Thompson adds some important matter to the previous edition, and brings the history of the practice of modern cremation up to the present time. The case for cremation or some method of disposing of the dead other than burial is given much support by the evidence described in this book. The practical details given in an Appendix will be of service to people seeking information upon the subject.

MESSRS. DULAU AND CO. have sent us a copy of their various catalogues of zoological and palæontological books and pamphlets issued between 1896 and 1901. These, which are arranged in subjects, have been bound together into one volume, which will be found of considerable use to the working naturalist as a guide to much of the literature of any subject on which he may be engaged.

A NEW edition, revised and enlarged, of Prof. W. C. Unwin's "Elements of Machine Design" (Part 1) has just been published by Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. The plan and general arrangement of the book remain the same as the original, published many years ago, but about a hundred pages have been added and numerous alterations have been made.

A NEW edition of "Telephone Lines and their Properties," by Prof. W. J. Hopkins, has been published by Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. Among the additions are an account of the latest developments in the design of long lines, a chapter on "composite" working and wireless telephony, an abstract of Dr. Pupin's paper on telephony over cables and long-distance air lines, and a paper on inductive disturbances in telephone circuits.

RECENT numbers of American geographical journals contain much information about Alaska. In the May issue of the *National Geographic Magazine* Mr. Henry Gannett publishes an article on the general geography of Alaska. The second number of *Mazama* is devoted almost entirely to Alaska; it includes an account of the Harriman Alaska Expedition and a reproduction and explanation of an Indian map from the Chilkaht to the Yukon. *Mazama* also contains a paper on the flora of Mount Rainier, by Prof. C. V. Piper.

THE value of "The Statesman's Year Book" (Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) can only be rightly appreciated by those who keep the annual at hand for ready reference. The edition for 1901 has now appeared, and Dr. Scott Keltie and his colleague, Mr. Renwick, are again to be congratulated upon its publication. The work is an epitome of political geography, containing the essential particulars concerning the constitution, communications and commerce of every country in the world. The changes of the past year have necessitated the revision of several parts of the book. The Transvaal and the Orange Free State are now included in the section on the British Empire, and the Australian Commonwealth is described. The results of the censuses taken during last year and the early part of this are also given. There are five maps, the first giving a comparative view of geographical knowledge and political divisions in 1800 and 1900, and the second showing the political partition of Europe in the same years. The other maps represent railways, navigable waters and steamship routes in North America, South America and Australia. The volume now extends to 1320 pages, and ought not to be much further increased in size or it will lose its present handy character.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Chacma Baboon (*Cynocephalus porcarius*, ♂) from South Africa, presented by Mr. Geo. Blay; a Rhesus Monkey (*Macacus rhesus*) from India, presented by the Hon. Mrs. Morrison; a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus*) from India, presented by Colonel B. McCalmont; a Pin-tailed Whydah Bird (*Vidua principalis*) from West Africa, presented by the Hon. Mrs. Parker; two Ocellated Sand Skinks (*Chalcides ocellatus*), South European, presented by Mr. W. H. St. Quintin; two Common Vipers (*Vipera berus*), British, presented respectively by Mr. Gerald Leighton and Mr. John Wright; a White-collared Mangabey (*Cercocebus collaris*), two Yellow Baboons (*Cynocephalus babouin*) from West Africa, a Yellowish Capuchin (*Cebus flavescens*), a Brazilian Tortoise (*Testudo tabulata*) from South America, a Silky Marmoset (*Midas chrysoleucos*) from Rio Madeira, Brazil; two Pinche Monkeys (*Midas oedipus*) from Colombia, a Three-banded Douroucouli (*Nyctipithecus trivigatus*) from Guiana, three Serrated Terrapins (*Chrysemys scripta*) from North America, two Black Tortoises (*Testudo nigra*) from the Galapagos, a Black Iguana (*Metopoceros cornutus*) from the West Indies, a Common Chameleon (*Chamaeleon vulgaris*), a Basilisk Chameleon (*Chamaeleon basiliscus*, from North Africa, a Blue-tongued Cyclodus (*Tiliqua scincoides*), thirteen Black and Yellow Cyclodus (*Tiliqua nigro-luteus*) from Australia, four Green Lizards (*Lacerta viridis*), three Dark Green Snakes (*Zamenis gemonensis*), three Tessellated Snakes (*Tropidonotus tessellatus*), two Æsculapian Snakes (*Coluber longissimus*), a Four-lined Snake (*Coluber quatuorlineatus*), European; a Chained Snake (*Coluber catenifer*) from California, deposited; a Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), born in the Gardens.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

TWO NEW VARIABLE STARS.—Prof. W. Ceraski announces in the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (Bd. 155, No. 3718) the discovery of two new variables at the Moscow Observatory. The measures were obtained from photographs.

72, 1901 (Lyræ).

R.A.			Decl.			
h.	m.	s.	°	′	″	
19	7	37·01 ...	+33	10	12·6 ...	1855·0
19	9	17·62 ...	+33	14	38·1 ...	1900·0

The brightness varies from the 10th to 12th magnitude, in a period of from 0·27–0·81 of a year. At present it is about the 11th magnitude, and is increasing.

73, 1901 (Scuti).

R.A.			Decl.			
h.	m.	s.	°	′		
18	46	19·7 ...	−12	46·9	...	1855·0

This variable is of the Algol type; normal magnitude about 9·0. Its period is about 22·9 hours, and its brightness varies from 9·1 to 9·6 in five hours. There appears to be evidence of two principal minima separated by a secondary one.

UNIFORM TRANSMISSION OF ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS.—Prof. H. Kreutz, of the Central Astronomical Telegraph Bureau at Kiel, has issued a circular in several languages suggesting instructions for securing the adoption of a uniform system for the transmission of astronomical telegrams from the various observatories of Europe to the central bureau for subsequent general circulation.

The code suggested is very similar to that already in use for the telegrams which have been sent out from Kiel for several years past. A definite order is agreed on for the descriptive items of object, discoverer or observer, time, position, magnitude, motions and remarks, with a terminal number to control the accuracy of the numerical part of the message. In the circular issued examples of various possible forms of messages are given, both at length and in code, dealing with the discovery of comets or planets, new stars, orbits of comets, ephemerides, &c., perusal of which will easily make the scheme clear.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF CORONA.—In a reprint from a paper read before the Photographic Society of Philadelphia on March 13, 1900, Mr. H. W. Du Bois draws attention to the possibilities of the method, outlined by Prof. Nipher, of developing a positive from a plate which has received great over exposure, in connection with the problem of the daylight observation of the solar corona.