

THE Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company have published a descriptive list of "anthropometric apparatus," consisting of instruments for measuring and testing the chief physical characteristics of the human body. This list cancels those previously issued. The instruments have been designed under the direction of Mr. Francis Galton.

A BIOLOGICAL and Microscopical Section has been formed in connection with the Cardiff Naturalists' Society, with Dr. C. T. Vachell, M.D., as President, and Prof. W. N. Parker as Hon. Sec. The inaugural meeting was held on Thursday evening, October 20, in the Biological Department of the University College, when papers were read on the work of the Section by the President and Hon. Sec. The objects of the Section are stated to be the promotion of the study of biology generally, but more especially of the local flora and fauna, including marine as well as land forms.

It is announced that the following lectures will be delivered at the Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Bridge Road. November 1, Mr. A. H. Gilkes, "The First Napoleon;" 8th, Mr. W. L. Carpenter, "Heat" (experiments by means of the projection lantern); 15th, Dr. H. W. Crosskey, "Early Changes in the Earth's Surface and how we get our Knowledge of them;" 22nd, Sir John Lubbock, M.P., "The Habits and Ideas of Savages;" 29th, Mr. W. F. Donkin, "Mountain Climbing in Switzerland and the Caucasus;" December 6, Prof. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., "A Bit of Coal;" 13th, Dr. W. D. Halliburton, "The Eye, and how we See."

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include two Nisnas Monkeys (*Cercopithecus pyrrhonorotus*) from West Africa, presented by Mrs. Bennett Stanford; a Brown Capuchin (*Cebus fatuellus*) from Guiana, presented by Mr. Edward A. B. Pitman; a Dusky Ichneumon (*Herpestes pulverulentus*) from South Africa, presented by Mr. L. G. Morrell; a Three-striped Paradoxure (*Paradoxurus trivirgatus*) from India, presented by Mr. J. Millar; a Buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*), British, presented by Mr. F. Austen; a Pennant's Broadtail (*Platycercus pennanti*) from New South Wales, presented by Mrs. Brooks; a Common Chameleon (*Chamaleon vulgaris*) from North Africa, presented by Mr. Absell; two Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*) from South America, presented by Mr. John Clarke Hawkshawe, F.Z.S.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

THE PARALLAX OF Σ 2398.—In the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 2676, Dr. E. Lamp, of Kiel, has published a determination of the parallax of the brighter component of this pair (to which his attention was attracted by their large proper motion) referred to two neighbouring stars derived from a series of differences of declination observed with the refractor and filar micrometer of the Kiel Observatory between February 1883 and April 1885; the value of the parallax deduced from this discussion being $0''.34$. Wishing to verify this result, Dr. Lamp has made with the same instrument, between May 1885 and March 1887, a further series of measures of differences of declination of each component of Σ 2398 (= D.M. + 59° , No. 1915, mags. 8.2 and 9.0 respectively) referred to three comparison-stars: viz. D.M. + 59° , No. 1911, mag. 7.0; D.M. + 59° , No. 1913, mag. 9.4; and D.M. + 59° , No. 1918, mag. 7.8; and has published the results of his discussion of these measures in Nos. 2807-8 of the above-mentioned periodical. The following tabular statement gives for each series of observations the resulting parallax deduced from the differences of declination between each component of the double star and each of the above-mentioned comparison-stars:—

Period.	Component.	π_1	π_2	π_3	No. of Measures.
1883-84	Σ_1	—	+0.2958	+0.3801	46
1884-85	Σ_1	—	+0.2517	+0.4628	44
1885-87	Σ_1	+0.3601	+0.2656	+0.4303	73
1885-87	Σ_2	+0.3808	+0.2636	+0.4199	73

It would appear from this that Comparison-star No. 2 has a sensible parallax relative to Comparison-stars Nos. 1 and 3, and we hope that Dr. Lamp will proceed to investigate it independently. Meanwhile, combining the results obtained from the three stars, the mean parallax is—

$$\text{for } \Sigma_1 = 0.3520 \pm 0.0140$$

$$\text{and for } \Sigma_2 = 0.3548 \pm 0.0131,$$

or the mean parallax of the system Σ 2398 = $0''.353 \pm 0''.014$.

NEW MINOR PLANET.—A new minor planet, No. 271, was discovered on October 13 by Dr. Knorre, of Berlin.

ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE WEEK 1887 OCTOBER 30—NOVEMBER 5.

(FOR the reckoning of time the civil day, commencing at Greenwich mean midnight, counting the hours on to 24, is here employed.)

At Greenwich on October 30

Sun rises, 6h. 52m.; souths, 11h. 43m. 46.2s.; sets, 16h. 36m.; right asc. on meridian, 14h. 17.7m.; decl. $13^\circ 47'$ S. Sidereal Time at Sunset, 19h. 11m.
Moon (Full on October 31, 22h.) rises, 16h. 38m.; souths, 23h. 12m.; sets, 5h. 58m.*; right asc. on meridian, 1h. 47.3m.; decl. $6^\circ 0'$ N.

Planet.	Rises.		Souths.		Sets.		Right asc. and declination on meridian.	
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
Mercury	9 21	...	13 16	...	17 11	...	15 49.9	... 23 5 S.
Venus	3 2	...	9 8	...	15 14	...	11 41.4	... 0 23 N.
Mars	1 21	...	8 13	...	15 5	...	10 46.2	... 9 29 N.
Jupiter	7 31	...	12 14	...	16 57	...	14 48.3	... 15 17 S.
Saturn	22 15*	...	6 2	...	13 49	...	8 34.7	... 19 2 N.
Uranus	4 42	...	10 20	...	15 58	...	12 53.9	... 5 5 S.
Neptune	17 36*	...	1 18	...	9 0	...	3 49.8	... 18 18 N.

* Indicates that the rising is that of the preceding evening and the setting that of the following morning.

Occultations of Stars by the Moon (visible at Greenwich).

Oct.	Star.	Mag.	Disap.	Reap.	Corresponding angles from vertex to right for inverted image.		
					h. m.	h. m.	
30	33 Ceti	...	6	...	0 58	... 193 275	
30	35 Ceti	...	6½	...	1 54	... 3 3 149 325	
Nov.	1	μ Ceti	...	4	...	2 34	... 3 38 109 355
3	B.A.C. 1351	...	6½	...	4 19	... 4 30 217 235	
3	75 Tauri	...	6	...	6 41	... 7 21 89 5	

Variable Stars.

Star.	R.A.		Decl.		h. m.
	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	
U Cephei	...	0 52.3	...	81 16 N.	Nov. 2, 3 10 m
α Ceti	...	2 13.6	...	3 29 S.	..., 5, m
T Arietis	...	2 42.0	...	17 2 N.	..., 4, m
η Geminorum	...	6 8.1	...	22 32 N.	Oct. 30, m
ζ Geminorum	...	6 57.4	...	20 44 N.	..., 30, 4 0 m
					Nov. 3, 4 0 m
U Hydræ	...	10 32.0	...	12 48 S.	..., 3, m
S Coronæ	...	15 16.8	...	31 47 N.	..., 3, m
V Ophiuchi	...	16 20.5	...	12 10 S.	Oct. 31, m
W Hercules	...	16 31.2	...	37 34 N.	Nov. 4, m
U Ophiuchi	...	17 10.8	...	1 20 N.	..., 2, 2 23 m
					and at intervals of 20 8
β Lyræ	...	18 45.9	...	33 14 N.	Nov. 2, 22 0 m ₂
η Aquilæ	...	19 46.7	...	0 43 N.	..., 1, 0 0 m
W Cygni	...	21 31.8	...	44 52 N.	..., 1, m
δ Cephei	...	22 25.0	...	57 50 N.	..., 3, 3 0 m

M signifies maximum; m minimum; m₂ secondary minimum.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

LIEUT. WISSMANN, the well-known African explorer, has arrived at Brussels from his journey across Africa. He was accompanied as far as Nyangwé by Lieut. Le Marinel, the route followed being different from that traversed by Wissmann on his first journey. He did not, however, succeed in penetrating the region to the north of the Sankuru, nor in reaching the somewhat mysterious Lake Lundi.