

Solombola. Nothing had been ascertained regarding the fate of the steamer *Varna* or her crew.

AT the meeting of the Berlin Geographical Society on the 8th inst. some communications were made regarding the latest undertakings of the German explorers now at work:—Dr. Paul Giussfeldt had undertaken to ascend the Aconcagua, the highest peak of the Chili Cordilleras (6934 metres); he failed on account of the extreme cold, but succeeded in taking a number of interesting photographs. Dr. Steiner, a member of the Antarctic expedition had proceeded northward from Punta Arenas, and had drawn a remarkable geological map of the country he traversed. He intends to penetrate into Chile. Dr. Hettner is about to start on an exploring tour through Canada with a view of discovering coal deposits.

NEWS of the German African traveller, Dr. Fischer, has just arrived from Zanzibar. He was at some days' distance from Ngaren Erobi, had 800 followers, and had forced his way through the Massai district. He thus seems to have joined other caravans, as he had started with only 350 men himself. Ngaren Erobi is to the west of the Kilima Ngaro, and under $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E. long., and 3° S. lat.

LIEUT. BOVE is just starting on a second expedition to Terra del Fuego. Thence he intends to penetrate into Graham's Land. The Italian Geographical Society bears the cost of this expedition, which will sail from Genoa and go by way of Monte Video.

DR. OSCAR LENZ is now writing an account of his second great African journey. It will be published by Brockhaus (Leipzig), and will be entitled "Timbuktu, Reise durch Marokko, die Sahara und den Sudan, ausgeführt im Auftrag der Deutschen Afrikanischen Gesellschaft."

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, tome vi. fasc. 1, 1883.—Presidential address.—Conditions to be observed by the competitors for the annual "Godart Prize" of 500 francs, founded in 1862; and for the "Broca Prize" of 1500 francs for the best memoir on a question of human or comparative anatomy, or of physiology referring to anthropology. This prize was founded by Madame Broca in 1881, and is biennial.—Report by M. Pozzi of a highly ornamented so-called medical pipe, found in an ancient mound in Kentucky. This fine specimen of the workmanship of the prehistoric mound-builders of the New World is identical with those found in California, and supposed to have been used for producing blisters and moxas.—M. Ball described the post-mortem appearances of the brain of the Batignolles cretin, whose abnormal condition had been brought to the notice of the Society last year.—On social instinct, by Dr. Prat.—On supposed human imprints found in clay beds at Carson in Nevada, by Dr. W. Hoffman.—An interesting paper on the superstitions and faith in sorcery still persisting in South Italy, by M. Mari-court.—On an anomaly of the brachial biceps, by M. G. Hervé.—On M. Hamy's Case of anthropometric instruments, approved of by the Society, for the use of travellers engaged in Anthropological determinations.—A case of hydrocephalus in a child of ten years, by Dr. de Grandmont, considered specially in reference to the ophthalmic lesions associated with this condition, and their probable joint dependence among other causes on too near relationship between the parents, as intermarriage between first cousins of degenerate constitution.—The reproduction in man of a simian muscle, the scalenus intermedius of the anthropoid apes, by Dr. Testut.—Observations on polyandry in Kouloo and Ladak, by M. Ujfalvy, based on personal investigations during his travels in the Western Himalayas. In Kouloo polyandry and polygamy subsist side by side; in Ladak with similar physical and economic conditions, polygamy, which necessitates a certain degree of material prosperity, is less frequent. The prevalence of polyandry among savage tribes in ancient times, and the organisation of matriarchy, or maternal supremacy, in tribal and domestic rule, were considered by M. Rousset in the discussion which followed the reading of M. Ujfalvy's important communication.—A discussion on the anthropological study of the crania of great criminals, chiefly in reference to the connection of criminality with any fixed cranial malformation, by M. Manouvrier.—Considerations of the nature of the arterial sulci of the cephalon in man, by M. Danilo.—On the development of the human skeleton, by M. de Merjkowsky, with special

reference to the embryological affinities; between the higher and lower animals, the author believing that in the human foetus we have a reproduction of a simian form, which gives support to the theory of development as applied to man.—An anomalous formation of the first rib, by M. G. Hervé.—On the brain of an insane person, by M. Rey, in which the frontal and antero-posterior circunvolutions were extraordinarily developed, together with an excessive weight of the brain.—On a successful attempt to inoculate a monkey with matter taken from an indurated chancre, by M. Pozzi.—On the substance used by the North American Indians to poison their arrows, by Dr. Hoffman.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES LONDON

Geological Society, June 20.—J. W. Hulke, F.R.S., president, in the chair.—Henry Yorke Lyell Brown, Edward St. F. Moore, John Henry Nichols, and Henry Parker, were elected Fellows, and Baron F. von Richthofen, of Berlin, a foreign correspondent of the Society.—The following communications were read:—On the discovery of *Ovibos moschatus* in the forest bed, and its range in space and time, by Prof. W. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S. The specimen described by the author formed part of the collection of the late Rev. F. Buxton, and was obtained by a fisherman from the forest-bed of Trimmingham, four miles from Cromer. The edges are sharp, and the red matrix adhered in places, so that the author regards its geological position as satisfactorily established. It is the posterior half of the upper surface of the skull of an adult female *Ovibos moschatus*. The author describes the range in space and time of this animal, mentioning the different instances in which its remains have been found in Britain. These are, in some cases, undoubtedly post-glacial; but he inclines to consider the lower brick-earth of the Thames Valley, where the musk-sheep has been found at Crayford, as anterior to the boulder clay, which occupies the district to the north. This deposit at Trimmingham, however, is certainly pre-glacial, and so *Ovibos moschatus* belongs to a fauna which arrived in our country prior to the extreme refrigeration of climate which characterised the glacial epoch, and afterwards retreated northwards to its present haunts, showing, with other evidence, that this epoch did not form a hard and fast barrier between two faunas.—On the relative age of some valleys in Lincolnshire, by A. J. Jukes-Browne, B.A.—On the section at Hordwell cliffs, from the top of the Lower Headdon to the base of the Upper Bagshot Sands, by the late E. B. Tawney, M.A., and H. Keeping, of the Woodwardian Museum. Communicated by the Rev. Osmond Fisher, M.A. The authors, after a brief sketch of the literature of the subject and of the method which they have adopted in measuring the beds in the Hordwell section, passed on to describe these, viz. the freshwater Lower Headdon series, and the so-called Upper Bagshot Sands of the Geological Survey. They make the whole thickness of the former 83½ feet. The bed numbered thirty-two in their section they identified with the Howledge limestone on the other side of the Solent. It is almost the highest seen in the section, and underlies the true Middle Headdon which is now no longer exposed. The authors pointed out that in their opinion the late Marchioness of Hastings and Dr. Wright have somewhat misapprehended the position of these several beds. Details were then given of the remainder of the section, and comparisons made with the details published by former authors; after which the authors described the underlying estuarine series, or Upper Bagshot Sands, which has a thickness of 17½ feet.—On some new or imperfectly known Madreporaria from the Coral Rag and Portland Oolite of the counties of Wilts, Oxford, Cambridge, and York, by R. F. Tomes, F.G.S.—The geology of Monte Somma and Vesuvius, being a study in vulcanology, by H. J. Johnston-Lavis, F.G.S. The author, after referring to the vast amount of literature which has appeared dealing with the same subject, stated that his object was to lay before the Society the results of his personal observations. The external form and general features of Monte Somma having been described, the origin of the present condition of the volcano was discussed in some detail, and the geological structure of the mountain and of the surrounding plain, as revealed by well-sections, was carefully considered. As the result of his observations the author believes that he is able to define eight successive phases in the history of the volcano; and the events which took place during these several periods, with the products of the eruption during each, were