

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

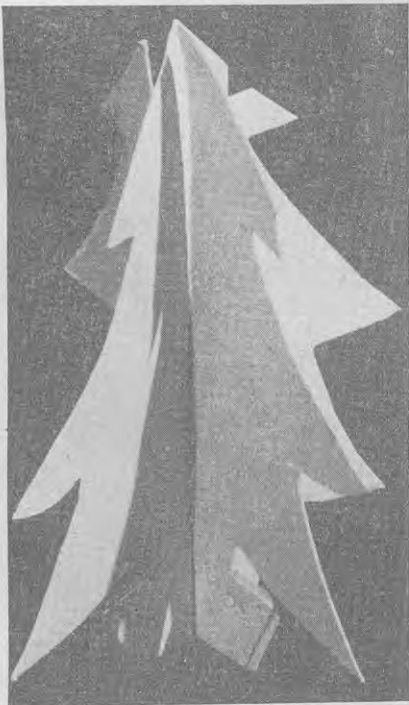
Fir Trees



In addition to wall decorations and the Christmas tree itself, miniature fir trees made to stand up by themselves can be used as a motif in the table decorations.

Fold and cut paper as for a circle but do not open it out flat. Cut the tree outline as shown in the diagram. Take care not to cut to a point at the top, but leave the last $\frac{1}{4}$ in. uncut. Fix a stick into a cork, place the top of the tree on the point of the stick, and gum it securely. Arrange the ends of the branches in position, fixing them with a spot of gum. If larger trees are required, use a small plant pot instead of a cork.

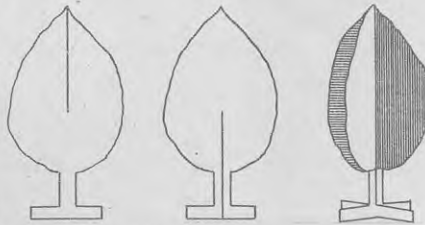
So far only the softer kinds of paper have been used. Another very effective tree can be made from stiff green paper or carton paper. Two oblong pieces are needed. Fold each in halves lengthwise and cut out the shape of the tree. Various shapes can be used, one being shown in the photograph on this page and another in the diagram. The two pieces are fitted together by complementary slits, one piece cut on the fold halfway down from the top and on the other cut halfway up from the bottom. Slip one slit through the other at right angles, and there is a tree that stands by itself.



[Green and Hahn Ltd. photo.]
The type of stand-up tree which can be made from two pieces of carton paper.

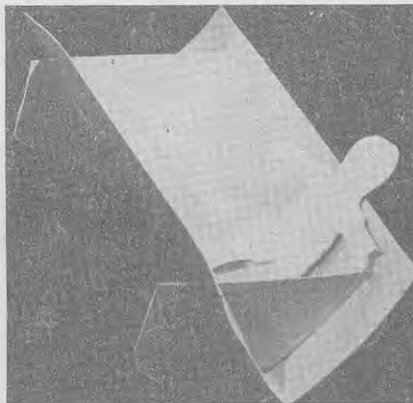


[Green and Hahn Ltd. photo.]
Carton-paper cut-outs of Father Christmas, the making of which is described below.



Tree Ornaments

From carton paper, bells can be made either in varied colours or covered with silver paper from chocolates. These can hang on the real tree. So can attractive little carton-paper statues of Father Christmas himself. The merry dancing ones illustrated were cut from red carton paper, with features, belts, and boots put on with indian ink and carefully-fluffed cotton wool gummed on for the fur trimming. They can be hung on the tree or wall by cords.



[Green and Hahn Ltd. photo.]
Paper cradle and child.

Of course, if the children have made a picture of Father Christmas and his bag of toys as described in last month's "Journal," it will have pride of place in the living room during the Christmas season.

Finally, the Christmas story calls for cradles or mangers and babies. The one illustrated can be made simply in any size to suit. An oblong of coloured paper is slit at the sides as shown in the diagram and the rockers cut and fixed as in the photograph. On the dinner table the cradles can hold sweets or nuts for individual guests.



Family Achievements

The activities described by no means exhaust the possibilities. Circumstances determine what any one family will achieve. On the mother, with much assistance from the father, will fall the essential stage management that will produce the ideas and the raw materials for interesting occupations at various times of the year, and she will also fit them into the major project for the Christmas season. Stored away piece by piece and forgotten, they will be hailed with pride and delight on their reappearance later, astonishing even the parents with the evidence of creative co-operative family achievements to celebrate the festival which comes first in the hearts of all children.