

NOTES.

THE International Congress of Astronomy commenced its sittings in Brussels on the 10th inst., under the presidency of M. Hugo Gylden, Director of the Observatory of Stockholm. Among the English members are Mr. Downing, of the Greenwich Observatory, and Mr. Ranyard, of London. The Minister of Railways welcomed the Congress in the name of the Belgian Government. Munich has been fixed as the place for the next meeting.

INFORMATION has come from the United States of terrible wind and rain storms on the 10th, 11th, and 12th inst., all along the North Atlantic coast, doing immense damage. Coincidentally with this came the report of serious internal disturbances in the Yellowstone region, putting the entire geyser system in a violent outbreak. Several long dormant geysers are in a state of furious activity.

A CIRCULAR from the Local Government Board to all the District Boards and Vestries in the Metropolis, an order prescribing a form of notification for use by medical practitioners, and a memorandum for their guidance, have been issued, under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889. The Act comes into force in the Metropolis on October 30.

THE subject for the Sedgwick Prize Essay at Cambridge to be awarded in 1892 is "On Fossil Plants as Tests of Climatic Conditions." The prize is open to all graduates of the University of Cambridge who shall have resided sixty days during the twelve months preceding October 1, 1891. The essays must be sent to the Registry of the University on or before October 1, 1891, each bearing some motto and accompanied by a sealed paper bearing the same motto and inclosing the name and College of the candidate.

WE have received from Reykjavik a copy of the rules of a Society just established there, under the presidency of Prof. B. Gröndal, called the Icelandic Naturalists' Society, the chief aim of which is to found a museum of natural history for Iceland, to be the property of the country. For this purpose it is not only intended to collect specimens of the fauna, flora, and mineral deposits of Iceland, but also to obtain by exchange, or in any other convenient manner, specimens from abroad.

THE *Times of India* reports that a meteorological observatory is to be established at Perim, at the Aden entrance to the Red Sea.

THE annual examination, held under the direction of the State Medicine Syndicate, from the result of which diplomas in public health are granted, will commence at Cambridge on Tuesday, October 1. Any person whose name is on the Medical Register of the United Kingdom may present himself, provided that he is in his twenty-fourth year at least when he presents himself for the first part of the examination, and has attained twenty-four years of age when he presents himself for the second part. The examination in each part occupies two days, and is oral and practical as well as in writing. Candidates may present themselves in either part separately or for both together at their option, but the result of the examination in the case of any candidate will not be published until he has passed both parts. Every candidate who has passed both parts receives a diploma testifying to his competent knowledge of what is required for the duties of a medical officer of health. All applications for admission to the examination, or for information respecting it, should be addressed without delay to Dr. Anningson, Barton Road, Cambridge.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) from India, two Nicobar Pigeons (*Calenas nicobarica*) from the Indian Archipelago, two Rose-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*) from Moluccas, a Fork-tailed Jungle Fowl (*Gallus varius* ♂) from Java, presented by Mr. Charles Clifton, F.Z.S.; a Sinaitic Ibex (*Capra sinaitica* ♂) from the Erba Mountains, Suakin, presented by Sir James Anderson; a Zorilla (—) from Suakin,

presented by Captain W. W. Bevant; a Vinous Fruit Pigeon (*Carpophaga rufigula*) from the Solomon Islands, presented by Mr. C. M. Woodford; a Wood Owl (*Syrnium aluco*), British, presented by Major Vilett Rolleston, F.Z.S.; an Osprey (*Sandilion haliae'us*), European, purchased; a Vulpine Phalanger (*Phalangista vulpina*), born in the Gardens.

ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE WEEK 1889 SEPTEMBER 22-28.

(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 September 22

Sun rises, 5h. 48m.; souths, 11h. 52m. 33'45"; daily decrease of southing, 20'8s.; sets, 17h. 57m.: right asc. on meridian, 11h. 58'7m.; decl. 0° 9' N. Sidereal Time at Sunset, 18h. 4m.

Moon (New on September 25, 3h.) rises, 2h. 13m.; souths, 9h. 57m.; sets, 17h. 27m.: right asc. on meridian, 10h. 2'9m.; decl. 16° 0' N.

Planet.	Rises.		Souths.		Sets.		Right asc. and declination on meridian.	
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	
Mercury..	8 27	...	13 25	...	18 23	...	13 31'5	12 41 S.
Venus ...	2 25	...	9 41	...	16 57	...	9 47'2	13 54 N.
Mars ...	2 52	...	10 2	...	17 12	...	10 8'0	12 50 N.
Jupiter ...	13 59	...	17 52	...	21 45	...	17 58'7	23 29 S.
Saturn ...	2 46	...	9 58	...	17 10	...	10 3'9	13 12 N.
Uranus...	7 47	...	13 12	...	18 37	...	13 18'2	7 39 S.
Neptune..	20 17*	...	4 7	...	11 57	...	4 11'5	19 25 N.

* Indicates that the rising is that of the preceding evening.

Sept.	h.	
22	2	Venus in conjunction with and 3° 12' south of the Moon.
22	10	Saturn in conjunction with and 2° 44' south of the Moon.
22	13	Mars in conjunction with and 2° 47' south of the Moon.
22	21	Sun in equator: day and night of equal length.
26	8	Venus in conjunction with and 0° 34' south of Saturn.
26	21	Mercury in conjunction with and 8° 38' south of the Moon.

Variable Stars.

Star.	R.A.		Decl.	h.	m.
	h. m.	h. m.			
U Cephei ...	0 52'5	...	81 17 N.	Sept. 25,	4 7 m
λ Tauri...	3 54'5	...	12 11 N.	...	27, 3 15 m
U Coronæ ...	15 13'7	...	32 3 N.	...	23, 19 8 m
U Ophiuchi...	17 10'9	...	1 20 N.	...	23, 3 50 m
and at intervals of 20 8					
τ Vulpeculæ ...	20 46'8	...	27 50 N.	Sept. 22,	2 0 m
X Capricorni ...	21 2'2	...	21 48 S.	...	24, M
T Capricorni ...	21 15'9	...	15 38 S.	...	25, M
δ Cephei ...	22 25'1	...	57 51 N.	...	27, 1 0 M

M signifies maximum: m minimum.

Meteor-Showers.

R.A. Decl.

Near α Arietis...	...	30	...	18 N.	
		98	...	43 N.	Very swift; streaks.
From Lynx	115	...	52 N.	Very swift.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The British Association	485
Section C (Geology).—Opening Address by Prof. James Geikie, LL.D., F.R.S.S.L. and E., F.G.S., President of the Section	486
Section E (Geography).—Opening Address by Colonel Sir Francis de Winton, K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., President of the Section	492
Section F (Economic Science and Statistics).—Opening Address by Prof. F. Y. Edgeworth, M.A., F.S.S. President of the Section. (With Diagrams.)	496
Section G (Mechanical Science).—Opening Address by William Anderson, M.Inst.C.E., President of the Section	509
Notes	516
Astronomical Phenomena for the Week 1889	516
September 22-28	516