

NIGHT SKY—NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

BY RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

The Great Bear (*Ursa Major*) is beginning to rise above the northeast (by north) horizon. The end of the Dipper's handle is hidden. A line from the Pole Star (toward which the Pointers direct the observer) to the Guardians of the pole, β and γ of the Little Bear (*Ursa Minor*), is now in the position of the minute hand of a clock 27 minutes before an hour. The stars of the Dragon wind round below the Little Bear toward the west, the head of the Dragon with the gleaming eyes ("oblique retorted that askant cast gleaming fire") being low down, a little north of northwest. Above is King Cepheus, and above him his queen, the Seated Lady, *Cassiopeia*, their daughter, the Chained Lady *Andromeda*, being nearly overhead.

Low down in the northwest we see the Lyre (*Lyra*), with the bright Vega, and close by toward the west the Swan (*Cygnus*), or Northern Cross. The Eagle is setting in the west, and the Little Dolphin nears the western horizon.

Toward the southwest (by west) we see the Water Bearer (*Aquarius*), with his pitcher (β , γ , α), close by which is the head of the Winged Horse (*Pegasus*). In the south, low down, is the absurd Phoenix; above, the Sea Monster, or Whale (*Cetus*); above him, the Fishes (*Pisces*); above them the Ram (*Aries*); while nearly overhead lies the Triangle.

The river *Eridanus* occupies the southeasterly sky, the Dove and Great Dog (*Columba* and *Canis Major*) rising in the southeast. The glorious Orion has now come well into position, though not yet so upright as we could wish a knightly hunter to be. He treads on the Hare (*Lepus*), and faces the Bull (*Taurus*) above.

Due east we find the Crab (*Cancer*) and Little Dog (*Canis Minor*) low down; the Twins (*Gemini*) higher; above them the Charioteer (*Auriga*), with the bright *Capella*, and *Perseus* the Rescuer nearing the point overhead. In the mid-space between *Perseus*, *Auriga*, and the two Bears we find the ridiculous constellation *Camelopardus*, or the Giraffe.

Asphalted Jute.

According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Papier*, a material called asphalted jute is being largely employed in Germany for covering roofs, for isolating damp walls and floors, and for preventing bad odors from reaching apartments situated over stables, etc.

It consists of strong jute cloth coated with specially prepared asphaltum, and covered on each side with strong, asphaltum-coated paper. In order to obtain a very compact product, the whole is submitted to very strong pressure.

The material can be used on farms for making tight reservoirs, in the construction of bridges, and in many other cases where there is need of a material that is at once strong, impermeable, and cheap.

Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, Vice-President of the United States. After a very brief illness, he expired at his residence in Indianapolis, on November 25th. For some time he had suffered from a slight paralysis of the left hand, and it is thought that his death was caused by instantaneous paralysis of both heart and brain. Mr. Hendricks was born in 1819, at Zanesville, Ohio; studied at Hanover College, and, after completing his law course, was admitted to the bar of Indiana. He was at different times a member of the Legislature and of Congress, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, a National Senator, Governor of Indiana, and was twice chosen to be Vice-President of the United States.

The Seventy-six Canal Company of California are to build a branch canal at Tulare County, 18 miles long and 60 feet wide.

Whitening Walls.

The *Deutsche Bauzeitung* has lately commented upon the dangers resulting from the use of certain substances in whitening walls, as well as from the size and other compositions used in paper hanging, etc. From the fact that painters' brushes are injured by lime freshly slaked, they often mix with it organic substances, which are liable, it is considered, to cause infection. The same remarks are applied in a general way to paperhangers. These disadvantages can, it is said, be obviated by adding one-tenth of a pound of boric acid to each gallon of ordinary milk of lime. This addition has the advantage of preventing the appearance of stains when paper or size colors are applied to walls not sufficiently dry. In cases of disinfection it is necessary for special care to be exercised as to purity of the lime used.

Interesting to Architects and Builders.—Comfortable Homes.

For many years past the "Baltimore" has been one of the best known and most popular of the fireplace heaters in use. For heating houses of moderate size it possesses advantages in its economy of fuel, moderat,

slide has been added by which the ashes can be dropped directly into a receptacle in the cellar if so desired.

The "Baltimore" heater is in such demand that a majority of new houses in Baltimore and Washington less than 25 ft. front are supplied with and entirely warmed by them.

Messrs. B. C. Bibb & Son, Nos. 39 and 41 Light St., Baltimore, Md., are the inventors, patentees, and manufacturers of these improved heaters, the above company being the pioneers in this line, having been thirty-four years in the business.

Ammonia and Alcohol in Snake Bite.

Writing to the *Medical Times* from the Delaware Water Gap, where poisonous snakes abound, Dr. J. B. Shaw says that he was called to see a child, aged 10, female. She was bitten by a copperhead on the foot, about one inch above the middle toes. He saw her in four hours from the time she was bitten. Her symptoms then were: Extreme prostration with nausea; respiration very slow; pulse weak; eyes fully dilated, with a wild look. The foot and leg were very much swollen and purple, and very painful.

He gave her 60 minims of spts. ammon. aromat. hypodermically, ordered one ounce of whisky every two hours, and a large poultice of bruised raw onions to be applied to the foot and to be renewed every hour. The whisky and onions were kept up until the child was well, which was on the third day.

The above has been his treatment for the last six years, and he has never lost a case; nor has he heard of a death from snake bite where the treatment has been carried out.

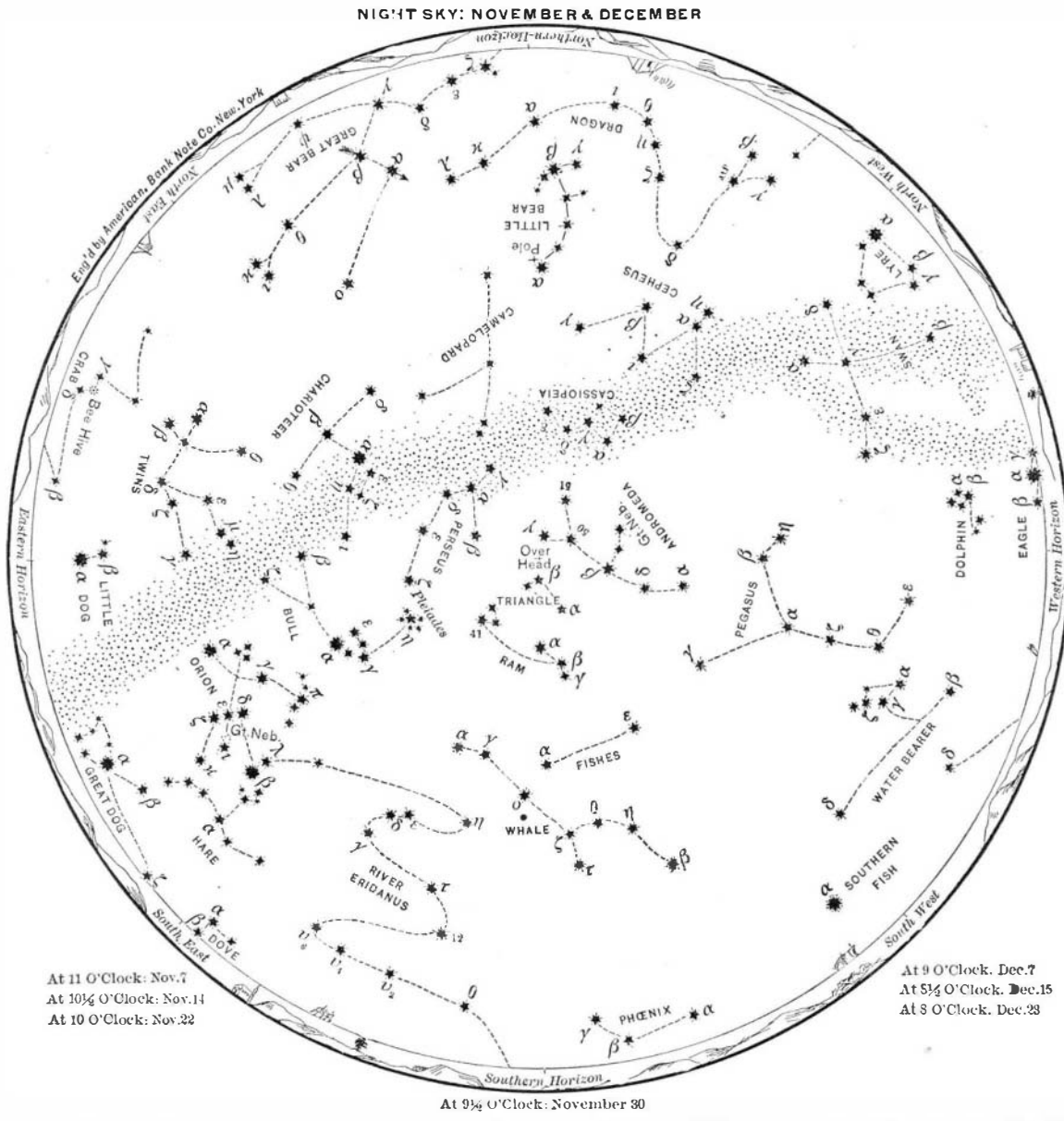
Unmagnetizable Steel.

Mr. J. T. Bottomley has made some experiments with a piece of steel made by Messrs. Moses Eadon & Sons, of Sheffield, under Hadfield's patent, containing 15 per cent of manganese. One side of the specimen has been polished, and shows that the steel is capable of taking a very high finish. The present specimen has a tensile strength of 45 tons to the square inch. To test it magnetically, the bar was first "touched" with steel magnets, but these had evidently no effect upon it. It was then placed between the poles of a powerful Ruhmkorff electro-magnet, excited by forty large tray Daniell cells arranged in fours for quantity, and ten in series. The bar was, however, still unaffected by the magnetism, as far as could be perceived by the hand. On

testing it by a delicate magnetometer, however, it was found to show a slight trace of magnetism. The magnetization per gramme was found to be 0.013 C. G. S. (centimeter-gramme-second) units, whereas some specimens of steel show 50 to 100 C. G. S. units per gramme.

The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co.

An examination of the financial resources of the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., made during the past summer by A. R. McGill, the Insurance Commissioner of Minnesota, and J. J. Brinkerhoff, the Examiner for Illinois, shows the condition of the company to be in every sense satisfactory. It had on the 10th of August, \$527,194.55 of good interest-paying assets, and, aside from its capital stock of \$250,000, but \$172,561.53 of liabilities. The investments of the company have all proved to be excellent, and the management has shown rare skill and ability in keeping the losses down to a minimum. This is due largely to the company's thorough system of inspection, by which the expenses are limited in a large measure to the preventive department. An investigation by outside examiners was deemed advisable, on account of adverse reports circulated in the Northwest by an unscrupulous competitor, but the report now made public will completely silence such an unworthy attack.



In the map, stars of the first magnitude are eight-pointed; second magnitude, six-pointed; third magnitude, five-pointed; fourth magnitude (a few), four-pointed; fifth magnitude (very few), three-pointed, counting the points only as shown in the solid outline, without the intermediate lines signifying star rays.

first cost, healthfulness, and beauty of design and finish, that easily account for the large degree of public favor it has received. It was originally a distinctive Baltimore invention, from which it took its name; but its manufacturers, Messrs. B. C. Bibb & Son, of that city, have introduced various new features in its construction, whereby the fire can at all times be regulated with the least possible attention, for the maintaining of a uniform temperature, with a minimum consumption of coal, while the heater will not only warm the lower rooms of a house, but two and sometimes three chambers above. It is, in fact, a miniature furnace, put in the fireplace or chimney flue, the same as a grate, and is furnished with or without a mantel, especially made to harmonize with it in appearance, and thus add to the furnishing and decoration of a room. The chimney flue may be used as a conductor of heat to the rooms above, or a tin heat pipe may be run through the chimney to the registers in the upper rooms. These heaters are self-feeding, and require so little attention that those using them frequently keep their fires going through the whole season without once having to rebuild a fresh fire, while they have an illuminated front which gives the cheerful appearance of a low iron grate in a room, with none of the dust and dirt which are such serious drawbacks to an open grate fire. The grate is so arranged that the clinker can be removed without disturbing the fire, and an improved