IN THE DECEMBER HEAVENS

During This Month.

Venus is the Evening Star and is Continually Growing Brighter-Interesting Data.



HERE are four planets which may be seen in the evening sky during December. First towards the southwest, is the brilliant evening star, Ve-

nus, which each night mounts perceptibly higher and higher among the stars, and grows continually brighter, until by the end of this year it is the second brightest object in the heavens. Then, a little to Saturn, which is still in good position or water.

planet Saturn. At this instant the two planets will be exactly one above the other, with Venus four-fifth of a degree to the south.

On December 20, in the early evening. the moon will pass over the bright star Aldebaran. Its eastern edge will reach the star and shut it from view at 8 hours 25 minutes eastern time, and the emergence will occur at 9 hours 46 minutes. The observer will notice that while the light of Mars will fade gradually away as the moon passes over it, the light of Aldebaran will be blotted out instantaneously. This is because Mars appears to us a round disc, while every star appears as but a single point of light. The instant the edge of the moon reaches this point of light the star simply goes out, with a suddenness far more rapid than that of a flash of lightening. Were there the slightest trace of air or water vapor on the moon, the light of the star would be extinguished more gradually. It is observing occultation of stars in this way the east of Venus, in the eastern part of that astronomers have learned that the the constellation Capricorn, is the planet | moon is a dead world without either air



INTERESTED SPECTATORS WATCHING TRAP SHOOTING.

for observation with a small telescope. The earth is elevated nearly fifteen degrees above the rings, so that we look down upon them and see them well opened out, while the singular dark band which recently appeared encircling the ball of the planet is still distinctly visible. To the south, two-thirds of the way up to the zenith, is the planet Jupiter, the most striking and brilliant object of the entire sky, and finally, low down in the east, the possessor of a small telescope may pick up the faint, greenish planet Neptune, which is now near the center of the constellation Gemini.

If the observer will turn toward the southwest soon after sunset, he cannot fail to notice this brilliant planet, which is now the brightest object in the whole sky, with the single exception of Jupiter. It is at present moving rapidly eastward among the stars, so that while it sets two and one-half hours after the sun on December 1, by January 1 it has reached so high an altitude that it does not set until three and one-half hours after sunset. Its rapid eastward motion will carry it entirely across the constellation Capriat 4 a. m., it will overtake and pass the time past.

CHRISTMAS GREENS.

Pinehurst Nurseries Has Them Packed Ready for Sending Away.

The Pinehurst Nurseries are putting up many boxes of Christmas greens and the collection is one which visitors here will find particular delight in sending to Northern friends.

The boxes are of three sizes and packed ready for shipment, costing sixty cents. one dollar and a dollar and a half and they include pine boughs and cones. holly, mistletoe, peanuts, cotton, persimmons, etc.

Scaboard Air Line Service.

Cafe dining car service was begun Monday on the Seaboard Air Line trains 66 and 43 between Hamlet and Norlina, and through Pullman sleeping cars will be run tri-weekly on trains 31 and 34, between Washington and Pinehurst.

The "Seaboard Florida Limited," between New York and St. Augustine, will be put on January ninth. Through day parlor cars between Washington and corn during the month; on December 28, Pinehurst, have been running for some



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