

the eastern part of the sky, but the eastern part of the earth. So perhaps, instead of "We have seen His star in the east," the passage should be "We, in the east, have seen His star."

But the "Star of Bethlehem" may have been something else entirely. A so-called "new star," which is really an old star that suddenly gets much brighter, might have flashed out. An otherwise unrecorded comet may have moved across the sky. It might have been a fire-ball, a very brilliant meteor, similar to those which have been seen in broad daylight. And it might even have been some phenomenon so exceedingly rare that it has never occurred since. We have to admit that we really do not know what it was.

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Celestial Time Table for December

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:00 a. m., Moon nearest earth, 230,100 miles distant; 3:20 p. m., Moon at last quarter. Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:45 p. m., New moon. Tuesday, Dec. 12, early

a. m., Geminid meteor shower. Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p. m., Mercury farthest west of sun, visible about now as morning star. Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:00 a. m., Moon farthest, 251,300 miles distant. Monday, Dec. 18, 4:35 a. m., Moon passes Mars; 4:04 p. m., Moon at first quarter. Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2:58 a. m., Moon passes Jupiter. Thursday, Dec. 21, 2:53 a. m., Moon passes Saturn. Friday, Dec. 22, 1:06 p. m., Sun farthest south—winter starts. Tuesday, Dec. 26, 6:28 a. m., Full moon. Friday, Dec. 29, 6:00 a. m., Moon nearest earth, 227,300 miles distant..

Eastern Standard Time throughout.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Greek Athletes Good, But Not "Incredible"

MODERN athletes have been awed by the record hung up by one Phaullus, winner of ancient Pythian games at Delphi, who once jumped 55 "feet." The modern record for running broad jump set by Jesse Owens in 1935 is a mere 26 feet, 8¼ inches. Some commentators have frankly called the Phaullus jump incredible.

But now comes a report that ancient Greeks had no single standard for the length of a foot. M. Evangelos Kalfarentzos, Inspector-General of Physical Education at Athens, has been investigating sizes of stadia in Greek cities. Olympia's stadium was 600 "feet," actually 192.25 meters, he finds. A foot there measured about 12.7 inches. Delphi's stadium was 1,000 "feet" long, actually 177.55 meters, and a foot at Delphi was not quite seven inches.

Chionis, who won at Olympia in 664 B. C., jumped 23 feet, 1 inch, by this reckoning, not 52 feet as sometimes calculated. The jump by Phaullus at Delphi shrinks to 32 feet.

Even 32 feet is beyond modern free jumping records. But some say that the Greeks used a slightly raised take-off. And some point to evidence in vase paintings that jumpers increased momentum by swinging weights and casting them aside as they leaped.

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• RADIO

S. D. Kirkpatrick, editor of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering and Frank A. Howard, president of Standard Oil Development Corporation, which receives this year's award for chemical and engineering achievement, will be guest scientists on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Monday, December 4, 4:30 p.m., EST, 3:30 CST, 2:30 MST, 1:30 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.

