

VISALIA, Cal.—So serious has the housing situation here become that the city trustees have undertaken a municipal building programme which contemplates the erection of 20 temporary homes upon property which has been leased. If the new plan finds favor the city's plan is to lease other residential blocks for further building.

STRANGE STAR OF BETHLEHEM IS UNKNOWN TO ASTRONOMERS

Nothing in Heavens Ever Has Been Found to Compare With Astral Guide That Led Wise Men of East to Manger.



BY HENRY HUIZINGA.

NOT long ago I visited an astronomical observatory with a friend and we saw there, hanging on the wall a beautiful picture of a group of old-time oriental travelers on camels journeying through the desert. Their eager gaze is directed toward a brilliant star that is shining before them. I asked the venerable and wise astronomer to explain to me the nature of that wonderful star, but the aged stargazer answered without hesitation:
"I don't know anything about it."
Fit subject for poets and painters, yet science has been unable to solve the riddle of its being.

Some pious persons have given a wooden interpretation to the text and have seen in the Star of Bethlehem a special miraculous creation which appeared to the Wise Men in the East, and like the pillar of cloud in ancient Jewish history, went before them all their long journey to Palestine, where it hovered close to earth and stood directly over the house where the Savior was born. This does not accord with the usual workings of God's providence nor seem the most natural explanation of Matthew's story.

The history of astronomical science can give us some light on the subject of special stars different from those which we ordinarily see in the sky. There are meteors, which sometimes are of unusual brilliancy and seem to fall from the sky. But a meteor of a few seconds would not likely stir up these men versed in astronomical science to such an arduous journey. Comets, which have been recorded in the history of astronomy, have been assigned to the period of Christ's birth. Some astronomers have conjectured that the celestial object which inspired the Magi was a new, or temporary, star, known as Nova. Many such have been recorded in the history of astronomy. In November, 1572, Tycho Brahe, Danish astronomer, had his attention drawn to a new and bright star in the northern heavens near the constellation Cassiopeia.

It is a remarkable fact that for more than 300 years no new star anywhere nearly so brilliant appeared to reward the curious gaze of astronomers. Armed with the latest scientific invention, small new stars have not been uncommon. One in 1892, appearing near Capella, and another in 1901, a little west of that star, attained a temporary brilliancy of the first magnitude for only a few hours and then disappeared. Again in 1918, a very bright new star appeared near Altair, as bright as Altair and nearly white. The next night it was almost as bright as Sirius, and it steadily declined until a week later it was only of the second magnitude; the next week it was of the third magnitude; then it brightened again somewhat and remained so for a week, but then slowly declined until in September it could barely be seen with the naked eye. Now here science comes in to help us, for by a careful examination of photographic plates we find a record of that star from as long ago as 1288, when it was of the second magnitude.

For the last 30 years that star has acted like a variable star, sometimes hovering on the verge of naked eye visibility. Its distance has been estimated in thousands of "light years," and while the composition of its gases is not known, it is believed to be a star of the same kind as those which we see in the sky. It is something that has taken place perhaps more than 1000 years before.

This phase of the subject has attracted scholarly investigators regarding the remarkable events so vividly told by the gospel writer. The great Kepler was the first to determine from learned calculations that in the seventh year before our era (possibly the actual year of the birth of Jesus) there was a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn in the sign of the Zodiac, known as Pisces. Werner, Ederholm, Danish Munter and others have written volumes on this strangely fascinating subject; while an English clergyman, the Rev. C. Pritchard, has in recent years, with the help of the astronomer royal at Greenwich, gone over all previous calculations, so that we now know as much about the conjunctions of the planets in B. C. 7 as we do about those that happened last September. In that year, on the 29th of May, there was a conjunction of the two bright planets, Jupiter and Saturn, in the sign of Pisces; and again on September 29 in the same year another conjunction of the same planets took place within a few degrees from the previous location; and on December 5 a third conjunction of these planets happened, still in the same region of the heavens. To those unfamiliar with the movements of the planets such an extraordinary recurrence of conjunctions of the same planets within so short time, and at intervening separation, seems

strange indeed; and it is, in fact, a most unusual happening. It is a most remarkable fact, ascertained from many sources, that it was the belief of both Jewish and Chaldean astrologers that a conjunction of planets in Pisces always denoted the greatest and most noble events. A peculiar confirmation of this notion came to light from the writings of a Jew, Abrahama, who in the middle of the 15th century A. D. believed that the Jews' Messiah would then appear, because there was then a conjunction of two planets in Pisces. He did not believe in Jesus Christ, nor did he know anything about the fact that such a conjunction had occurred before the birth of the Saviour whom he rejected.

We may suppose that the Magi saw the first of these conjunctions on May 29 in their far-away eastern home, perhaps on the plains of Babylonia, and being wonderfully impressed they ascertained from devout Jewish neighbors something of the Messianic hope, and thus after due and extended preparations they went on that strange journey to the capital of the Jews' country. Something more than five months may have elapsed before they reached Jerusalem, riding upon "pure white camels," taller than any that had ever been seen before. The bristles of their camels' bridles were of gold, while their caparisons were of rich embroidered silk. Their company to Jerusalem on the morning of December 5 caused a considerable sensation, while their wonderful silence was broken only by the strange question: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" and the more strange explanation: "For we have seen his star in the east!"

The consultation of the rabbis and the wicked designs of Herod kept them there the remainder of the day, and when in the evening after sunset they set off for the little village of Bethlehem, lo! the star which they had seen in the east appeared directly before them. By careful calculations it is found that at that very hour these two planets, now in conjunction, would be a little past the meridian, and therefore in the very direction that Bethlehem lies from Jerusalem, appearing thus to guide them in a remarkable manner to the very place where the infant king of the Jews was born. The star of the word was then abiding.

The most plausible explanation of such stars is that this sudden blinding forth is caused by the head-on collision of two enormous stars. Just as the collision of two trains sets on fire all combustible materials within reach, so these huge dead stars, burnt out and dark, but still moving through space with the same terrific speed that they did millions of years before, when their light was undimmed, will make a tremendous bonfire that can be witnessed here on earth. That at that very hour these two planets, now in conjunction, would be a little past the meridian, and therefore in the very direction that Bethlehem lies from Jerusalem, appearing thus to guide them in a remarkable manner to the very place where the infant king of the Jews was born. The star of the word was then abiding.

There is still another kind of celestial phenomenon that has from old attracted the attention of star gazers and was held in ancient times to have the deepest religious significance. It is not so spectacular, and is, in fact, a fairly common occurrence, referring to the conjunction of two bright planets, such as we ourselves have often witnessed. There are special reasons to believe that a conjunction of planets under exceptional circumstances might well lead the minds of those ancient seers, whose mental equipment was a strange mixture of wisdom and superstition, to speculate on its influence on the world's affairs.

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**Candles Still a Necessary
Home Illuminant.**

Artistic Value of Old-Fashioned
Light as Great as Ever.

EVERY modern housekeeper realizes the artistic value of candles—tall, dignified candles in colonial sticks for living room and hall, graceful candles in silver holders for the dining room, gay candles in sconces for the study, chamber and the guest room, and sturdy candles in handily picked up sticks for a trip to the cellar or a dark storeroom.

Even though the electric current never fails, you cannot get along without candles about the home—though you use them only for their decorative value. Fine linen and glass mahogany absolutely demand the stately presence of white candles; and by the way, only white candles are considered best taste for the dining room. Colored ones may be used when an occasion calls for a special color scheme in table decoration, but for the living room and the guest room, and sturdy candles in handily picked up sticks for a trip to the cellar or a dark storeroom.

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One's veil must be either long like a scarf, or round, like a table centerpiece—but never square. Square veils are going out of fashion. The round lace veils drape very gracefully from small and medium sized hats. The scarf veils are draped around the hat and the veil ends are brought round in front and twisted about the crown. Heavy wool embroidery is used on veils in combination with lace shadow embroidery done with small and medium sized dots are particularly well liked and Chantilly veils are almost a craze. Many of the small hats have deep Chantilly cutters in a short flounce-veil from the brim.

So many people who yearned for the smart effect of a long string of pearls against a dark bodice have in record of any such new star anywhere near the birth of Jesus Christ.

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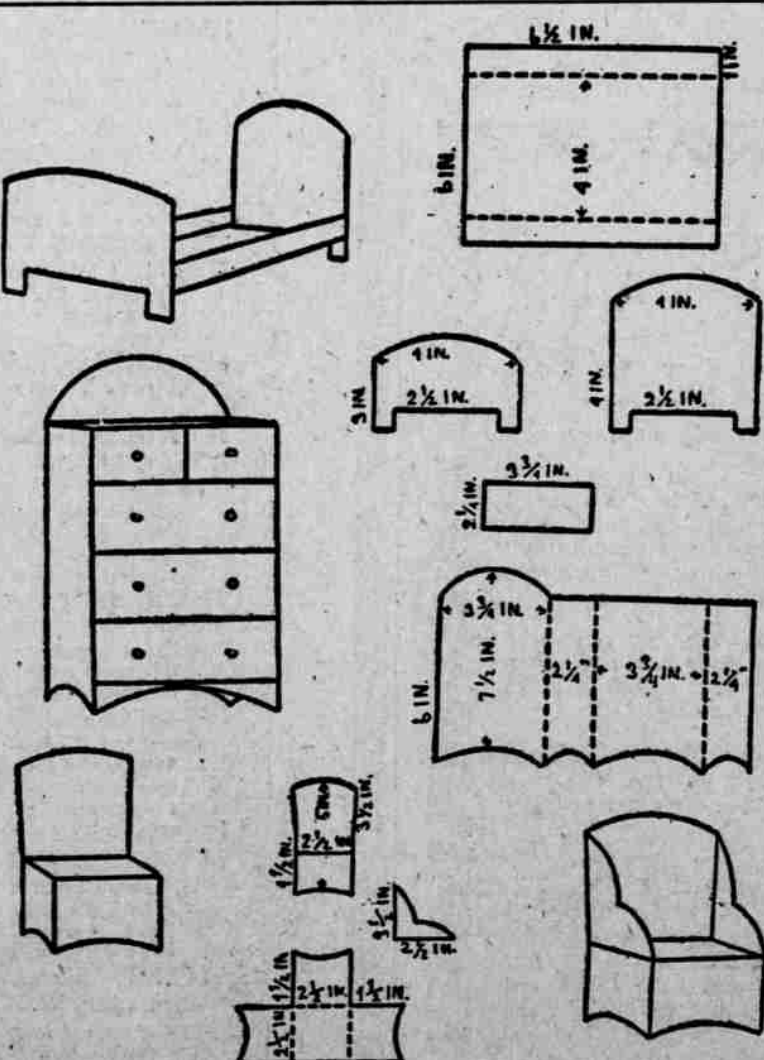
Pine is used in nearly all prescriptions and remedies for coughs. The reason is that pine contains several elements that have a remarkable effect in soothing and healing the membranes of the throat and chest. Pine cough syrups are combinations of pine and syrup. The "syrup" part is usually plain sugar syrup. To make the best pine cough remedy that money can buy, put 2½ ounces of Pinex in a pint bottle, and fill up with home-made sugar syrup. Or you can use clarified molasses, honey, or corn syrup, instead of sugar syrup. Either way, you make a full pint more than you can buy ready-made for three times the money. It is pure, good and tastes very pleasant. You can feel this taking hold of a cough or cold in a way that means business. The cough may be dry, hoarse and tight, or may be perspiration from the formation of phlegm. The cause is the same—infamed membranes—and this Pinex and Syrup combination will stop it—usually in 24 hours or less. Splendid, too, for bronchial asthma, hoarseness, or any ordinary throat ailment. Pinex is a highly concentrated compound of genuine Norway pine extract, and is famous the world over for its prompt effect upon coughs. Beware of substitutes. Ask your druggist for "2½ ounces of Pinex" with directions, and don't accept anything else. Guaranteed to give absolute satisfaction or money refunded. The Pinex Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

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SET OF FURNITURE FOR DOLL EASILY MADE OF CARDBOARD

Mother of the Kiddie Will Find Enjoyment Mutual When She Finds How Quickly Pretty Pieces Materialize.



THE set of doll's furniture illustrated is sure to please the heart of any wee kiddie, and mother can make the entire set in a surprisingly short time if these directions are carefully followed:
Fig. 1 shows the bed. At the right are shown the three pieces which go to make it up, and at the left is the finished bed. All these pieces of furniture are made from cardboard, and are covered with a light weight cretonne. Select a heavy weight cardboard, and from this cut the three pieces for the bed following the dimensions given on the patterns above.

When cutting the cretonne, allow the pieces to be a quarter of an inch larger on all sides than the cardboard. Place the pieces of cretonne on each side of the piece of cardboard which forms the head of the bed. Turn in both edges all around, and overcast these edges of cretonne together on the outside edge of the cardboard. Make the foot of the bed in the same manner. For the bottom and sides of the bed a single piece of cardboard as illustrated is used. Mark the dotted lines shown in the pattern on the cardboard, and then with a