

THE new volume of the "Statesman's Year Book," edited by Dr. I. Scott Keltie, with the assistance of Mr. I. P. A. Renwick, has been published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., Ltd. This annual is now in its thirty-ninth year of publication, and every year brings political and other changes which necessitate the revision of much of the information contained in its pages. So far as it is possible for a volume to reflect the condition of the States of the world, the "Statesman's Year Book" performs that function most creditably. Nothing of importance in political geography is overlooked; and the shifting scenes, figures and activities are faithfully recorded. The volume for 1902 contains much revised material relating to the accession of King Edward VII., the census of Great Britain and of India, the development of our educational system, and colonial changes. The maps and diagrams show the results of recent censuses at home and abroad, existing and projected railways in East Central Africa, the new Indian province, and the projected Central America canals. The contents now occupy 1332 pages, and the volume should not be permitted to exceed this number very largely, or it will lose its handy character. How the editor will prevent the ultimate expansion of matter beyond the present limits of space is a problem to which he will need to give careful consideration.

THREE new volumes of Ostwald's series of "Klassiker der exakten Wissenschaften" have been received from Mr. W. Englemann, of Leipzig. (London: Williams and Norgate.) The volume No. 119 (price 2s. 6d. net) contains two papers on hygrometry, by H. B. de Saussure (1783), edited by Dr. A. J. von Oettingen. The papers deal with the theory of evaporation and the application of the theory to some meteorological phenomena. No. 120 (price 3s. net) contains a German translation, with notes by Dr. M. Möbius, of two papers by Malpighi (1675 and 1679) on the anatomy of plants. Fifty figures illustrate the text, and the editorial notes will be of service to German students. Two papers on plant hybrids, by Gregor Mendel (1865 and 1869), edited by Dr. E. Tschermak, form No. 121 of the series. The price of this volume is 1s. net.

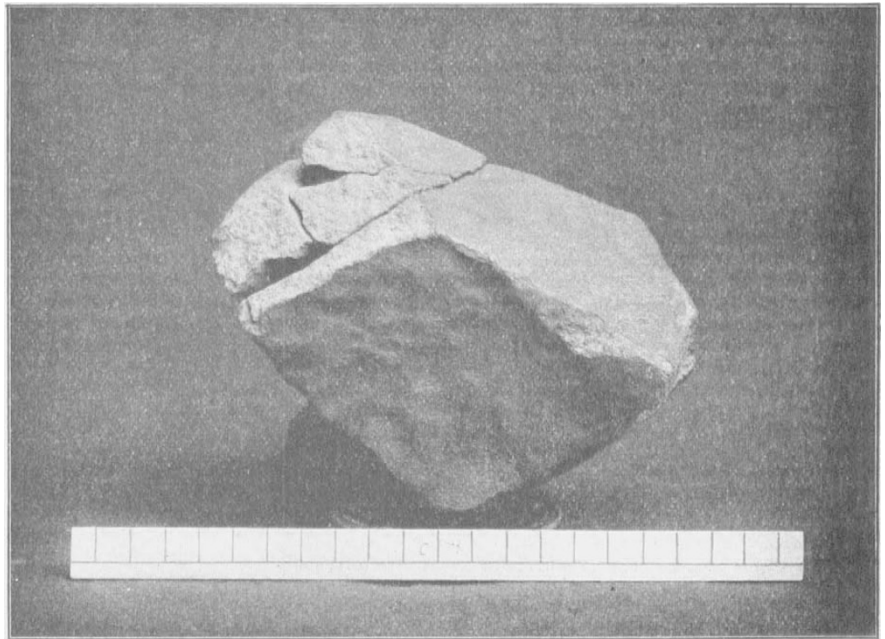
A NEW edition (the tenth) of Mr. W. T. Lynn's booklet on "Remarkable Comets" has been published by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co. The only comet expected to return this year is Swift's comet, having a period of $5\frac{1}{2}$ years. This is due towards the end of the year.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include two Black Apes (*Cynopithecus niger*) from the Celebes, presented by Miss A. T. M. Elliot; a Malayan Bear (*Ursus malayanus*) from Malacca, presented by the Marquis of Downshire; a Suricate (*Suricata tetradactyla*) from South Africa, presented by Mrs. Philips; a Golden-naped Amazon (*Chrysotis auripalliata*) from Central America, a Yellow-billed Amazon (*Chrysotis panamensis*) from Panama, seven Elegant Terrapins (*Chrysemys scripta elegans*) from

North America, two Wrinkled Terrapins (*Chrysemys scripta rugosa*) from the West Indies, deposited; six Ruffs (*Machetes pugnax*), four Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) European, eight Undulated Grass Parrakeets (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) from Australia, purchased; an Eland (*Orias canna*) born in the Gardens.

JUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

THE FELIX METEORITE.—In a recent number of the *Proceedings* of the United States National Museum, Mr. G. P. Merrill gives an account of the fall of a meteoric stone at 11.30 a.m. on May 15, 1900, near Felix, Alabama. A luminous meteor was seen and three loud reports as of explosion were heard. The main mass weighed about 7 lbs. and was found buried six inches deep in soft ground. In aspect of fractured surface the material is like that of the stones of Warrenton and Lancé, but the chondritic character is more pronounced than in the latter and the colour is darker than in the former, owing to the presence of graphitic carbon in appreciable quantity. The essential minerals are, olivine (73 per cent.), augite and enstatite (18 per cent.), with troilite (5 per cent.), nickel-iron (3 per



The Felix Meteorite. The scale below the meteorite is divided into centimetres.

cent.) and graphitic carbon (0.4 per cent.): the micro-structure is tuff-like.

ON THE RELATION BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE AND THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE HEAD.

THERE is a popular belief that men of great ability have larger heads than the average population; this belief, however, is not based on trustworthy statistics handled in a satisfactory manner.

In a paper read before the Royal Society, January 23, Prof. Pearson gives the results of statistical investigations undertaken with a view to determine whether any head measurements, and if so, which, are correlated with intellectual capacity.

He points out that although the professional classes are more intellectual and have a larger mean head capacity than the hand-working classes, this does not lend any support to the current notion; for the former are better developed physically, and the difference is probably only due to difference of nurture. It is necessary to take a homogeneous class in order to investigate the matter.