

THE recent number of *Petermann's Mittheilungen* contains articles and maps on the American North Polar Expedition and Transcaspien Russia. The New Lybian Expedition and the Russian March on Khiva are the subjects of two of the articles.

By the death of the last surviving porpoise the Brighton Aquarium has to lament the loss of one of its most attractive features.

WE have received the Prospectus of a new club to be called "The Scientific Societies Club." The approaching concentration of scientific societies, the Prospectus says, suggests that the present is a fitting time for the formation of a "Scientific Societies Club," which would afford in the neighbourhood of Burlington House, conversation and reading rooms, as well as the usual facilities of a club for members of all scientific societies. In order to render the club generally available and as useful as possible to the scientific world, it is proposed that the entrance fee and the annual subscription shall each be small.

ACCORDING to Dr. Fritsch, the discovery has lately been made of lacustrine dwellings in the vicinity of Leipsic, as the result of certain engineering operations undertaken to regulate the course of the River Elster. After passing through a series of layers at a certain depth, the workmen found a series of oak piles pointed below and decomposed above, and supporting a certain number of oak trunks placed horizontally; and on the same level with these were found certain lower jaws, and teeth of oxen, fragments of antlers, broken bones of various mammifers, shells of an Anodon, fragments of pottery, two polished stone hatchets, &c.

PROF. C. A. WHITE, of Iowa State University, and State geologist of Iowa, has been appointed to the new chair of Geology and Natural History at Bowdoin College.

A COMMUNICATION has been made to the Academia dei Lincei of Rome, by M. Tarry, giving the results of his personal experience and investigations into the connection between the cyclonic storms and the showers of sand that frequently visit Southern Europe. M. Tarry, after travelling as secretary to the French Meteorological Society into Northern Africa and the Desert of Sahara, and having consulted the files of the *Daily Weather Bulletin* of the Paris Observatory, believes himself to have established the fact that whenever a cyclone passes southward from Europe over the Mediterranean Sea into Africa (as some few of them do every season), it then returns northward or northwestward, and transports the sand which in the desert formed a sand-storm to the southern coasts of Europe as a sand-shower of greater or less duration. The satisfactory investigation of this subject is much impeded by the absence of barometric observations on the southern shores of the Mediterranean; and to remedy this defect, M. Tarry has recently established new meteorological statistics at Mogadore, Morocco, Terceira, Madeira, and even in the interior of the Sahara.

"GENERAL Remarks on the Climate of Bombay, with a brief description of the Peculiarities of the Weather of the year 1871," is the title of a pamphlet which we have just received, written by Mr. Charles Chambers, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Kolaba Observatory.

THE *Times of India* states that education is making rapid progress in Ceylon, and vernacular schools will soon be within the reach of every section of the native community. The same paper states that Ceylon will contribute a selection of colonial products to the next Exhibition at South Kensington.

THE Rev. Thos. Garnier, Dean of Winchester, who died recently at the age of 98, was the "father" of the Linnean Society, having been elected during the last century, in 1798, only ten years after the foundation of the Society. [Some of

his contributions to botanical literature bore the date of last century.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Garnet's Galago (*Galago garnetti*) from East Africa, presented by Capt. Geo. Butchart; a Manx Shearwater (*Procellaria puffinus*), British, presented by Dr. Bree; a Reeve's Muntjac (*Cervulus reevesi*), from China, presented by Mr. R. Swinhoe; a Spotted Cavy (*Calogeys fava*), from South America, presented by Mr. J. de Castro; three Common Chameleons (*Chamaeleon vulgaris*), from Africa, presented by Mr. W. C. Hotham; an Alligator (*Alligator sp.*), presented by Mr. W. Gillespie.

## SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

### PARIS

Academy of Sciences, Sept. 8.—M. Bertrand in the chair.—The following papers were read:—Fifth note on Guano, by M. Chevreul.—Note on the observations of M. Lecoq de Boisbaudran, relative to the appearance of Phylloxera in the vineyards of the Charente, by M. Milne-Edwards.—Note on the number of points of intersection which represent a multiple point common to two plane curves, &c., by M. de la Gourmerie.—Researches on Crystalline Dissociation, continuation by MM. P. A. Favre and C. A. Valson. This portion of the paper dealt with the valuation and division of the work done in saline solutions.—Note on a New System of representing the continuous Meteorological Observations, made at the National Observatory, Algiers, by M. Bulard.—Note on Magnetism, third part, by M. J. M. Gauguain.—On the Spontaneous Motion of Ascension of Liquids in Capillary Tubes, by C. Decharme. This portion of the paper treated of the subject from a theoretical point of view.—On Pyrogallol in the presence of iron salts, by M. E. Jacquemin.—Researches on the Spectra of Chlorophyll, by M. J. Chautard. The author has found that this substance so easily changed as viewed from the physiological point of view, is very stable when subjected to chemical reagents.—On the state of the Volcano of Nisiro, in March, 1873, by M. H. Gorceix.—M. de Laval sent a note stating that he was the original proposer of the use of the carbonic disulphide against the Phylloxera.—The ephemerides of Brorsen's Comet were received from Mr. Plummer, and a note on the same comet, and on that of Faye, from M. Stephan.—New observations on the presence of Magnesium on the Solar Limb, and an answer to certain points in M. Faye's theory, by Father Tacchini. The author stated in his letter that the fact of the line 1474 K always appearing with *b*, and even without it, induces him to think that the former is not due to iron which is much heavier than magnesium.—On the use of Chronometers at sea, by M. Magnac.—Reflections on Spontaneous generation, in relation to a note by M. Gayon, on the spontaneous changes of eggs, and a note of Mr. Grace Calvert on the power of preventing the development of Protoplasmic life, by M. A. Béchamp.

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE forty-third meeting of the Association was opened yesterday evening in Bradford, when Dr. Carpenter resigned the Presidency, and was succeeded by Prof. A. W. Williamson, who delivered the opening address in St. George's Hall.

Notwithstanding that Bradford is considerably larger than Brighton, its resources in the way of sleeping accommodation have been considerably tried by the unusually large influx of visitors caused by the meeting of the Association. All the hotels, we believe, are full, as well as most of the private houses on the lists of the secretaries. Arrangements have, however, been made with the railway companies for conveying members to and from neighbouring towns where hotel accommodation may be obtained. The local secretaries, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Goddard, and Mr. Piele Thompson, have spared no pains to make the