THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include an Egyptian Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*) from Egypt, presented by Capt. Robbins; two Red-under-winged Doves (*Leptopila rufaxilla*) from Guiana, presented by Mr. S. Wells; a Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*), British, presented by Sir Henry Tyler; two Great Eagle Owls (*Bubo maximus*), bred in Shropshire, presented by Viscount Hill; three Yellow-headed Conures (*Conurus jendaya*) from South-East Brazil, presented by Mr. C. Rudge; a Raven (*Corvus corax*), British, presented by Mrs. Tatham; a Martinique Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) from South America, presented by Mr. J. M. Booker; two Common Boas (*Boa constrictor*) from South America, presented by Mr. T. H. Church; a Common Viper (*Vipera berus*), British, presented by Mr. R. B. Spalding; four Ruscon's Newts (*Molge rusconi*) from Sardinia, presented by Prof. H. H. Giglioli, C.M.Z.S.; two Black-eared Marmosets (*Hapale penicillata*), a Feline Dourocouli (*Nyctipithecus vociferans*), two Yarrell's Curassows (*Crax carunculata*), two Magpie Tanagers (*Cissopis leveriana*), two Ariel Toucans (*Ramphastos ariel*), two Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), a White-faced Tree-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) from South-East Brazil, purchased; three Aldrovandis Skinks (*Plestiodon auratus*) from North-West Africa, two Common Slow-worms (*Anguis fragilis*), British, received in exchange; six Ribbon Snakes (*Tropidonotus saurita*), born in the Gardens.

ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE WEEK 1886 AUGUST 29—SEPTEMBER 4

(FOR the reckoning of time the civil day, commencing at Greenwich mean midnight, counting the hours on to 24, is here employed.)

At Greenwich on August 29

Sun rises, 5h. 9m.; souths, 12h. 0m. 46·9s.; sets, 18h. 52m.; decl. on meridian, 9° 18′ N.: Sidereal Time at Sunset, 17h. 24m.

Moon (New) rises, 4h. 51m.; souths, 11h. 58m.; sets, 18h. 52m.; decl. on meridian, 9° 21′ N.

Planet	Rises h. m.	Souths h. m.	Sets h. m.	Decl. on meridian ° ′
Mercury ...	3 37	10 54	18 11	14 4 N.
Venus	2 48	10 27	18 6	17 51 N.
Mars	10 45	15 38	20 31	13 40 S.
Jupiter... ...	8 5	13 59	19 53	2 0 S.
Saturn... ...	0 46	8 51	16 57	21 47 N.

Occultation of Star by the Moon (visible at Greenwich)

Sept.	Star	Mag.	Disap. h. m.	Reap. h. m.	Corresponding angles from vertex to right for inverted image ° °
3 ...	γ Libræ	4½ ...	21 19 ...	22 13 ...	143 273

August 29.—Total eclipse of Sun: not visible in Europe. The central line crosses the West Indies, the Atlantic, and Southern Africa. The members of the British Expedition are prepared to observe the eclipse at Grenada, one of the Windward Isles, where the eclipse will occur soon after sunrise, having a duration of totality of about 4 minutes. In mid-Atlantic the duration will be 6 minutes. In Africa the eclipse occurs near to sunset, with a duration of totality of about 4 minutes.

Sept. 2 ... h. 11 ... Mercury at greatest elongation from the Sun, 18° west.

Variable Stars

Star	R.A. h. m.	Decl. ° ′			h. m.	
U Cephei	0 52·2	81 16 N.	... Sept.	1,	20 27	*m*
U Ophiuchi	17 10·8	1 20 N.	... ,,	2,	1 22	*m*
					21 30	*m*
W Sagittarii ...	17 57·8	29 35 S.	... ,,	2,	0 0	*m*
T Serpentis	18 23·3	6 13 N.	... ,,	4,		*M*
η Aquilæ	19 46·7	0 43 N.	... Aug.	29,	21 0	*M*
R Vulpeculæ ...	20 59·3	23 22 N.	... Sept.	3,		*m*

M signifies maximum; *m* minimum.

Meteor Showers

Amongst the radiants that have been observed at this season are the following:—Near γ Pegasi, R.A. 6°, Decl. 11° N.; near ψ Cygni, R.A. 306°, Decl. 54° N.; near λ Cygni, R.A. 311°, Decl. 35° N.; near ε Cephei, R.A. 335°, Decl. 52° N.; and near β Piscium, R.A. 345°, Decl. 0°. Fireballs are of frequent occurrence during this week.

Stars with Remarkable Spectra

Name of Star	R.A. 1886·0 h. m. s.	Decl. 1886·0 ° ′	Type of spectrum
71 Pegasi	23 27 46 ...	21 52·3 N. ...	III.
19 Piscium	23 40 34 ...	2 51·3 N. ...	IV.
φ Pegasi	23 46 41 ...	18 29·2 N. ...	III.
D.M. – 0° 4585 ...	23 48 55 ...	0 31·6 S. ...	III.
30 Piscium	23 56 7 ...	6 38·9 S. ...	III.
47 Piscium	0 22 6 ...	17 15·6 N. ...	III.
57 Piscium	0 40 34 ...	14 51·2 N. ...	III.
7 Schjellerup	1 9 49 ...	25 9·9 N. ...	IV.
R Piscium	1 24 45 ...	2 17·6 N. ...	III.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

IN a lecture delivered at Cooktown (published in the *Daily Observer* of Brisbane), Mr. H. O. Forbes described his work in New Guinea during the six months he remained there. He set up his winter camp at Sogere, three days' march from the coast, though only 25 miles in a straight line, on the slope of a steep mountain. His work here was varied and important. The meteorological station which was erected was placed under the charge of Mr. Hennessy, and the observations were continued down to the end of his stay. These consisted of records of the mercurial barometer, maximum and minimum, dry- and wet-bulb thermometers, and rainfall, and were recorded without interruption six times in every twenty-four hours. The mass of observations thus accumulated will take a considerable time to tabulate, especially those referring to the atmospheric humidity. Then there was the collecting of zoological and botanical specimens. A large portion of the herbarium consists of giant trees of the forest. It contains about one thousand specimens, one set having been sent to Baron von Müller to Melbourne. A great part of Mr. Forbes's own time was devoted to the survey and delineation of the geographical features of the country. He obtained angles from about fifty different stations and established a base of several miles in length, on which he had hoped to found the triangulation of the country between Sogere and Owen Stanley, and the north-east coast. He also paid a visit to the latter place, and there, as elsewhere, with a little management, found the natives extremely friendly and well-disposed. When Mr. Forbes found his funds failing, he determined, with Mr. Chalmers, on making a dash for Mount Owen Stanley, but the natives who were to have aided him fled in the night, apparently on account of the terrors inspired by the journey. He only got as far as Kaukari, a village two days' journey beyond Sogere. He says that no words can give a true idea of the break-neck, shattered, disrupted condition of the country between Sogere and the central ridges. Beyond the natural obstacles, however (and they appear to be very great), there appears no reason why British New Guinea should not be thoroughly explored, provided the natives are treated with conciliation and tact.

THE Hon. Duncan Gillies, Premier of Victoria, has received a deputation, consisting of members of various learned societies, who urged the expediency of Antarctic exploration. The deputation represented that whale-fishing would make the enterprise remunerative, but at the same time asked the Victorian Government to give encouragement to the project. The Premier, in reply, said that the Government would be willing to grant a subsidy to aid scientific discovery, and that he would ask the other colonies to do the same. In the meantime he would instruct the Agent-General in London to inquire whether steam-whalers would be disposed to embark in the enterprise, and what subsidy would be required.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Swiss Geographica Societies took place at Geneva, at the same time as that of the Society of Natural Sciences. Prof. Chaix was President. Geographical Societies exist now in Geneva, Berne, St. Gall, Aarau, and Neuchatel, and others are about to be established in Zurich, Basle, and Lausanne. Those in existence count altogether more