over the gates decorated in mosaic with irises on a gold ground, and there is also the simple inscription—"*Ici repose Pasteur*," and on either side of it the dates of his birth and death—1822–1895. Passing through the gates, the crypt is approached by a flight of nine steps of white statuary marble. The pavement of the crypt is of marble mosaic, on which are represented large wreaths of laurel. The crypt is formed by four arches which support a cupola, and in the centre is placed the sarcophagus, which is carved out of a single block of dark-green porphyry. The arches are supported on four groups each of three columns, two of green porphyry and one of red, with Byzantine capitals of white marble. The walls of the crypt are lined with pavonazza, a cream-coloured marble richly veined in black, and above it are beautifully executed mosaics. On the marble which fills the arches on the right and left are inscriptions indicating Pasteur's discoveries in historical order as follows:—

1848. Dyssymétrie Moléculaire.	1871. Études sur la Bière.
1857. Fermentations.	1877. Maladies Virulentes.
1862. Générations dites Spontanées.	1880. Virus Vaccins.
1863. Études sur le Vin.	1885. Prophylaxie de la Rage.
1865. Maladies des Vers à soie.	

Beyond the sarcophagus is an apsidal chapel containing an altar of white marble enclosed by a balustrade of the same material. Above the staircase is the following inscription from the oration delivered at the reception of Pasteur into the Academy of Science: "Heureux celui qui porte en soi un dieu, un idéal de beauté, et qui lui obéit—idéal de l'art, idéal de la science, idéal de la patrie, idéal des vertus de l'Evangile." In the apse is another inscription containing the name of the architect and other interesting particulars: "Ce monument fut élevé en MDCCCXCVI. à la mémoire de Pasteur par la piété de sa veuve et de ses enfants. Charles Louis Girault composa l'architecture et la décoration; il dirigea les travaux. Luc Olivier Merson dessina les figures de la coupole. Auguste Guilbert Martin exécuta les mosaïques."

In the mosaics are representations of fowls, cattle, sheep, and dogs, indicating Pasteur's researches on chicken cholera and attenuation of virus, on anthrax, on *clavelée* or sheep pox, and on rabies. There are also beautiful designs of hops, vines, and mulberry trees with silkworms and moths, illustrating respectively his researches on the so-called diseases of beer and wine and on the silkworm disease. Pasteur was a devout Roman Catholic, and the religious side of his character is indicated in the mosaics by angelic figures of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Science, and, above the altar, by the figure of a dove descending, representing the Holy Spirit, and on either side the Greek letters A and Ω. At the top of the cupola, light is admitted through slabs of oriental onyx.

Such is the magnificent resting-place of Louis Pasteur, and it was a happy idea that this tomb should be placed where his successors carry on his great work, and where students from all parts of the world may be reminded of the example he set of a life of untiring devotion to science and humanity.

NOTES.

THE new Session of Parliament began on Tuesday. From the forecast of legislative business contained in the Queen's Speech, it appears that the most stringent measures are being taken for the eradication of plague at Bombay and Karachi. Against this declaration attention may very well be called to foreign complaints of English apathy in the matter. Prof. Drasche, of Vienna, member of the Supreme Sanitary Council, complains that England has not shown the least interest in adopting any code of regulations for dealing with the plague and confining it within narrow limits; and the Paris press are protesting against our carelessness and neglect of effective precautionary measures. Another item in the Queen's Speech refers to education. A measure for the promotion of primary education will be brought in; and, if time permits, further proposals for educational legislation will be considered. A Bill for the establishment of a Board of Agriculture in Ireland will also be introduced.

PROF. DR. PAUL HARZER, Director of the Observatory at Gotha, has been appointed Director of the Observatory at Kiel, and professor of astronomy in the University there, in succession to the late Prof. Krüger. The Gotha Observatory was founded at the beginning of this century, and has numbered among its directors Encke, Hansen, Krüger, Seeliger, and Becker.

THE German Emperor and Empress visited the Polytechnic Institute at Charlottenberg on Tuesday in last week, and were present at a lecture delivered by Prof. Linde on the "Liquefaction of Air." His Majesty conferred upon Prof. Linde membership of the Second Class of the Order of the Crown.

DURING the nine months which have elapsed since the last public announcement, considerable progress has been made with the work of the Huxley Memorial Committee. The full-sized model for the statue, on which Mr. Onslow Ford, R.A., is engaged, is well advanced, and will shortly be completed; and the Trustees of the British Museum of Natural History, at South Kensington, have accepted the offer of the statue itself, which will be executed in marble, and ultimately placed in the central hall of that institution, near the statue of Darwin. The design for the Royal College of Science medal has been obtained by prize competition among persons resident in Great Britain and Ireland, and the selection has fallen upon the design of Mr. L. Bowcher, who has produced a highly successful work of art, and is now engaged upon the dies. The amount promised and received is now about 2900*l.*, over 600*l.* having been subscribed since progress was last reported in the public press. Subscription has been largely promoted by local institutions and scientific societies in various parts of the world. Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Adelaide, Sydney, New Zealand, and Calcutta have been conspicuous by their aid; British Guiana, Cairo, the East Indies, and Mauritius have contributed; and welcome support has been received from the United States of America, from France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland, Scandinavia, Italy, Portugal, Russia, and Servia, from Mexico and Peru, and from Arabia and Japan. Aid is expected from other centres, both at home and abroad; and the nature of any additional memorial yet to be decided upon must largely depend upon the amount still to be subscribed. In consideration of the world-wide support which the memorial has received, it is hoped that it may be possible to secure a form of memorial in which persons of all nationalities shall participate. Donations may be sent to the Treasurer, Sir J. Lubbock, or the bankers, Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, and Co. (15 Lombard Street, E.C.), or to the Hon. Secretary, Prof. G. B. Howes (Royal College of Science, South Kensington, S.W.).

THE New York Academy of Medicine will celebrate the jubilee of its foundation on January 29.

SIR W. MARTIN CONWAY will describe his expedition across Spitzbergen, on Monday next, January 25, at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society.

IT is with great regret that we announce the death on Sunday morning, January 10, of Kristian Bahnson, the distinguished ethnologist, of Copenhagen. He had accomplished much, and gave promise of valuable work in the future.

THE *Times* correspondent at Teheran reports that a severe earthquake occurred at the island of Kishm, in the Persian Gulf, on January 11, causing enormous loss of life.

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THE University of Catana has been presented with the Island of Cyclops, off the coast of Sicily, by Signor Gravina. The island is only a kilometre in circumference, but its configuration is peculiar, and the centre is about one hundred metres above sea-level. It is proposed to construct upon the island a laboratory for investigations in zoology and pisciculture.

THE scientific expedition organised by the German Government to study the economic and industrial conditions and possibilities in the Far East will probably start from Bremen on January 27, on board the North German Lloyd steamer *Sachsen*. The nature and scope of the investigations to be undertaken have been discussed and settled at a recent meeting at the Ministry of the Interior.

AT the twenty-fourth annual dinner of the Old Students of the Royal School of Mines, to take place on Tuesday, January 26, at 7 p.m., at the Criterion, the chairman will be Dr. T. K. Rose. Profs. Judd, Perry, Rücker, Tilden, Howes, Farmer, Roberts-Austen, and Le Neve Foster have promised to be present; and amongst other guests may be mentioned Sir G. G. Stokes, Bart., Sir Frederick Abel, Bart., Mr. Windsor Richards (President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers), and Dr. Hicks (President of the Geological Society).

ON the 28th inst. Prof. James A. Ewing will commence, at the Society of Arts, a course of six Howard Lectures on "The Mechanical Production of Cold." The Howard Lectures were founded on a bequest by Thomas Howard, in 1872, who left a sum of money for a prize to the author of a treatise on "Motive Power or its Applications." The lectures are given at intervals, as the accumulations of the fund permit, and are afterwards published in book form. Courses have been delivered by Sir William Anderson, on "The Conversion of Heat into Useful Work," and by Prof. Unwin, on "The Development and Transmission of Power."

THE Franklin Institute of Philadelphia announces the award of the following John Scott Legacy Medals and Premiums:—William S. Burroughs, of St. Louis, for his calculating machine; Émile Berliner, of Washington, for his gramophone; Edward Brown, of Philadelphia, for improvements in pyrometers; Dr. W. C. Röntgen, for his investigation of a new kind of rays; Dr. Elisha Gray, for his telautograph; Pedro G. Salom and Henry G. Morris, of Philadelphia, for their automobile vehicle. The Elliott-Cresson Medal has been awarded to Hamilton Y. Castner, of Oldbury, for his electrolytic process for caustic and bleach.

THE International Exposition to be held at Brussels this year will comprise a Science Section divided into seven classes, viz. mathematics and astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology and geography, biology, anthropology and bibliography. Various advantages are offered to exhibitors, among them being space free of charge, and reduction of rates for the transport of the exhibits. In connection with this Exposition, the Belgium Government offers prizes, amounting in the aggregate to twenty thousand francs, for the best solutions of a number of scientific problems, a list of which can be obtained from M. Van Overloop, 17 rue de la Presse, Bruxelles. Objects and memoirs intended for competition or exhibition should be sent in before the middle of April.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. F. J. Mouat, formerly Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica, at Calcutta, and Chemical Examiner to the Government of India. He was a Fellow of a number of British learned Societies, and member of the Senate of Calcutta University. We also have to announce the deaths of Dr. W. Deecke, of Muhlhausen, one of the foremost authorities upon ancient Etruria and the Etruscans; General Francis A. Walker, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. W. H. Pancoast, President of the Medico-Chirurgical College in Philadelphia: Dr. Theodore G. Wormley, Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. F. Buka, Professor of Geometry in the Technical High School at Charlottenburg; and Dr. Josef von Gerlach, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Erlangen.

FOLLOWING the example of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Society of Civil Engineers of France has built itself a magnificent house, which was opened with great ceremony, on January 14, by the President of the French Republic. A large number of guests were present at the soirée, including representatives of the various French technical societies. The only English society represented was the Iron and Steel Institute, who sent Prof. Roberts-Austen. The new building, which is situated in the Rue Blanche, Paris, was designed by M. F. Delmas, and was erected in 262 days. It comprises in the basement engine-rooms and store-rooms, on the ground floor the meeting-room, on the first floor reception-rooms for the members, on the second floor the secretary's offices and the council-room, and on the third floor the library. Access to the various floors is obtained by means of an electric lift. The meeting-room contains seats for 500 persons, and the floor is so arranged that it may be horizontal for receptions, or inclined so as to convert the room into an amphitheatre for the meetings. The floor weighs thirty tons, and its transformation from a horizontal to an inclined position is effected with great rapidity by means of hydraulic machinery.

IN commemoration of Jenner's discovery of the benefits of vaccination, a special meeting of the Russian National Health Society was held at St. Petersburg a few days ago, a large and distinguished company being present. A report of the meeting, and a description of the exhibition held in connection with it, appears in the current number of the *British Medical Journal*. The opening speech was made by the Grand Duke Paul, the Honorary President of the Society; and addresses in praise of Jenner and his work were delivered by Dr. Kudrin, the acting President; Prof. Lukianoff, the Director of the Imperial (Oldenburg) Institute of Experimental Medicine; and Dr. Kormillo. The results were announced of the competition for the prizes, which, it will be remembered, the Russian National Health Society offered for the best work on vaccination. Thirty-two essays were received, in various languages. The Society's gold medal and 1000 roubles, which had been originally offered, was not awarded. A gold medal was given to Dr. Layer, of Bordeaux, for his essay in French, "À la mémoire d'Edouard Jenner"; a gold medal to Dr. Miller, the Chief Physician to the Moscow Foundling Hospital; a small gold medal to Dr. Glagolef; and silver medals to Dr. Delobel, and M. Kazet, veterinary surgeon.

A SPECIAL telegram to the *Daily Chronicle* announces that Mr. Fitzgerald and Zurbriggen, the Swiss guide, began to climb Mount Aconcagua, in the Andes, on Christmas Day. At a height of 21,000 feet, Gussfeldt's card, dated March 1883, was found in a tin box. The explorers had to descend to the valley for three days, but a second attempt was begun on December 30, and an altitude of 22,500 feet was reached on January 2. A third attempt to get to the top of Aconcagua was commenced a week later. The *arête* between the peaks, at a height of 23,000 feet, was reached on January 14. Mr. Fitzgerald then had to turn back, but Zurbriggen reached the summit, which is over 24,000 feet high. This is the greatest altitude yet attained by mountaineers. The following item of climbing history is abridged from an article in the *Chronicle*:—"The serious business began with De Saussure, and has been going on ever since. He was

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soon followed by Humboldt, who climbed Chimborazo (19,000 feet) in 1802. The next climber to set foot on that mountain was Mr. Whymper, in the year 1880. The Jungfrau was first ascended in 1811, and the Finsteraarhorn in 1812. The other Swiss peaks have fallen one after the other—the Wetterhorn in 1854, Monte Rosa in 1855, and the Matterhorn in 1865. Mr. Freshfield scored the first great victory when he climbed Elbruz (18,526 feet) in 1868; but long before that Gerard had climbed to 19,410 feet on Porgyul in 1818. The highest climbs of later years have been those of Sir Martin Conway, who climbed Pioneer Peak in the Himalayas in 1892, and of Mr. Mummery and Mr. Hastings, who climbed to 21,000 feet on Nanga-Parbat. Dr. Gregory reached to about 16,000 feet on Mount Kenya in Central Africa (20,000 feet high), and Hans Meyer reached to 16,830 feet on Kilima N'jaro. In Asia there are four colossal mountains which still defy all efforts. Mount Everest (29,000 feet) still lies far beyond the reach of man. Dapsang (28,700) is almost equally inaccessible. Tagarma (25,800) and Khan-Tengri (24,000) have yet to be scaled. Similarly, in Africa, the highest mountain is still a virgin; and though Mount Cook (12,349) has been climbed in New Zealand, Charles Louis (20,000) still remains unascended in New Guinea, and seems likely to remain so."

A TOUCH of real winter has been experienced over the British Islands during the last week, and the thermometer has in many places registered a lower reading than on any previous occasion since winter set in. Towards the close of last week, and especially on Friday and Saturday, snow fell very generally at many of the English stations, and on Saturday night there was a fairly heavy fall in the metropolis. The snow quickly disappeared from the more crowded parts of London, but it remained unthawed in the suburbs on Tuesday morning. The thermometer in the screen at night has registered 10° or 12° of frost in many parts of Great Britain, while the exposed thermometer, on the grass, has fallen several degrees lower. The type of weather over our Islands has become anticyclonic; and if these conditions continue, a spell of settled cold weather will be experienced.

THE two young naturalists of the University of Cambridge (Mr. J. Graham Kerr and Mr. J. S. Budgett), who left England in August last for the Chaco Boreal of Paraguay, in quest of specimens of the American Lung-fish (*Lepidosiren paradoxa*), appear to have been very successful. Letters recently received from Mr. Kerr inform us that on arriving on the Upper Paraguay they found that there had been a mission station lately established in the Chaco, near the very spot where *Lepidosiren* was said to be most abundant. On arriving there the travellers were entertained on roast *Lepidosiren* for supper the very first evening, and found that this queer fish was very common in the surrounding swamps. A large series of specimens and eggs in every stage of development has been obtained, and Messrs. Kerr and Budgett will shortly return home with their collection in order to work out the results, which promise to be of no little interest.

A REUTER correspondent at St. Petersburg reports the arrival there of two Danish officers, MM. Oloufsen and Philipsen, on their return from a journey of exploration to the Pamir country, where they reached places hitherto untrodden by Europeans. They have brought back with them over 300 photographs of places they have visited and types they have met. During their travels they met, among others, tribes who are still fire-worshippers and totally uncivilised in their mode of life. It is said that the men of these tribes and even their animals are of very small size, the bulls and cows being no larger than a European foal, the donkeys about the size of a large dog, and the sheep about as large as a small poodle. The use of money is unknown to them, and their only trade consists in the bartering of furs. Women are bought at the rate of five or six cows or fifteen sheep apiece. These natives are very timid, and on the approach of strangers take to flight. MM. Philipsen and Oloufsen have secured numerous scientific collections, which they intend presenting to the Natural History Museum in Copenhagen, and have also made interesting meteorological observations. In the course of their voyage they occasionally reached a height of 14,000 feet above the level of the sea.

THE annual meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers was held on Thursday last, and Sir Henry Mance, C.I.E., succeeded Dr. Hopkinson as President. The Institution has been in existence twenty-five years, and it now has three thousand members. Founded originally by electricians and telegraph men, it has adapted itself to modern requirements, with the result that it is now the oldest and largest society of electrical engineers in the world. In the course of his presidential address, Sir Henry Mance, who has been actively connected with submarine telegraphy for the best part of his life, said that the earliest record of a subaqueous line is that of the experiment made by Baron Schilling, who, in 1812, exploded mines across the river Neva, using wire insulated with india-rubber. The earliest record at Somerset House of any submarine telegraph company is dated June 16, 1846, when the late Jacob Brett and Alexander Prince obtained a renewal of their provisional certificate of registration for the General Submarine and Oceanic Telegraph Company. The first concession connected with international submarine telegraphy was also granted to Jacob Brett in 1847, so that this year we may fairly be said to have reached the jubilee of the inception of international telegraphy. Sir Henry Mance said he had come to the conclusion that to no one individual could fairly be granted the credit of the inception and development of the submarine cable; the work was the work of many.

A DETERMINATION of the velocity of a flight of ducks, obtained by triangulation, was made at the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory on December 8, and is described in *Science* by Mr. Helm Clayton. While engaged with Mr. S. P. Fergusson in measuring clouds, a number of ducks passed across the base-line, which is 2590·3 metres (8496 feet) in length. The observers succeeded in obtaining a simultaneous set of measurements on the apex of the flock, and one or two independent subsequent observations, and from these data the height of flights, as well as the velocity, was calculated. The height was 958 feet above the lower station, which is situated in the valley of the Neponset River, above which the ducks were flying. The velocity of flight calculated from this measurement of height, and from the angular velocity measured at the ends of the base-line is 47·8 miles an hour. The wind was very light, having a velocity of only two miles an hour according to the automatic record made at Blue Hill Observatory, 615 feet above the valley station. The direction of the wind was from the north, and the ducks were flying from the north-east.

A PAPER on "The Monier System of Construction" was read by Mr. Walter Beer, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, on January 15. The system originated in the attempts of a Parisian florist, named Monier, to obtain large vessels of a material more durable than wood and lighter than concrete. The principle of the system is the combination of Portland-cement concrete with iron or steel in such a manner as to develop in the same material the high resistance, to compression and binding of the former, and the great tensile strength of the latter. It has been found that in such a combination the good qualities of both materials are retained, and no chemical action occurs between the iron and the moisture in the concrete. The latter adheres firmly to the

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smooth surface of the metal; and the coefficients of expansion of the two constituents are for all practical purposes identical. The economy of the system in the construction of girders and arches is considerable, owing to the great strength and compactness obtained, and, further, the material is absolutely fire-proof. Large spans may be used for floors, and the small amount of head-room required is a factor often of great value. The system can also be used in situations where brick and stone would be impossible.

IT is well known that air-currents containing either drops of water or fine dust in suspension give rise to electrification whenever they impinge on a solid obstacle. M. P. de Heen, guided by the view that electricity, independently of all luminous phenomena, can produce photographic impressions, has tried the experiment of allowing a current of air, laden with *Lycopodium* powder, to fall on a sensitive plate, and the photograph thus obtained is reproduced in the *Bulletin* of the Belgian Academy. With an uncovered plate, a feeble but distinct impression was obtained after one and a half hours, but by using a covered plate a much more powerful impression was produced. The most remarkable feature is that where the covering has been broken away dark ramifications are seen extending some distance into the covered portion, and these appear to follow the directions in which electricity has been propagated along the surface of the plate. In this connection attention may well be directed to the experiments described on p. 269 of this number of NATURE.

THE relative transparency of the alkaline metals to Röntgen rays, forms the subject of a note by Prof. C. Marangoni in the December number of the *Atti dei Lincei*. The author draws the following conclusions: (1) The most transparent metal is lithium, and its transparency does not increase with the thickness; (2) the anomaly of the greater transparency of sodium relative to potassium would suggest that the transparency for these rays is a function of the atomic weight as well as of the density.

IT is satisfactory to note that local fishery authorities are becoming increasingly interested in the scientific study of sea fisheries. The Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee carried out in the summer of 1896 a series of trawling excursions in the bays of its district for the purpose of examining their condition and their productiveness, and a report on the results, drawn up by Mr. Alex. Meek, has been published. Mr. Meek is attached to the Durham College of Science at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the more deliberate studies of the material collected were carried on in that institution. The report contains interesting details concerning the animals captured in trawl and tow-net, the pelagic eggs, and the food of the fishes.

THE latest instalment of the "Account of the Crustacea of Norway with short descriptions and figures of all the species," which Prof. G. O. Sars is publishing, forms the commencement of vol. ii., and of the description of the Isopoda. The general remarks on the Order only occupy three pages. The classification employed is that adopted by the author in 1882, the Order being divided into six tribes according to the characters of the first pair of legs, of the last pair of appendages (uropoda), and of the five pairs in front of the last (pleopoda). The first tribe, Chelifera, is distinguished by the fact that in its members the legs of the first pair are cheliform, that is, have prehensile claws. Twenty-six species in this tribe are described, and these are figured on sixteen autograph plates.

IN the last number of the *Records* of the Geological Survey of India, there is recorded a discovery by Dr. J. W. Evans, which adds another to the long list of geological resemblances between the peninsula and South Africa, and is also of some economic importance. This is the sedimentary nature of the gold-bearing rocks of Mysore, Dr. Evans having proved that what had been regarded as a quartz vein is in reality a quartzite.

THE following are among the lectures to be delivered at the Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road, during February:—February 2, Mr. H. Bernard, on "Scorpions and their Relations"; February 9, Mr. R. A. Gregory, on "Photography of the Heavens"; February 23, Dr. J. W. Waghorn, "X and other Rays of Light."

THE fiftieth annual general meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 4 and 5. On each occasion the chair will be taken by the President, Mr. E. Windsor Richards. The following papers will be read and discussed, as far as time permits: "Fourth Report to the Alloys Research Committee," by Prof. W. C. Roberts-Austen, C.B., F.R.S. (Thursday); "Partially Immersed Screw-Propellers for Canal Boats; and the influence of Section of Waterway," by Mr. Henry Barcroft (Friday); "Mechanical Propulsion on Canals," by Mr. Leslie S. Robinson, of London (Friday).

THE first number for the current year of the *Biologisches Centralblatt* contains the commencement of an important article, by Dr. T. Bokorny, on the organic nutrition of green plants, and its importance in nature.

NUMBER 1 of vol. xxxii. of the *Proceedings* of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is devoted to contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, of interest to students of the flora of the United States.

PART XVII. of Dr. R. Braithwaite's "British Moss-Flora" has just been received. It commences Section 8 of this very valuable work, and deals with the Hypnaceæ. The two remaining families of Pleurocarpous mosses will be described in future parts.

We have received the Part for December 1896 of the *Agricultural Students' Gazette*, edited by students at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. It contains papers on coffee-planting in British Central Africa; on clearing and preparing forest-land for cane in Queensland; and on experiments on permanent grass on the Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire.

MR. STEPHEN MARRIOTT has sent us a little bo k of his, entitled "To Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Back" (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.). Though primarily of interest to intending emigrants, it contains much information worth reading; and, in view of the visit of the British Association to Canada this year, should find readers in the scientific world.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include two Patas Monkeys (*Cercopithecus patas*, ♂ ♀) from West Africa, presented by Mr. W. Loy; a Prairie Marmot (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) from North America, presented by Mr. W. Hewlett; two Kestrels (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*), British, presented by Miss Fanny D'Aeth; a Greater Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), British, presented by Mr. W. Theobald; a Pardine Lizard (*Acanthodactylus pardus*), a Scutellated Lizard (*Acanthodactylus scutellatus*) from Biskra, Algeria, presented by Mr. H. B. Hewetson; two Indian Pythons (*Python molurus*) from India, three West African Pythons (*Python sebæ*), deposited.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

COMET PERRINE 1896, DECEMBER 8.—In this column for December 31, 1896, we referred to the striking similarity between the elements of the comet discovered by Mr. Perrine on December 8, and those of the Biela comet. Dr. F. Ristenpart finds, however (*Astr. Nachr.*, No. 3396), that the resem-

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