

canter. The act had the air of being habitual." Mr. G. Plarr, writing from Tunbridge, tells us of a hare which he saw many years ago while he was walking along a mill-stream in El-ass. The hare was being chased by some boys in a meadow on the opposite side of the stream. It disappeared in the water, and emerged on the side on which Mr. Plarr was walking. Without stopping to shake the water away, it made off with great speed. The creature presented a strange appearance, its head seeming to be large beyond all proportion to its body. This was, of course, due to the fact that the head had been kept dry above water, while the rest of the body had been immersed.

MESSRS. DULAU AND CO. have sent us a catalogue of zoological and palæontological works, including works on Echinodermata, Vermes, and Crustacea.

IN the letter on "Alpine Haze," by Antoine d'Abbadie (p. 247, lines 13 and 17 from the top), for "earth-haze" read "earth-ashes," and for "Ventouk" read "Ventoux."

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Macaque Monkey (*Macacus cynomolgus* ♂) from India, presented by Mrs. Henderson; a Rhesus Monkey (*Macacus rhesus* ♂) from India, a Brown Capuchin (*Cebus fulvellus*) from Brazil, deposited; two White Ibises (*Eudocimus*, sp. inc.) from Central America, purchased; a Rufous-necked Wallaby (*Halmaturus ruficollis* ♂) from New South Wales, received in exchange.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW COMET.—A faint comet was discovered on January 14, at 18h. 47m., by Mr. W. R. Brooks, of Geneva, New York. Its position at the time of discovery was R.A. 18h. 4m. os., Decl. 21° 20' S. The comet was moving rapidly towards the west.

MINOR PLANETS.—Herr Palisa at Vienna discovered a minor planet on January 4, which may possibly be Siwa, No. 140. Should it be a new planet, it will be No. 282, and Herr Palisa's sixty-ninth discovery. Three minor planets, all discovered by Herr Palisa, have recently been named. No. 278 has been called Paulina; No. 279, Thule; and No. 280, Philia.

THE OBSERVATORY OF TOKIO.—An Astronomical Observatory has just been instituted at Tokio, Japan, by the combination of the astronomical portions of the old Naval Observatory and of the Home Office, together with the Astronomical Observatory of the Imperial University. The site of the old Naval Observatory has been selected for the new institution, the meteorological portion of the former having been transferred to the Central Meteorological Observatory of the Home Office. The principal instruments of the new Observatory are a Repsold meridian instrument of 5½ inches aperture; a transit-circle, by Merz and Repsold, of 5 inches aperture; and two equatorials, the one by Troughton, of 8 inches, and the other by Merz, of 6½ inches aperture. The staff of the institution has not yet been fully organized, but Prof. H. Terao has been appointed Director, and has commenced regular observation. The approximate position of the Observatory is—longitude E. of Greenwich, 139° 44' 30" 3; N. latitude 35° 39' 17" 5.

ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE WEEK 1889 JANUARY 27—FEBRUARY 2.

(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 January 27

Sun rises, 7h. 47m.; souths, 12h. 13m. 54s.; sets, 16h. 39m.; right asc. on meridian, 20h. 40'9m.; decl. 18° 19' S. Sidereal Time at Sunset, 1h. 8m.
Moon (New on January 31, 9h.) rises, 3h. 54m.; souths, 8h. 22m.; sets, 12h. 43m.; right asc. on meridian, 16h. 48'9m.; decl. 19° 10' S.

| Planet. | Rises. | | Souths. | | Sets. | | Right asc. and declination on meridian. | | |
|-------------|--------|-----|---------|----|-------|----|---|------|------------|
| | h. | m. | h. | m. | h. | m. | h. | m. | |
| Mercury.. | 8 | 30 | 13 | 24 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 52'5 | 13° 19' S. |
| Venus ... | 9 | 18 | 15 | 7 | 20 | 56 | 23 | 35'8 | 2 57 S. |
| Mars ... | 9 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 20 | 2 | 23 | 2'4 | 7 2 S. |
| Jupiter ... | 5 | 29 | 9 | 24 | 13 | 19 | 17 | 51'9 | 23 5 S. |
| Saturn ... | 17 | 24* | 0 | 56 | 8 | 28 | 9 | 21'9 | 16 37 N. |
| Uranus ... | 23 | 33* | 4 | 56 | 10 | 19 | 13 | 22'3 | 7 59 S. |
| Neptune.. | 11 | 39 | 19 | 22 | 3 | 5* | 3 | 50'9 | 18 25 N. |

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

| Jan. | h. | |
|------|----|---|
| 28 | 9 | Jupiter in conjunction with and 1° 42' south of the Moon. |
| 30 | 14 | Mercury at greatest elongation from the Sun 18° east. |
| Feb. | h. | |
| 1 | 15 | Mercury in conjunction with and 4° 24' north of the Moon. |
| 2 | 22 | Mercury at least distance from the Sun. |
| 2 | 23 | Mars in conjunction with and 3° 57' north of the Moon. |

Variable Stars.

| Star. | R.A. | | Decl. | | h. m. | |
|---------------------|------|------|-------|-------|---------------------|---------|
| | h. | m. | h. | m. | h. | m. |
| U Cephei ... | 0 | 52'5 | 81 | 17 N. | Jan. 28, | 20 31 m |
| | | | | | Feb. 2, | 20 11 m |
| λ Tauri... .. | 3 | 54'6 | 12 | 11 N. | Jan. 29, | 0 11 m |
| | | | | | Feb. 1, | 23 3 m |
| η Geminorum ... | 6 | 8'2 | 22 | 32 N. | Jan. 30, | m |
| ζ Geminorum ... | 6 | 57'5 | 20 | 44 N. | Jan. 28, | 3 0 m |
| | | | | | Feb. 2, | 3 0 m |
| R Canis Majoris ... | 7 | 14'5 | 16 | 11 N. | Jan. 28, | 19 8 m |
| | | | | | and at intervals of | 27 16 |
| U Monocerotis ... | 7 | 25'5 | 9 | 33 S. | Feb. 2, | m |
| S Cancri ... | 8 | 37'6 | 19 | 26 N. | Jan. 29, | 1 20 m |
| T Vulpeculæ ... | 20 | 46'8 | 27 | 50 N. | Jan. 29, | 22 0 m |
| | | | | | Jan. 31, | 0 0 M |
| γ Cygni ... | 20 | 47'6 | 34 | 14 N. | Jan. 28, | 17 40 m |
| | | | | | and at intervals of | 36 0 |
| W Cygni ... | 21 | 31'9 | 44 | 53 N. | Feb. 2, | M |
| δ Cephei ... | 22 | 25'0 | 57 | 51 N. | Jan. 28, | 22 0 M |

M signifies maximum; m minimum.

Meteor-Showers.

| | R.A. | Decl. | |
|-------------------|------|--------|----------------------|
| Near τ Leonis ... | 169° | 4° N. | Very swift. |
| ,, α Coronæ ... | 235 | 26° N. | Very swift; streaks. |

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE International Geographical Congress will be held at Paris from August 5 to August 10 next. The Geographical Societies of London, Berlin, Leipzig, Manchester, Edinburgh, New York, Melbourne, Lisbon, Antwerp, and Milan, and many French Societies will be represented at the meeting.

M. EUGENE MARKOW sends to the French Geographical Society an interesting account of his recent ascent of Mount Ararat. He and his companion, after passing the night among the rocks at a height of 13,000 feet, began their ascent on August 13, at 5 a.m. Soon they passed a conical rock which rises on the south-east face of Ararat, and here M. Markow places the limit of perpetual snow on the mountain. From the base of the rock extends in an opposite direction a broad plain of *névé*, which reaches the summit at a slope of 35°. Underneath this *névé* was heard the sound of a stream formed of the melted ice. At the height of 14,800 feet, M. Markow found among the rocks a *Coccinella septempunctata* of a very bright red. At 15,500 feet, some flowers were found on a small sandy eminence. At 2 p.m. the party reached the foot of the sacred summit of the mountain. This summit presents a vast extent of snow, separated into two by a precipice commencing on the north-east side, and getting broader and deeper as it reaches the south-east. Part of the right summit is almost entirely free from snow, and is covered with small stones. The left summit, on the north-west, presents a plateau covered with snow, but having a small elevation in the middle. It is much larger than the right summit.