Start Of Winter, cording to University of Michigan astronomer Hazel M. Losh. Partial Eclipse Due This Month point of its yearly journey around the earth. From this

The official arrival of win-

ter, a partial solar eclipse Comet Kohoutek are among the astronomical highlights of December, ac-

Winter begins at 7:08 p.m. Dec. 21, Prof. Losh says. At this time, she continues, the sun reaches the winter solstice, the most southerly point onward the days become longer and the nights shorter.

"One hopes that early predictions are borne out and Comet Kohoutek becomes

ANN ARBOR visible to the naked eye by the beginning of the month," Michigan astronomer says. "The comet should first detected in the southeastern sky just before sun-rise," she says, adding that it won't become visible in the evening until after Dec. 28. The best time for viewing the comet will likely be in Jan-

uary, she observes.
Noting that "it is possible Kohoutek may be far less spectacular than was earlier suggested," Prof. Losh reports that the comet is developing a faint, diffuse "tail" that may be some 30 million miles in length.

"The appearance of this comet near Christmas time

is reminiscent of similar visitors recorded in four B.C. Halley's Comet in 11 B.C.," she points out. "Both of these comets were mentioned in connection with the interpretation of the Christmas star."

A partial solar eclipse will occur on Dec. 24, she notes. However, since it will be under way at sunrise at 8:01, it will probably appear only as a small nick at the western edge of the sun.

'Some of the most beautiful and colorful stars of the whole year shine during December, Prof. Losh says. The yellow star Capella can be found in the Constellation Auriga; the orange Aldeba-

ran in Taurus: Rigel and the giant red Betelgeuse in Orion; and Castor, bluish white, and Pollux, faintly yellow, in Gemini. The "Star of the East," the brightest in the whole sky, is Sirius. This star is found in Canis Major, the "dog of Orion.

A fitting sign of the season is Cygnus, the Northern Cross, which can be found in the northwest, Prof. Losh says. The bright star marking the top of the cross is De-

Go Formal

A lattice fence adds a formal look to a garden.

