from Australia, presented by Mr. F. Buckland; a Common Paradoxure (*Paradoxurus typus* ?) from India, presented by the Rev. J. De Gruchy; a Tawny Owl (*Syrnium aluco*), European, presented by Mr. T. Gunn; a Stump-tailed Lizard (*Trachydosaurus rugosus*) from New Holland, presented by Mr. C. Elliott; a Grey Ichneumon (*Herpestes griseus*) from India, presented by Mr. C. L. Curtis; a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus* ?) from India, two Red-backed Pelicans (*Pelecanus rufescens*) from West Africa, a Masked Parakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis personata*, yellow var.) from the Fiji Islands, deposited; five Clotbey's Larks (*Ramphocorys clotbeyi*), five Algerian Shore Larks (*Otocorys bilopha*), two Rosy Bullfinches (*Erythrospiza githaginea*) from Algeria, purchased.

ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE WEEK 1889 JANUARY 20–26.

(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 January 20

Sun rises, 7h. 56m.; souths, 12h. 11m. 24·4s.; sets, 16h. 26m.: right asc. on meridian, 20h. 11·7m.; decl. 20° 1′ S. Sidereal Time at Sunset, 0h. 27m.

Moon (at Last Quarter January 24, 16h.) rises, 19h. 0m.*; souths, 2h. 29m.; sets, 9h. 45m.: right asc. on meridian, 10h. 27·3m.; decl. 13° 31′ N.

Planet.	Rises.	Souths.	Sets.	Right asc. and declination on meridian.
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m. ° ′
Mercury..	8 42 ...	13 12 ...	17 42 ...	21 12·5 ... 17 44 S.
Venus.....	9 37 ...	15 7 ...	20 37 ...	23 7·3 ... 6 31 S.
Mars	9 24 ...	14 41 ...	19 58 ...	22 42·2 ... 9 11 S.
Jupiter....	5 50 ...	9 46 ...	13 42 ...	17 45·7 ... 23 3 S.
Saturn....	17 55*...	1 26 ...	8 57 ...	9 24·1 ... 16 26 N.
Uranus ...	0 0 ...	5 23 ...	10 46 ...	13 22·2 ... 7 59 S.
Neptune..	12 7 ...	19 50 ...	3 33*...	3 51·2 ... 18 25 N.

* Indicates that the rising is that of the preceding evening and the setting that of the following morning.

Meteor-Showers.

	R.A.	Decl.	
	°	°	
Near κ Ursæ Majoris	134 ...	48 N.	
From Coma Berenices ...	180 ...	24 N. ...	Swift; streaks.

Variable Stars.

Star.	R.A.	Decl.		
	h. m.	° ′		h. m.
U Cephei	0 52·5 ..	81 17 N. ...	Jan. 23,	20 52 *m*
S Persei	2 14·9 ...	58 5 N. ...	,, 26,	*M*
Algol	3 1·0 ...	40 32 N. ...	,, 21,	23 17 *m*
			,, 24,	20 6 *m*
λ Tauri...	3 54·6 ...	12 11 N. ...	,, 25,	1 18 *m*
ζ Geminorum ...	6 57·5 ...	20 44 N. ...	,, 22,	23 0 *M*
R Canis Majoris ...	7 14·5 ...	16 11 N. ...	,, 20,	20 17 *m*
		and at intervals of		27 16
T Hydræ	8 50·3 ...	8 43 S. ...	Jan. 20,	*M*
W Virginis	13 20·3 ...	2 48 S. ...	,, 22,	22 0 *m*
V Boötis	14 25·3 ...	39 21 N. ...	,, 20,	*M*
R Boötis	14 32·3 ...	27 13 N. ...	,, 22,	*M*
T Vulpeculæ ...	20 46·8 ...	27 50 N. ...	,, 21,	1 0 *m*
			,, 22,	3 0 *M*
Y Cygni	20 47·6 ...	34 14 N. ...	,, 21,	5 40 *m*
		and at intervals of		36 0
δ Cephei	22 25·0 ...	57 51 N. ...	Jan. 23,	4 0 *M*
			,, 26,	22 0 *m*

M signifies maximum; *m* minimum.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE following letter from Mr. Stanley to Tippoo Tib has been received in Brussels:—"Boma of Banalya-Murenia, August 17, to the Sheik Hamed Ben Mahomed [Tippoo Tib] from his good friend, Henry Stanley. Many salaams to you. I hope you are in good health, as I am, and that you have remained in good health since I left the Congo. I have many things to say to you but I hope I shall see you face to face before many days. I reached this place this morning with 130 Wangwana, and three soldiers and sixty-six natives belonging to Emin Pasha. This is now the eighty-second day since we left Emin Pasha on the Nyanza, and we have only lost three men all the way. Two of them were drowned, and the other ran away. I found the white men whom I was looking for. Emin Pasha was quite well, and the other white man, Casati, was quite well also. Emin has ivory in abundance, cattle by thousands, and sheep, goats, fowls, and food of all kinds. We found him to be a very good and kind man. He gave numbers of things to all our white and black men, and his liberality could not be exceeded. His soldiers blessed our black men for their kindness in coming so far to show them the way, and many of them were ready to follow me at once out of the country. But I asked them to stay quiet a few months that I might go back and fetch the other men and goods I had left at Yambunga, and they prayed to God that he would give me the strength to finish my work. May their prayer be heard. And now, my friend, what are you going to do? We have gone the road twice over. We know where it is bad and where it is good, where there is plenty of food and where there is none, where all the camps are and where we shall sleep and rest. I am waiting to hear your words. If you go with me it is well. If you do not go it is well. I leave it to you. I will stay here ten days, and then I go on slowly. I move from here to a big island two hours' march from here, and above this place there are plenty of houses and plenty of food for the men. Whatever you have to say to me my ears will be open with a good heart, as it has always been towards you. Therefore if you come, come quickly; for on the eleventh morning from this I shall move on. All my white men are well; but I left them all behind, except my servant William, who is with me.—(Signed) STANLEY.' This letter, which was brought by a messenger to Stanley Falls, reached Brussels by post on Tuesday evening, and is the only one from Mr. Stanley which has reached the coast. The remainder of the letters brought by the messenger remain at Stanley Falls, and will arrive in Europe two or three months hence.

ANOTHER of the few remaining mysteries of African geography has just had a little light shed upon it. For many years a lake has been conjecturally placed upon our maps some 15° to the east of the Cameroons, under the name of Liba. No white traveller has ever seen it. Quite recently, however, Dr. Zintgraff, who has been exploring in the Cameroons interior, has obtained information from some natives of the region in which Lake Liba is placed, that leads him to the conclusion that the so-called Lake Liba is probably only a lake-like expansion of a river of that name which exists in the country of his informants. Should the statements of the natives be confirmed, it would seem that the lake, or rather river, to which it belongs is connected neither with the Congo nor the Shari.

FURTHER light has been thrown upon the important question of the supposed waterway between Macluer Inlet and Geelvink Bay, in New Guinea, the existence of which was reported by Captain Strachan. It appears that Dr. A. Meyer's explorations, the results of which seem incompatible with Captain Strachan's conclusions, have recently received important confirmation from the investigations of certain Dutch officials. Lieut. Ellis, who explored the north and north-east coast of New Guinea from May to November 1887, was unable to find the reported water connection, or to gain any information about it from the natives. His own investigations and the inquiries instituted by him force him to the certain conclusion that no such connection exists; and in this he is supported by the opinion of Dr. Host, another explorer.

DR. SCHWEINFURTH is at present engaged in exploring the little-known region of the Menakha Mountains. Towards the end of last year he left Aden for Hodeida, on the Red Sea, for the purpose of visiting these mountains and the town of Sana. Dr. Schweinfurth carried letters from the Porte recommending him to the care and protection of the authorities; and as he is liberally supplied with funds from Berlin, he hopes to make a thorough exploration of the district, which has been but little visited by Europeans.

THE number of the *Zeitschrift* of the Berlin Geographical Society containing the geographical bibliography of the past year has just been issued. As usual it contains a practically exhaustive list of all publications, papers, and maps that have appeared in the various departments of geography.