

Geographical Magazine for February 1894, he will find the following passage: "On one occasion, in the north of the Erebus-and-Terror Gulf, we saw large schools, numbering 300 to 500, of the common black-throated Penguin, swimming together; the movements of each school being controlled by a single individual of larger size, which followed in the rear." It is quite possible that this error may have arisen through the fact that, as a rule, the Penguins, when allowed, in the Zoological Gardens, to enter their tank, dive straight off the board leading into the water, and remain under water until all the fishes in the tank are caught and devoured. After that they usually betake themselves straight back to the board. But that they can swim duck fashion, when they wish to do so, admits of no doubt whatever.

The volume is illustrated by a series of Gambier Bolton's photographs, which are certainly the best ever taken of "Life at the Zoo." Of these we are kindly permitted to reproduce two. One of them represents the Tiger "listening to soft music," and forms part of a series made to illustrate "Æsthetics at the Zoo." The other shows the Martial Hawk Eagle, a rather rare bird from South Africa. On the whole, we can cordially recommend this volume for readers of the lighter literature of Natural History, and even as containing a certain amount of novel information on "Life at the Zoo."

INTERCOLONIAL ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY.

WE learn from Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, F.R.S., that a conference representing the three colonies of New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, met at the Observatory, Melbourne, on October 29. Mr. H. C. Russell, F.R.S., from Sydney, and Sir Charles Todd, F.R.S., from Adelaide, were present.

(1) As regards Australian standard time, it was resolved to advise the respective Governments to adopt for that purpose the time of the meridian of 150° E.

It was also agreed to advise that the changes from one hour zone to another shall take place at the eastern and western boundaries of the several colonies.

(2) A proposal, by Sir C. Todd, was adopted to the effect that the three observatories should co-operate in a special series of observations for determination of co-latitude, and for testing the applicability of the present refraction tables to astronomical work at the various observatories.

(3) It was resolved, at Mr. Russell's suggestion, to carry out systematic cloud photography at each observatory, as an aid to weather forecasting.

(4) As to agricultural forecasts, it was agreed to: "That in each of the colonies represented a forecast of the weather shall be sent to all the principal telegraph stations each day, except Sunday (Saturday's forecast being for 48 hours), and that forms to contain a week's forecasts be used, which it is proposed shall be posted on a special board at the station receiving forecasts."

(5) It was resolved that the storm signals to be used be the same as used in England.

(6) On the suggestion of Mr. Russell, it was agreed that further determination of the differences of longitude of Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, should be carried out, and that periods when there was high atmospheric pressure at one place, and low at another, be selected for the operations, with the view of ascertaining if large differences of atmospheric pressure between the eastern and western stations had any influence on the longitude results. Mr. Russell undertook to draw up a programme for this undertaking.

NOTES.

ENGLISH geologists will be gratified to learn that the veteran Prof. Prestwich has been elected a Vice-President of the Geological Society of France. It is, we believe, the second time only that this honour has been conferred on one who was not a French subject. The Council of the Geological Society of London has formally offered to Prof. Prestwich its congratulations on the distinction thus received.

M. MASCART has succeeded M. Tisserand as President of the Paris Société d'Encouragement.

THE death is announced of Prof. Karl v. Haushofer, Director of the Technische Hochschule at Munich, and Professor of Mineralogy in the University of that city.

DR. G. M. DAWSON, C.M.G., F.R.S., has been appointed Director of the Geographical Survey of Canada, in succession to Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, who has been superannuated.

WE regret to note that the Duke of Argyll was attacked by sudden indisposition while addressing a meeting at Glasgow on Tuesday evening. His condition at first gave rise to serious concern, and it was not till a late hour that he recovered sufficiently to be conveyed to the residence of Lord Kelvin, where he is staying.

AT Fishmongers' Hall, this evening, the Marquis of Lorne will present the prizes and certificates obtained by students in connection with the City and Guilds of London Institute.

THE twenty-second annual dinner of the old students of the Royal School of Mines will be held on Friday, January 25, at the Criterion Restaurant. A number of distinguished visitors are expected to be present, and arrangements have been made for a large gathering of associates and old students.

THE annual meeting of the People's Palace Chemical Society will be held on Thursday, January 24, when Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., will give an address on "Some causes and conditions of chemical change." The chair will be taken by Prof. Tilden at 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained by application to the hon. sec., Mr. Thomas Yetton.

THE Association for the Improvement of Geometrical Teaching will hold a general meeting at University College, Gower Street, next Saturday. In the morning, the report of the council will be read, and the new officers will be proposed for election. During the day, papers will be read on "Algebra in Schools," "The Association's Syllabus of Geometrical Conics," "The Conics of Apollonius," and "Notes on Mensuration."

THE forty-eighth annual general meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers will be held on Thursday evening, January 31, and Friday evening, February 1. The annual report of the Council will then be presented, and the election of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Members of Council will take place. The following papers will also be read and discussed, as far as time permits:—"The Determination of the Dryness of Steam," by Prof. W. Cawthorne Unwin, F.R.S.; "Comparison between Governing by Throttling and by Variable Expansion," by Captain H. Riall Sankey.

THE freshwater biological station, which was established at Plön three years ago through the efforts of Dr. Otto Zacharias, seems to be assuming quite an international character. From a recent report of the director, we learn that nine investigators worked at the station during the summer semester of last year, and of these four were German, two English, two French, and one Russian. Much interesting work seems to have been