THE death is announced of Dr. Gotthilf Heinr. Ludw. Hagen, with whose name for the last sixty years progress in the domain of hydrotechnics in Germany is closely associated. He died at Berlin on the 3rd inst., having nearly completed his eighty-seventh year.

THE death is announced of Dr. A. Bernstein, the well-known author of the "Naturwissenschaftliche Volksbücher." He was born at Danzig in 1812, and died at Berlin on the 12th inst.

ON February 18 an earthquake was felt in several parts of the Department of Algiers. Its duration was very short. The *Turkestan Gazette* states that as many as ninety distinct shocks of earthquake have been felt at Oosh since November 14. Other shocks have also recently occurred at Viernoe and Tashkend. A violent earthquake is also reported from the Birvari district (province of Bitlis, on Lake Van, in Asiatic Turkey) on February 10. Great damage was done, as many houses fell.

MR. W. WHITAKER desires us to point out in reference to the article on the "Geological Survey of the United Kingdom," printed in the last number of NATURE (p. 395), that some of the bulkiest publications of the Survey have appeared since 1855. He favours us with a list of these, in which we are glad to observe his own "London Basin, pp. xii. 620."

IN consequence of a generally expressed wish from many hundreds of intending participators at the forthcoming Ornithological Congress at Vienna, the Committee of the Congress has a tered the date for the first meeting from April 16 to April 7. As the Ornithological Exhibition will be held from April 4 to April 14, the ornithologists present in Vienna at that time will have an opportunity of seeing the Exhibition, while at the same time attending the Congress. Numerous Belgian, Danish, French, German, Austrian, Italian, and Russian men of science will meet in Vienna upon that occasion.

THE German Government has issued an edict concerning the preservation of prehistoric burial-mounds which may be discovered henceforth upon German soil.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus* ♂) from India, presented by Mr. W. Graeme; a Sambur Deer (*Cervus aristotelis* ♂) from Ceylon, a European Flamingo (*Phœnicopterus antiquorum*) from Southern Europe, presented by Mr. James McGregor; a Vulpine Phalanger (*Phalangista vulpina* ♂) from Australia, presented by Mr. A. H. Lowder; a Pine Marten (*Mustela martes*), British, presented by Mr. Edward de Stafford; a Common Hare (*Lepus europæus*), British, presented by Mr. G. Pottier; a Rhesus Monkey (*Macacus rhesus*) from India, presented by Master A. J. Neill; two Laughing Kingfishers (*Dacelo gigantea*) from Australia, presented by Dr. Evans; a Black-footed Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) from South Africa, presented by Mr. F. Bloor; a Greek Tortoise (*Testudo græca*), European, presented by Miss M. L. Fergusson; a Stump-tailed Lizard (*Trachydosaurus rugosus*) from New Holland, a Bearded Lizard (*Amphibolurus barbatus*) from Australia, presented by Mr. J. W. Bostock; a Pike (*Esox lucius*) from British fresh waters, presented by Mr. Charles D. Hoblyn, F.Z.S.; a Lesser White-nosed Monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista* ♀), a Campbell's Monkey (*Cercopithecus campbelli* ♀) from West Africa, a Ruddy Ichneumon (*Herpestes smithi*) from India, a Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrinus* ♂) from Central Asia, three White-crowned Pigeons (*Columba leucocephalus*) from the West Indies, purchased.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1806, DECEMBER 10.—When Rümker was on the point of leaving England to undertake the direction of the observatory erected by Sir Thomas Brisbane at Paramatta, N.S.W., he came into possession of a letter addressed to Maskelyne by Admiral Bligh, Governor of the colony, containing observations of a solar eclipse on December 10, 1806, which was described as almost total; the observations were made at Government House, Sydney Cove, with a three-feet achromatic and two chronometers by Arnold; Rümker communicated the Admiral's letter to Zach, who published it in vol. v. of his "Correspondance Astronomique," with the places of the sun and moon from Delambre and Burckhardt, and the longitude of Sydney Cove, which he had deduced from Bligh's observations. Employing Burckhardt's Lunar Tables and the last Solar Tables of Carlini the elements of this eclipse will be found to be approximately as follows:—

G.M.T. of conjunction in R.A. 1806, Dec. 9 at 14h. 19m. 14s.

R.A.	256°	19′	1″
Moon's hourly motion in R.A. ...		35	3
Sun's ,, ,, ...		2	45
Moon's declination	23	1	8 S.
Sun's ,, ...	22	52	2 S.
Moon's hourly motion in decl. ...		0	5 S.
Sun's ,, ,, ...		0	14 S.
Moon's horizontal parallax		56	16
Sun's ,, ,, ...		0	9
Moon's semi-diameter		15	20
Sun's ,, ,, ...		16	15

The eclipse was therefore an annular one: it was central and annular with the sun on the meridian in longitude 143° 23′ E. and latitude 32° 23′ S. Admiral Bligh's position was not within the annular phase, but on making a direct calculation for it, we find the greatest eclipse at 0h. 41m. p.m. local mean time, magnitude 0·92. Perhaps this is the first eclipse that was astronomically observed at Sydney, and it may be noted in connection with Mr. Russell's historical account of the progress of astronomy at that place, of which we gave some account last week.

THE LATE PROF. KLINKERFUES.—Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm Klinkerfues was born at Hofgeismar in Hesse, on March 29, 1827. He was attached to the Observatory of Göttingen as assistant in 1851, under Gauss; he became provisional director of that establishment in 1859, and in 1868 was confirmed in that appointment. Since 1863 he was one of the professors in the Philosophical Faculty at Göttingen. He was an able practical and theoretical astronomer, and discovered the comets 1853 III., 1854 I., 1854 III., 1854 IV., 1855 II., and 1857 V.; the first of these, which bore his name very generally while under observation, was telescopically observed in full sunshine, and only a few degrees from the sun's place by Mr. Hartnup at Liverpool, and by Schmidt at Athens. In 1860 Klinkerfues proceeded to Cullera in Spain for the observation of the total solar eclipse in July. His work in theoretical astronomy included a method of determining the orbits of the binary stars, and he was the author of a valuable theoretical treatise on the science. When, on the occurrence of the great meteor shower of November 27, 1872, it was found that the meteors followed the track of Biela's comet, and the comet itself was supposed to be close to the earth on that day, Klinkerfues thought it might be found opposite the radiant of the meteors in Andromeda, and accordingly telegraphed to Mr. Pogson at Madras to this effect, "Biela touched earth November 27, search near θ Centauri." It will be remembered that, in consequence of this telegram from Klinkerfues, Mr. Pogson actually detected a comet in the vicinity, but was only able to obtain its place on two mornings; so that the orbit could not be determined. There was a divided opinion at the time as to its connection with Biela, and perhaps this may now be said to be more than doubtful, notwithstanding the singular circumstances attending its discovery. Klinkerfues died suddenly at the Observatory of Göttingen on January 28.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

MR. H. H. JOHNSTON leaves London to-morrow for Zanzibar, to conduct an expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro. The expenses of the expedition are borne by the Royal Society and the British Association, the object being to form as large a collection as possible of the flora and fauna of the highest mountain in Africa.

ANOTHER attempt will be made this year to rescue the United States observing party in Lady Franklin Bay, under Lieut. Greeley. This party, twenty-five in all, went out in August 1881

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