

been welcomed with great satisfaction in Norway, as it proves that this fish is capable of increasing in almost stagnant waters, where the Norwegian trout cannot exist, though its size is smaller. As an example of the success of this experiment it may be mentioned that the Norwegian Inspector of Fisheries, Prof. A. Landmark of Christiania, offers these ova at ten shillings per thousand.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Garnett's Galago (*Galago garnetti*) from West Africa, presented by the Rev. W. C. Porter; a Grey Ichneumon (*Herpestes griseus*) from India, presented by Mr. James B. Bevington; a Common Badger (*Meles taxus*), British, presented by Mr. E. Gully; a Kestrel (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*), British, presented by Mr. Bateson-de-Yarburgh; six Barbary Turtle Doves (*Turtur risorius*) from Africa, presented by Mr. Richard Seyd, F.Z.S.; a Robben Island Snake (*Coronella phocarum*) from Robben Island, South Africa, presented by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S.; a Pale-headed Tree Boa (*Epicrates anguifer*) from Cuba, presented by Miss M. Hunt; an Ogilby's Rat Kangaroo (*Hypsiprymnus ogilbyi*), a Roseate Cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*) from Australia, three Poë Honey-eaters (*Prothemadera nova-scandiae*), a Huia Bird (*Heterolocha gouldi*), five — Gannets (*Sula* —) from New Zealand, deposited; two Collared Fruit Bats (*Cynonycteris collaris*), born in the Gardens.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

THE last number of the *China Review* contains the first part of an article by Mr. G. Taylor on that interesting and little-known subject, the aborigines of Formosa. The writer has lived in the extreme south of the island, in daily communication with the people there for four years, and has therefore more experience of the southern type than all previous writers put together. He divides the Formosans south of Takow—that is, the southern peninsula—into four parts: the Paiwans, inhabiting the extreme south; the Pepohuans, or half-castes, of the plains; the Tipuns, inhabiting the great plain inland from Pilam; and the Ameirs, who have scattered themselves in small villages along the east coast down to South Cape. Of these, he can speak of the Paiwans from intimate personal observation; the Ameirs he is also acquainted with; but in the case of the others he has gathered his information from straggling members who have been found domiciled among the Paiwans. The present instalment is devoted wholly to the latter, *Paiwan* being the generic name of all the savage tribes on the south coast, and on the west up to Tang-Kang. These, at least, show no traces of the Negrito mixture which is supposed to exist among certain Formosan tribes. They are of a bright copper complexion, with black, straight hair, of a coarse texture. Mr. Taylor describes their physical features, their traditions of their origin, their arts (which are disappearing through contact with the Chinese), their superstitions and customs. They have a dim belief in the transmigration of souls, probably derived from Buddhist sources, and think that some souls are, as a mild punishment for minor misdeeds, condemned to pass into certain animals, where they remain for a time. The Subongs, a northern tribe of the Paiwans, are still almost absolutely independent, and still preserve the practice of head-hunting. They have known and wrought iron as far back as their traditions extend; they wear a ring in the lobe of the ear inserted in a hole formed by gradual expansion, and these ear-rings are the true mark of aboriginal descent, half-castes and Chinese not being allowed to wear them. One tribe of Paiwans, the Koaluts, has the custom of killing off infants when the tribe increases beyond a certain number, the saying being that whenever their tribe increases beyond the traditional limit they are certain to be visited by a pestilence. The paper is very interesting, and the whole promises to be a work of much ethnological value.

TELEGRAMS from Cairo and Aden announce the massacre by the Emir of Harrar, in the Somali country, of the members of an Expedition sent out by the Geographical Society of Milan. The Expedition was under the charge of Count Porro, and, besides the leader, the other victims were the Count

Montiglio, Prof. Sicata, Dr. Gethardi, Signori Romagnoli, Janin, Bianchi, and two servants. They were set upon by the Emir with 200 soldiers between Geldessa and Arton.

ACCORDING to information received in Paris, M. Barral and his wife, who had set out from Obock to explore a great part of Abyssinia and to establish commercial relations in the country, were murdered by the Danakils on the frontiers of Shoa.

THE *Izvestia* of the East Siberian branch of the Russian Geographical Society are appearing now in a new shape, similar to that of the *Izvestia* of the St. Petersburg Geographical Society. The last issued fascicule contains a short account of the geological excursions undertaken by the Society during the years 1883 and 1884. M. Dubroff continues the report of his journey to Mongolia, in which he gives much valuable topographical information concerning the valleys of the rivers Baikoy, Eder, Delgir-Moria, and Selenga, as also some ethnographical notes. M. Cherski contributes a paper containing the geological observations he has made during a journey from Irkutsk to the river Nijnia Tunguska. A good deal of attention was paid by the author to the geological features of the valley of the Middle Lena (from Kachug to Kirensk), which had been visited formerly by many explorers (Zlobin, Erman, Stchukin, Meglicki, Middendorff, Krapotkin, and Chekanefski), but never made a subject of special investigation. M. Cherski found there in the red sandstone of the valley some valuable exterior casts of shells similar to those of *Orthis*, but unfortunately the specimens were subsequently spoiled on their way to St. Petersburg, and therefore the question concerning the origin of the red sandstone still remains open. Finally he describes the Mammalia which now inhabit the valley of Nijnia Tunguska, as also those which inhabited it during the Palæolithic period, such as *Bos priscus*, *Bos primigenius*, *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, *Elephas primigenius*, *Cervus canadensis*, and *Castor fiber*, the last three having only disappeared in recent time.

DR. KONRAD KELLER, of the Zürich University, is about to start on a scientific exploring expedition to Madagascar. The Swiss Ministers of Agriculture, Commerce, and Internal Affairs, the Mercantile Society of Zürich, and the East Swiss Commercial Geographical Society will jointly bear the cost of the expedition.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN

THE PARALLAX OF ψ^5 AURIGÆ.—Herr W. Schur, of Strassbourg, has published in the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 2723, a determination of the parallax of this double-star, deduced from a series of measures of position-angles and distances of the components made by him with the 6-inch refractor of the Strassbourg Observatory, on thirty evenings between January 14, 1883, and January 29, 1885. Transforming the observed position-angles and distances into $\Delta\alpha \cos \delta$ and $\Delta\delta$, and attempting, first, to determine corrections to the assumed proper motions of the brighter star (taken from Auwer's Fundamental-Catalog.), Herr Schur finds—

Correction to assumed proper motion in $\Delta\alpha \cos \delta = + 0''.075 \pm 0''.027$, $\pi = + 0''.161 \pm 0''.036$.

Correction to assumed proper motion in $\Delta\delta = + 0''.013 \pm 0''.021$, $\pi = - 0''.011 \pm 0''.096$.

Combining the two values of the parallax resulting from the differences of R.A. and declination respectively, there results $\pi = + 0''.140 \pm 0''.034$. An examination of the measures of this double-star, made from Herschel's time on, shows that there is no perceptible orbital motion in the system, but also shows that this comparatively large correction to the assumed proper motion in $\Delta\alpha \cos \delta$ is inadmissible. Putting, therefore, these corrections to the assumed proper motions = 0 in his equations, the circumstances being unfavourable for their determination, Herr Schur finds—

From differences of R.A., $\pi = + 0''.126 \pm 0''.036$
 ,, Decl., $\pi = - 0''.009 \pm 0''.094$

and, finally, $\pi = + 0''.111 \pm 0''.034$. It is to be remarked that this value refers to the fainter star of the pair (mag. 9.0, that of the other component being 5.3 according to Struve's estimate), in the observations the place of this star having been referred to that of the brighter one. Herr Schur thinks he is justified in asserting that the parallax of this star is at least $0''.1$,—a remarkable result considering the fixity of the object.