poisons, such as that of bubonic plague, and of some other poisons of a non-bacterial origin.

MESSRS. LONGMANS AND CO. have issued a new edition of Prof. Lloyd Morgan's "Animal Biology." The book was originally published twelve years ago to meet the requirements of the Intermediate Science and Preliminary Scientific Examinations of the London University. The present edition has been revised, and some chapters re-written, to meet the requirements of the existing syllabus. Several illustrations now appear in the work for the first time.

NEW editions of two well-known books of chemistry (Ostwald's "Grundriss der Allgemeinen Chemie," and Lothar Meyer's "Outlines of Theorètical Chemistry," the latter translated by Profs. Bedson and Williams) have recently come to us from their publishers—Engelmann of Leipzig, and Longmans and Co The former is a third edition, and the latter a second, and an attempt has been made in each case to bring the work up to date.

REFERENCES to practically every article and work on geography published during the year 1896 will be found in the fifth volume of the "Bibliotheca Geographica," prepared by Dr. Otto Baschin for the Berlin Geographical Society, and just published by the firm of W. H. Kühl. A comprehensive classification of subjects is adopted, and it is easy to find the works published in any branch of geography in 1896. In addition, there is a complete index of authors. Students of geography know the work so well that no comment upon its thoroughness is necessary here.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Green Monkey (*Cercopithecus callitrichus*) from West Africa, presented by Mr. G. P. Kinahan; a Macaque Monkey (*Macacus cynomolgus*) from India, presented by Mr. A. M. Burgess; a Gambian Pouched Rat (*Cricetomys gambianus*), a Nilotic Trionyx (*Trionyx triunguis*) from Sierra Leone, presented by Mr. Ernest E. Austen; a Red-footed Ground Squirrel (*Xerus erythropus*) from West Africa, presented by Mr. F. H. D. Negus; two Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), British, presented by Mr. J. W. Edgar; a Melodious Jay Thrush (*Leucodioptron canorum*) from China, presented by Mrs. Currey; a Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), a Kestrel (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*), captured at sea, presented by Captain E. W. Burnett; a Green Turtle (*Chelone viridis*) from Ascension, presented by Mr. W. Hebden, C.E.; a Chameleon (*Chamaeleon vulgaris*) from North Africa, presented by Mr. F. G. Ward; two Serrated Terrapins (*Chrysemys scripta*) from North America, a Bennett's Cassowary (*Casuarius bennetti*) from New Britain, a White Goshawk (*Astur novae-hollandiae*), two Sacred Kingfishers (*Halcyon sancta*) from Australia, a Forsten's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus forsteni*) from the Island of Sambawa, a Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*), British, deposited; a Crab-eating Raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*), two Short-eared Owls (*Asio brachyotus*) from South America, purchased.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

HOLMES' COMET (1899 *d*).

Ephemeris for 12h. Greenwich Mean Time.

1899.	R.A. h. m. s.	Decl. ° ′ ″
Oct. 26 ...	2 45 7·14 ...	+49 11 29·7
27 ...	43 55·55 ...	13 2·6
28 ...	42 43·32 ...	14 12·0
29 ...	41 30·56 ...	14 58·0
30 ...	40 17·40 ...	15 20·5
31 ...	39 3·95 ...	15 19·6
Nov. 1 ...	37 50·33 ...	14 55·4
2 ...	2 36 36·67 ...	+49 14 8·0

NOVA SAGITTARII.—*Harvard College Observatory Circular*, No. 46, gives the details of the position of Nova Sagittarii, discovered in April 1898, as obtained from micrometric measurement of enlargements from the plates, taken with the 8-inch Bache and 11-inch Draper telescopes, on which the star was photographed. Prof. Pickering finds that the accuracy obtainable by this method is equal to that given by the best meridian circle observations. The mean position as determined is

R.A. = 18h. 56m. 12·83s.
Decl. = − 13° 18′ 12″·98 } (1900).

ORBIT OF EROS.—In the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (Bd. 150, No. 3597), Herr Hans Osten, of Bremen, discusses the numerous observations of the new minor planet now available, and gives the two following provisional sets of elements for the orbit:—

Epoch of Nodal Passage, 1898 *Oct.* 1·0. *Berlin Mean Time.*

	I.	II.
M =	238° 38′ 33″·627 ...	238° 39′ 44″·636
ω =	137 9 24·77 ...	177 39 21·05
Ω =	342 8 48·58 ...	303 31 53·37
i =	30 42 32·105 ...	10 49 33·99
φ =	12 52 17·14 ...	12 52 18·33
μ =	2015″·57814 ...	2015″·34326
log *a* =	0·1637380	

STRASSBURG OBSERVATORY.—The annual publication compiled under the supervision of Herr E. Becker, the director of the Imperial Observatory of the University of Strassburg, has recently been issued, containing the reductions of star observations made during the period 1882–1888, together with miscellaneous results to 1893. The observations made with the meridian circle, occupying 154 pages, are preceded by some twenty pages giving details of the determination of collimation, level, azimuth and other corrections. Following these are given the individual observations of the positions of 223 stars measured from 1882–1883, and of 1146 stars measured during the period 1884–1888. From these three catalogues are compiled, one of 254, one of 858, and one of 368 stars, the latter containing corrections from Epoch 1880. Three appendices deal with heliometer measures of the partial solar eclipses of 1890, 1891 and 1893, the determination of the form the pivots of the meridian circle of the observatory, and the compilation of precession tables (both annual and secular) respectively.

THE NERVE-WAVE (LA VIBRATION NERVEUSE).[1]

AS you told us, sir, two days ago in your admirable address, the century now drawing to an end is most honoured in the close union of men of science of all nations. If, owing to stupid prejudices and barbaric hate, nations are still separated by divisions which may lead them into fratricidal war, it falls to the men of science at least to set the example of concord, in order that by their teaching, based on reason, they may bring to all peace, sweet peace—the chimæra of the past, the hope of us all to-day, the reality of to-morrow. To this end nothing can be more effective than the great example of the British Association and the Association Française, who, within the space of a few days, are to meet twice as partners in their fertile work: to-morrow on English soil, in this hospitable town of Dover; five days later on the soil of France, on the shores you can see from here, where you will find the same courteous and cordial welcome as our countrymen will receive on this side.

Yet after these words of peace must come words of war—nay, its open declaration. Men of science have not the right to stay within the closed gates of their tower of ivory; it behoves them also, even at the cost of vain popularity, to wrestle and to wrestle unceasingly for justice; to form a grand international league, to turn the united forces of all generous minds against the common foe, the worst enemy of man: and this is ignorance. We must not value unduly the admirable conquests won by science in this century. Admirable as they are, they are yet nothing as compared to the great mystery beyond. Newton compared our science to that of a child, who should pick up a pebble on the

[1] Evening Address delivered by Prof. Charles Richet on September 15, at the Dover Meeting of the British Association. Translated by Prof. Marcus Hartog.