

BETTER RURAL POST BOXES

We have seen designs of rural mail boxes made of rustic somewhat resembling an attractive bird house with the signal made in the form of a saucy red bird or inquisitive squirrel painted more or less in natural colors. The children of the house enjoy the game of dashing down to the box for the daily paper if a gay woodpecker or bluebird signal gives them the sign.

Some one out West, because much rustic was used in his house, hollowed a tree branch about one foot thick into a most suitable post box. After cutting a diagonal slice from the log which was to serve as the top of the lid, he dug out the lower part until large enough to receive the mail. As may be seen by the photograph the diagonal slice was only cut to about two-thirds of the way through, then severed where needed to hold the hinges. Through this lid a hole was cut large enough to permit ordinary mail to be put in and a peg inserted to serve as a handle. Many variations of this idea could be made, such as putting the hole for the mail on one side of the box if the box were intended to be hung in the open instead of under cover, thus preventing any possibility of rain getting within. Many a hollow tree has served as a hiding place for letters—why not this more practical modern adaptation of an old romantic idea?

Another interesting suggestion is shown in the mail box covered with ivy. Surely a most simple but most artistic way of covering an ordinary pole with the stout United States box upon the top. Instead of ivy, roses or any other vine could be used. A red bird signal upon the top of this would look singularly effective.

Another ingenious suggestion for rural



AN ORDINARY MAIL-BOX MADE BEAUTIFUL BY GROWTH OF IVY ABOUT IT.

cross-road delivery is shown in the use of an old wagon wheel. The post man has but to fill each box whirling the wheel around as he fills, without having to get out of his stage coach. When the boxes are placed all in a row as are so often seen on both Eastern and Western cross-roads, the mail carrier must get out in the deep snow or driving rain and fill the boxes from on foot. This is a much more ingenious plan although we cannot say much for its beauty.

PAUL CLERGET IN XMAS PANTOMIME

(Continued from page 246.)

up to the possibility of an artistic level. Surely the actors and actresses in moving pictures, if they had had the foresight and good sense to make a study of intelligent gesture and convincing facial expression, would never permit themselves to go through an entire play with frantic use of the arms and with hideous facial contortion so common today on the screen.

Indeed, a study of pantomime would be an advisable thing for the whole nation. We would like to see it not only in the schools for drama but in the home, in the public and private schools everywhere; we would especially like to see our young people taught the beauty and value of motion through the art of pantomime as expressed by Paul Clerget in "L'Enfant Prodigue," and we certainly owe an immense debt to Mr. Winthrop Ames for securing Mr. Paul Clerget's art for his theater and for the benefit of the American public.