

Ephemeris of Comet Davidson (by Krueger).

Greenwich Civil Time.	h.	Right Ascension. h. m. s.	Declination. °
August 10...0	...	15 7 26	... 8 15 N.
12...0	...	15 16 18	... 10 55
14...0	...	15 24 21	... 13 14
16...0	...	15 31 43	... 15 17 N.

Comet diminishing in brightness.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

WE regret to learn of the death of Lieutenant Tappenbeck in the Cameroons. He, with Lieutenant Kund, had been doing good work in the Cameroons interior, as they had before done in the Congo region. Lieutenant Kund has returned to Berlin, and has been describing the results of his second journey into the interior. In general, he and his companions followed the same route as on the previous expedition, and were received in quite a friendly way by the natives who had before attacked them. Very interesting observations were made as to the ethnological conditions of the South Cameroons region. A spot was selected for a station, of which the late Lieutenant Tappenbeck was to have been chief. The region is close to the limit of distribution of the Bantus, and there is a considerable variety of ethnological mixtures. Within the limits of the primeval forest, which lies behind the narrow coast stretch, the explorers came upon an almost dwarfish tribe, with yellow skins, hunting in scattered herds, and building only temporary shelters for themselves. On the plateau, again, the explorers met with a free and friendly population of large, strong, and handsome men, with a well-organized social system. Quite different from the degraded coast people and the decaying forest people, these highland tribes have preserved the original good features of their race; and among them, Lieutenant Kund thinks, the scientific and industrial development of the Cameroons might be carried out.

EVERYONE interested in geographical exploration will be sorry to hear of the death, apparently by assassination, of M. Camille Douls, while on his way across the Sahara towards Timbuctoo. M. Douls was born at Bordes, in Aveyron, in 1864. In 1881 he visited the Antilles and Central America; and four years afterwards he spent some time in Morocco, studying the language and manners of the Arabs. In 1887 he explored the unvisited western regions of the Sahara; and last year he started on the journey which was destined, unhappily, to be his last.

MR. ERNEST FAVENC describes in the August number of the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, the results of a recent exploring journey in West Australia, in the country situated about 24° S. lat. The result of the trip was the discovery of several large tributary rivers of the Ashburton, running through magnificent pastoral country. Mr. Favenc found the physical features of the country different entirely to the conjectural ones placed on some of the maps of West Australia. Still there is a very great scarcity of water, many of the river beds being quite empty. The geological formation of the Ashburton is against the likelihood of any valuable mineral deposits being discovered in the future. There seem, however, to be indications of a gold reef at the head of the Gascoyne.

COLONEL ANTONIO R. P. LABRE, a Brazilian gentleman, has for some time been doing important exploring work in the region between the Beni and Madre de Dios rivers and the Purus. These great South American rivers have been often enough followed along their courses, but no one had attempted to penetrate through the primeval forests that separate their courses. This is what Colonel Labre has done, his leading object being to explore the india-rubber resources of the region. There are many rubber stations along these rivers, mainly occupied by Bolivians. The principal journey of Colonel Labre was undertaken for the purpose of crossing westward from the india-rubber settlements on the Madre de Dios to the nearest navigable point on the Aquiry tributary of the Purus, and ascertaining if the distance and the nature of the ground presented facilities for the construction of a road, and ultimately of a rail-

way. He ascended the Madeira from the Amazons, and although this is the only route by which the considerable trade to and fro between the Amazons and Bolivia is carried on, it took Colonel Labre, with a large and well-equipped expedition, thirty-four days to accomplish the 161 miles between San Antonio at the foot of the long series of falls, and the town of Villa Bella at the mouth of the Beni. During the overland journey several tribes of Indians were met with, about whom little or nothing is known. The people are mostly Araunas, and seem to have a well-organized social system, with temples and some form of worship. The women, some of them light-coloured, are not allowed to enter the temples. The idols are not of human form, but are geometrical figures made of wood and polished. Several other tribes were met with. The general result of Colonel Labre's expedition was to open up a route of communication between the large towns of the Amazons and the whole of Northern Bolivia, a route which may be extended to Southern Peru by the navigation of the Madre de Dios to the province of Paucastambo and the rich and populous province of Cuzco. Colonel Labre believes that the Purus and its affluents contain about 40,000 indigenes speaking forty or more different languages.

DR. H. MEYER has arrived at Zanzibar for the purpose of making another attempt to ascend to the highest summit of Kilimanjaro. He will afterwards proceed to explore Mount Kenia.

ACCORDING to *Petermann's Mitteilungen*, Prof. A. Wichmann has recently returned to Europe from his journey to the Dutch East Indies. On the little island of Samauw, lying off the coast of Timor, he found numerous mud volcanoes. On the island of Rotti, at the south-west end of Timor, he discovered upon the slopes, in two mud volcanoes, some ammonites and belemnites, the first Jurassic fossils which have been found in this archipelago. Prof. Wichmann crossed from Palos, on the island of Celebes, to the Bay of Tomine, on the east coast. The route lay over a mountain range about 3000 feet high, covered with primeval forests, and uninhabited. These mountains are composed of gneiss, crystalline slate, and granite.

M. H. COUDREAU recently described to the Paris Geographical Society the results of his last expedition to the Tumuc-Humac Mountains (Guiana), which were only very imperfectly explored by the late M. Crevaux. M. Coudreau effected a survey on the scale of 1 : 100,000 of 2500 miles of route, 1625 miles of which lay along river-courses, and the remaining 875 among the mountains. A complete survey was executed of the courses of the Maroni, Oyapock, and Maroni, from their mouths to their sources. M. Coudreau penetrated into the trackless part of the forest, where a passage had to be hewn out. Measurements were made of 150 summits, and the sources of nearly all the water-courses of both slopes of the range were fixed. The climate of these highlands is healthy, the mean temperature being about 72° F. Immense forests cover a large belt of country at the foot of the mountains. From an ethnographical point of view, M. Coudreau's mission has resulted in the careful study of the manners, customs, and dialects of the score or so of Indian tribes inhabiting this region.

M. BORELLI, who for three years has been exploring in the Shoa region and the Galla country, tracing the course of an important River Omo, is convinced that this river falls into Lake Samburu, the Prince Rudolf Lake of Count Teleki; and that therefore the Omo does not belong to the Nile basin, but to an entirely distinct inland lake system, which has no outlet. M. Borelli has brought home hundreds of photographs of the people of the region he has been exploring, and large collections of specimens of the products of the country which will be deposited in the Trocadero.

GENERAL STRELBITZKY has just published a new edition of his work, "The Superficies of the Russian Empire and the Neighbouring States of Asia." He has incorporated in this edition all the new data, accumulated since 1875, relating to the measurement of the superficies of Russia and her Asiatic possessions. Detailed data as to the superficies of interior seas and lakes, islands, and drainage-areas of separate rivers are added; and the writer presents the first trustworthy information as to the superficies of China, Persia, Afghanistan, Bukhara, Khiva, Corea, and Japan. All figures are given in geographical miles, kilometres, and Russian versts.