

The Sky and the Stars—

ORION



DURING the month of January and February when the sky is clear at night, we see a group of stars right above our heads. This group of stars is called the constellation of Orion. A constellation is a group of small and big stars.

The people living in the country of Greece hundreds of years ago believed that Orion was once a young hunter. He used to spend his time in the forest. One day he saw seven beautiful maidens. They were the daughters of Atlas. Atlas was believed to be the strong man who carried the heavens on his shoulders.

Orion, the young hunter, ran after the beautiful girls. They were frightened and they fled away crying. But Orion ran faster than they were. When he was about to overtake them, the goddess Diana changed them into seven white doves. Afterwards she placed them in the sky as seven bright stars. These stars are Pleiades, the daughters of Atlas. In reality, there are only six stars in the Pleiades. The seventh, according to the legend, faded away when the city of Troy was captured a thousand of years ago.

Orion is accompanied on his journey through the heavens by his dog Sirius. This dog has been al-

The Whale—Giant of the Sea

Do you know what the biggest living animal is? It is not the carabao, nor the elephant. It is the whale. If you make a whale stand upright on the ground, its head will reach the top of a tall coconut tree.

Very few of us have seen a real whale. But in some seas in the Philippines, this animal is found. It looks like a fish, but scientists tell us that it is not. It is called a mammal. Mammals are a group of animals who feed their young with milk. Man is also a mammal.

The whale has warm blood, while the fish has not. It has a well-developed brain.

If it has lungs instead of gills, why can it stay for long periods under water? Because its lungs have become adapted to its present way of living at sea. When it rises to the surface, it breathes out the used air in a column of vapor.

When the whale is hungry, it swims on the surface of the water with its mouth open. Among the toothless whales, plates of *whalebone* take the place of the teeth. When seawater enters its mouth, tiny animals found in the water are drained by this *whalebone*. These sea creatures are then carried into the stomach of the whale. Imagine how many thousands of these small living things are needed to furnish a full meal for this giant of the sea.

The toothed whales have a different kind of food. Their ordinary ways faithful to him. Sirius is also a star. It is one of the brightest.

The star on the upper left of Orion is Beelgeuse, and the one on the lower right is Rigel.

According to the beautiful legend, the goddess Diana killed Orion whom she loved. Some say that she killed him, because he made love to Eos, the goddess of the dawn. This goddess is sometimes called Aurora. In her sorrow she placed him and his dog Sirius among the con-

nary meal consists of cuttlefish and other large sea creatures.

The most important group among the whales is that of the sperm whale. This whale is over sixty feet long. It is found mainly in tropical waters. In the Philippines dead whales have been cast on the shores. Found in its big head is a white, waxy substance which is used in making ointments and candles.

Another gray substance called ambergris is obtained from the intestines of the whale. It looks like chewing gum. It may be found floating on the surface of the sea. It is mainly used in the making of good perfumes. The makers of perfume pay big sums of money for a small quantity of ambergris. A few years ago some persons found a large quantity of ambergris near the shores of Mindanao.

The oil of the whale is also used for lamp oil. Before petroleum was discovered, whale oil was more widely used than now for lighting the interior of houses.



Some people believe that whales will disappear soon from the surface of the earth. Men who want to make money from the valuable things the whale gives, kill too many whales a year.

stellation.

The constellation of Orion consists of three stars in a straight line. These three stars are supposed to be the belt of the hunter.



Jupiter is the biggest of all the planets. It requires nearly twelve earth years for this great planet to make one revolution round the sun. A man on Jupiter who lives to a hundred will be well over a thousand earth years in age.