

THE Khedive of Egypt has nominated M. Gaston Maspero to the directorship of the museums in the place of the late archaeologist, M. Mariette. To the latter a monument is to be erected at Cairo. A committee has already been formed, of which the Foreign Minister is president.

A NEW Italian serial will shortly be published at Naples. Its title will be *Rassegna critica di opere scientifiche e letterarie*, and its editor Prof. Andrea Angiulli. It will appear six times a year.

LAST Thursday the Hackney Microscopical and Natural History Society held their annual *soirée*, always a very successful event. Many other similar London societies were represented at the meeting.

AN elaborate report upon the opening up of two of the pyramids at the boundary of the Libyan Desert near Sakkara is now published by Prof. Brugsch. The learned professor estimates the matter to be of the most important and valuable kind. At the close of 1880 the entrances to the sepulchral chambers of the three pyramids were laid bare. The ceilings were taken off, and only the two sides, all covered with hieroglyphics, rose from the *débris*. The hieroglyphics point to the reign of Pharaoh Apappus.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*) from Afghanistan, presented by Col. O. B. C. St. John, R.E., F.Z.S.; a Punjab Wild Sheep (*Ovis cycloceros*) from Afghanistan, presented by Capt. W. Cotton; a Mona Monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*) from West Africa, presented by Mr. W. Macmillan Scott; two Common Peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*) from India, presented by Mrs. Edward Brown; a Roseate Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) from Australia, presented by Miss Mary J. Richardson; a Stump-tailed Lizard (*Trachydosaurus rugosus*) from Australia, presented by Mr. F. O. Maitland; a Horsfield's Tortoise (*Testudo horsfieldi*) from Cabul, deposited; two Globose Curassows (*Crax globicera*) from Central America, a White-browed Amazon (*Chrysotis albifrons*) from Honduras, purchased.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

WE take the following from the March number of the *Proc.* of the Royal Geographical Society:—The eminent Russian traveller and *savant*, Col. Prejevalsky, intends, we are informed, to devote himself for some time to the preparation in retirement of a great work on the results of his travels, including, besides his recent expedition to Tibet, his previous journey to Lob-nor, of which he was prevented, by want of time, from giving more than a bare outline. The work is to consist of eight volumes, and to be entitled "Travels in the Deserts of Central Asia." Volumes i. and ii. will contain the narrative and an account of the physical geography and ethnography of the countries he has visited, and will include also his surveys, the pictorial illustrations being from original sketches by his companion, Lieut. Robarofsky. Vol. iii. will be devoted to the mammalia of Central Asia; vol. iv. to the birds; vol. v. to the reptiles, amphibia, and fishes; vol. vi. to the flora of Mongolia; and vol. vii. to that of Tibet. Vol. viii. and last will contain the geology and mineralogy as far as materials will permit. The first two volumes, each containing 500 pages, and perhaps more, will be written by the traveller himself, and will appear towards the close of 1882. The ornithology will also proceed from his pen, as well as that portion of the zoology which treats of the antelope, buffalo, and a few other of the more important animals. The remainder will be written by the Academicians Strauch and Maximovitch, Professors Kepler, Inostrantsef, and Bogdanof and will be issued in parts. The whole will not be completed for several years. The work will be brought out under the auspices of the Geographical Society, and a special grant for the purpose will be asked for from H.M. the Emperor.

AT the Geographical Society on Monday evening Sir Richard Temple delivered a lecture on the lake-region of Sikkim on the frontier of Tibet, which, in point of fact, was a description of

the impressions acquired during a tour which he made as Lieut.-Governor of Bengal. Sir R. Temple told his audience that the fact of any part of Sikkim being British territory was due to the imprisonment of Sir Joseph Hooker and Dr. Campbell by the Rajah; and he then gave a geographical sketch of the whole region. Possibly the most important matter dealt with was the construction of the politico-commercial road from Darjiling to the Jyalap Pass into the Chumbi Valley, which Sir R. Temple considers the frontier-line between British and Chinese territory. Sir R. Temple is apparently sanguine that the Tibetans will continue the road on to Lhasa, but he did not say when they were likely to do so. Mr. W. T. Blanford, who had also visited Sikkim, afterwards explained to the meeting that he believed these lakes to be due to glacial action, and that the Bidan Tso was a beautiful specimen of this kind of lake. Mr. Blanford also called attention to the opening afforded for exploration in Northern Sikkim, which has not as yet been visited by Europeans.

WE understand that Mr. Joseph Thomson has been elected a life-member of the Royal Geographical Society, in further recognition of his eminent services to geography during the recent East African expedition. The Council of the Society have presented to the British Museum the collection of shells which he made during his journey.

THE *Oesterreichische Monatschrift für den Orient* of this month contains a highly interesting paper by Prof. H. Vambéry, on the proposed Hyrkanian railway, a valuable description of the roads and land communications of Persia by Baron Gödel-Lannoy in Tcheran, a paper on the coffee districts of Yemen by Baron Schweiger-Lerchenfeld, besides two well-written historical papers.

AT the last meeting of the Berlin Geographical Society Prof. W. Förster, the director of the Berlin Observatory, made an interesting communication regarding one of the most important tasks of travellers in unknown regions, *i.e.* the exact determination of latitude, longitude, and elevation above sea-level. With several of the results of recent German expeditions serious errors in this regard were detected. Prof. Förster stated that the Berlin Observatory staff would shortly be in a position to undertake the practical and theoretical instruction of travellers and to superintend the selection, testing, and packing of the necessary scientific instruments for the various expeditions before starting.

THE last number of the *Tour du Monde* contains an instalment of Dr. Crevaux's account of his journey from Cayenne to the Andes, the present part dealing more particularly with the exploration of the River Parou. The illustrations are from original sketches, and are admirably drawn.

IN a recent issue *Les Missions Catholiques* publishes a letter from a missionary among the Kakhyens, which contains some interesting notes concerning that comparatively unknown people.

A SYDNEY telegram states that a bushman named Skulthorpe has telegraphed from Blackall asserting that he has found the explorer Leichhardt's grave, and has recovered the diary of the whole of his last expedition, together with other relics. Skulthorpe refuses to show any of the articles until his arrival in Sydney.

THE last number of *Le Globe* contains part of a paper entitled "Tartarie," by M. F. de Morsier, in which the writer proposes to deal with the Tartar, Turcoman, and Kirghiz steppes.

BY a telegram from Brisbane we learn that the Queensland Government expedition for the survey of the projected Transcontinental railway started on January 14, presumably from Blackall. A previous survey, it will be remembered, was made by a party under Mr. Favene, despatched by the proprietors of the *Queenslander*, but so far as we are aware no detailed account of his explorations has ever been made public, and possibly the new expedition has been sent to endeavour to find a better line of route.

THE Wellington correspondent of the *Colonies and India* states that the Southern Alps and other of the principal mountains of New Zealand are to be explored next year by members of the Alpine Club, who will find ample scope for their energies. The top of Mount Cook, the loftiest peak in New Zealand, between 13,000 and 14,000 feet in height, has not yet been reached.

THE International Alpine Congress will meet at Salzburg in 1882. The committee is now being formed.