

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

SOME time back it was publicly stated that Commander Cheyne and his friends intended to apply to the Geographical Society for countenance and support to their plans of Arctic exploration. A deputation accordingly waited on Lord Aberdare, the president, on October 12, and, in pursuance of a suggestion he then made, a statement of Commander Cheyne's plans was lately drawn up by a committee for submission to the Council of the Society. This has been considered, and in reply the President and Council regret that the scheme, as explained by the statement, does not commend itself to them as one containing the elements of success and of usefulness, and that, even if it were feasible, the means proposed to be adopted for encountering the great dangers and difficulties necessarily attendant upon such an enterprise, do not appear to them sufficient. We believe the Geographical Society is to take up the subject of Arctic exploration this session. An Arctic Committee will be appointed to bring together all that has been done since the last English expedition, to enable the Society to decide what steps they should take.

THE post of honour in this month's issue of the Geographical Society's *Proceedings* is naturally assigned to Mr. J. Thomson's report of the journey of the East African Expedition, of which we have already given a *résumé*. It is illustrated by a map showing his route, constructed from the explorer's original map and other sources. There is also a useful little map of a route from Kagéi to Tabora, by the Rev. C. T. Wilson of the Church Missionary Society's Nyanza Mission. Capt. A. H. Markham's "Visit to the Galapagos Islands in 1880" follows, with some observations by Mr. Osbert Salvin on recent additions to our knowledge of the fauna of the group. From the geographical notes we learn that medals and other rewards are to be presented to Mr. Thomson's native followers, and that Dr. Kirk is to receive the formal thanks of the Society for the important services he rendered to the East African Expedition. Some interesting extracts from Capt. Carter's diary on his fatal march from Karema are next given, with a summary of recent news respecting African exploration. The remaining notes deal with M. Mushketof's ascent of the Zarafshan glacier, Russian explorations in Eastern and Western Siberia, surveys in Turkey, and an attempt to explore the affluents of the Rio Purús.

MR. J. BANTING ROGERS has devised and published a game which is likely to be of service not only as a really interesting amusement, but also as a means of acquiring a considerable knowledge of navigation and meteorology. It is entitled the game of a "Voyage Round the World," and is played on a large board representing the ocean, suitably divided for counting by knots, and with hazards in the shape of cyclones, collisions, &c., which add excitement to the game. The game is played by means of a number of small models of ships of various kinds, and cards in which the number of knots is marked within which the players may move. Logs are kept, watches appointed, and a captain of the watch to record distances, &c. Altogether it will be seen that in Mr. Rogers's ingeniously devised game there are great possibilities both of amusement and instruction.

TWO Danish Expeditions which have been carrying on scientific exploration in Greenland have returned to Copenhagen. One of them, under Lieut. Hammer, has been continuing the investigations into the movement of the mainland ice into the fjords and the formation of icebergs. In the course of the summer several previously unknown fjords were visited, and the western part of the island of Disko surveyed and mapped. The other expedition, under Lieut. Holm, was to explore several of the large ruins of former settlements in the district of Julianhaab and to obtain information on the population and condition of the east coast. Several extensive ruins were found, which must have been left quite 100 years ago, and of which the present natives know nothing. Among these ruins many objects of ethnological interest were found. The weather during the whole summer was rainy and cloudy; indeed people who have been many years in Greenland never knew of so rainy a summer.

WE believe there is some prospect of Mr. Joseph Thomson being engaged to lead an expedition from Sierra Leone towards Timbuctoo, mainly to establish trading relations between the English Colonies and the interior. It would be a pity should Mr. Thomson be compelled to become a mere trading caravan leader.

MAJOR SERPA PINTO's account of his remarkable journey, which is still unpublished, is to be called "How I crossed Africa," instead of "The King's Rifle."

THE following telegram has been received in St. Petersburg from Col. Prejevalsky:—"Have finished my travel. Rich collections: 2000 birds, many mammals, 1300 species of plants. Will be in St. Petersburg at the beginning of January."

AT the last meeting (November 17) of the Russian Geographical Society, Dr. Piasetzky read an interesting paper on China. He has very closely studied the character of the Chinese, their life, their moral principles, and the education of children. Dr. Piasetzky, who has travelled during several years in China, is the author of a very interesting Russian work in two volumes on that country: the work is illustrated with very good drawings, which represent "types" of Chinese towns, streets, dwellings, market-places, &c. At the same meeting the Society resolved to take part in the next Geographical Congress and Exhibition at Venice.

BEFORE proceeding to Paris, as we mentioned last week, MM. Verminck, Zweifel, and Moustier were present at an enthusiastic meeting of the Marseilles Geographical Society, when the President, M. Rabaud, after a eulogistic address, presented them with medals for the part they respectively took in the expedition to the sources of the Niger.

LIEUT. E. W. PETLEY, of the Marine Survey of India, has lately drawn up some interesting notes on Marmagao (Goa), Portuguese India.

THE new *Bulletin* of the Antwerp Geographical Society contains an account of Mr. Andrew Goldie's last journey in New Guinea, and some observations on artesian wells in the Sandwich Islands.

MR. TODD, the Government Astronomer at Adelaide, is to proceed next May to Port Darwin, in the Northern Territory, to determine by telegraph the difference of longitude between that place and Greenwich.

A RECENT telegram from the Austrian traveller Oscar Lenz states that he had reached Medina, Senegal, on November 2. Oscar Lenz penetrated to Timbuctoo from the north, and went thence by Bassikonon, Sokolo, Goumbou, Nioro, and Konniakany to Medina.

HERR STIER, director of the Gymnasium in Zerbst, found, a short time ago, a detailed account of Vasco da Gama's second voyage to India. It is drawn up by a Dutchman (who accompanied Vasco da Gama), and in his own tongue. Herr Stier has now published a German translation of it.

MR. MUNDELLA ON EDUCATION IN SCIENCE

ON Friday last the Textile and Dyeing Departments of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, were formally opened, and at the dinner which followed the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., Vice-President of the Council, proposed the toast of the occasion:—"Success to Yorkshire College." His remarks in connection therewith are so significant, coming from our *de facto* Minister of Education, that we give them in full.

There had not, he commenced by saying, been a more gratified spectator of the proceedings of that day than he was. There had been no one amongst them who had enjoyed more, if so much, the sense of satisfaction—he had almost said of triumph—that he had enjoyed that day. Sixteen years ago when he was, like many of those present, a captain in the ranks of industry, he took some interest in the question of the application of science to the industries of this country. His attention had been called to it by the advantages he possessed of seeing what was being done in other countries. He saw the infancy of technical education abroad, and now he stood by its cradle at home. The School of Arts et Métiers in Paris was not by any means a new school, and it had done great things for French industry. There was no one who was acquainted with that school who would not endorse his remarks when he said that it had done marvellous things for French manufactures, and he had learned since he came to Leeds that we had some of its most distinguished scholars in this town. He witnessed the beginning of technical instruction in Germany with the erection of the Polytechnic School of Zurich; and when he went to the members of the Chamber of Commerce of which he was