

were at least half a million antelopes in sight at once; and from this it is inferred that the whole "trek" must have included millions. Of course, thousands of head fell to the rifles of the Boer and other hunters; and a brisk trade sprang up in hides and meat. The writer of the paper infers that a migration on such a scale will never be seen again, for the reason that the Springbuck will be unable to recruit their numbers to a sufficient degree.

WE are asked to announce that the second annual dinner of the Association of Old Students of the Central Technical College will be held on Thursday, July 6.

THE *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* contains two papers by Mr. J. E. S. Moore, dealing with his researches on the Molluscs of the great African lakes, especially Tanganyika. In the first paper, which discusses the morphology of the two littoral forms *Tanganyikia* and *Spekia*, the most interesting relates to the ancestry of the terrestrial *Cyclophoridae*. It is suggested that they trace their origin from some fresh-water derivative of the Tanganyika genus *Purpurina*, such as the cretaceous *Pyrgulifera*, which may represent a fresh-water non-halolimnic development of the type. The second paper deals with the truly halolimnic genera *Nassopsis* and *Bythoceras*. In regard to these and allied types, the author makes the following concluding observations. "We have the wonderful similarity of the halolimnic shells now living in Tanganyika to those which have been left fossilised at the bottom of the old Jurassic seas; and, lastly, there are the morphological characters of the halolimnic animals themselves, whereby they become mentally depicted like nothing so much as the incompletely developed embryos of numerous living oceanic types."

A COPY of volume x. of the *Transactions* of the American Pediatric Society, edited by Dr. Floyd M. Crandall, has been received. A number of papers and reports on infantile diseases are contained in the volume, one of the most important being a statement of the results of the Society's collective investigation on infantile scurvy in North America.

"A Select Bibliography of Chemistry" (1492-1892), by Prof. H. Carrington Bolton, was published in 1893. The first supplement of this volume, including words omitted in the previous volume, and bringing the literature of chemistry down to the close of the year 1897, has just been issued as No. 1170 of the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. The sections into which the titles are grouped are: bibliography, dictionaries, history, biography, chemistry (pure and applied), and periodicals, the titles being in each case arranged alphabetically according to authors. The section dealing with alchemy has been dropped. The number of titles in the original volume was 12,031, and the number in the present volume is 5554, making a total of 17,585. Germany comes first in the number of additional titles, with a total of 1461. France follows with 1085 titles, England with 972, and Russia with 581 titles. The next six countries in order of their number of contributions to chemical literature are: Iceland, 434; Sweden, 196; Holland, 191; Denmark, 151; Portugal, 123; Bohemia, 98.

A COMMENDABLE characteristic of the report of the Marlborough College Natural History Society is a collection of anthropometrical particulars referring to boys in the school, obtained by Mr. E. Meyrick. The measurements are a continuation of records published last year. For each boy the information tabulated is his form, age, height, weight, size of chest expanded and contracted, and where possible the increase compared with last year's measures. Information of this kind is of real service to students of physical anthropology. Among

other noteworthy matters in the report is a list of 417 wild flowering plants observed by members of the botanical section, one member, Mr. F. E. Thompson, having obtained no less than 189, a worthy conclusion on his part to a series of botanical observations extending over thirty years. Appended to the usual meteorological statistics for every day of 1898 is a summary of the meteorology of Marlborough for the ten years 1889-1898. In addition, the report contains sectional reports, notes and observations, notes on lectures, and a variety of other information—all instructive and of interest as showing the development of the scientific spirit in a public school.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Green Monkey (*Cercopithecus callitrichus*, ♀) from West Africa, presented by Dr. H. Strachan; a Rufous Tinamou (*Rhynchotus rufescens*) from Brazil, presented by Mr. Henry Bell; a Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*) from Ireland, presented by Mr. Ronald Edwards; two Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*, white var.), European, presented by Mr. Eardley Wilmot B. Holt; two Secretary Vultures (*Serpentarius reptilivorus*) from South Africa, presented by Mr. J. E. Matcham; two Green Turtles (*Chelone mydas*) from the Gulf of Manor, presented by Captain Geo. G. C. Stevenson; two Black-striped Wallabies (*Macropus dorsalis*, ♂ ♀) from New South Wales, two Stonechats (*Pratincola rubicola*) from South of France, two Derbian Parrakeets (*Palaeornis derbyana*) from China (?), a South Albemarle Tortoise (*Testudo vicina*) from South Albemarle Island, deposited; a Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) from Australia, three Barbary Turtle Doves (*Turtur risorius*) from Africa, a Tuatera Lizard (*Sphenodon punctatus*) from New Zealand, purchased; two Collared Fruit Bats (*Cynonycteris collaris*), born in the Gardens.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

COMET 1899 a (SWIFT).—

Ephemeris for 12h. Berlin Mean Time.

1899.	R.A.	Decl.	Br.
	h. m. s.		
June 8 ...	15 59 12 ...	+ 46° 18' 1 ...	0·88
9 ...	48 32 ...	44 39·5 ...	
10 ...	39 2 ...	43 2' 2 ...	0·75
11 ...	30 32 ...	41 27·2 ...	
12 ...	22 56 ...	39 54·7 ...	0·63
13 ...	16 5 ...	38 25·4 ...	
14 ...	9 57 ...	36 59·3 ...	0·53
15 ...	15 4 27 ...	35 36·6 ...	
16 ...	14 59 29 ...	34 17·3 ...	0·45
17 ...	54 57 ...	33 1' 3 ...	
18 ...	50 51 ...	31 48·7 ...	0·38
19 ...	47 7 ...	30 39·7 ...	
20 ...	14 43 45 ...	+ 29 33·4 ...	0·32

Being now almost two months past perihelion, the comet is rapidly becoming less conspicuous. During the week it will pass from Hercules into Bootis, its path being nearly parallel to a string of 4th mag. stars ϕ and χ Hercules, μ , δ and ϵ Bootis.

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.

ON Saturday last (June 3), the Astronomer Royal presented his Annual Report to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. The weather was all that could be desired, and the large number of guests, numbering among them Prof. Cornu, was able to comfortably inspect the buildings and instruments, which had as usual been thrown open to view.

The following is a brief *résumé* taken from the report:—

Buildings.

The new Observatory building, which has been in progress since 1891, was completed last March, by the addition of the east and west wings. This handsome building provides much needed accommodation for the Observatory staff, for the photo-