

nature in South America. Thus far his efforts to develop and utilise its vast resources have made its commercial history an epic. The thought naturally presents itself that had North America fallen to the lot of the Latin race in the European occupation of the New World, and South America to the Anglo-Saxon, the former might still have maintained its old supremacy; for the more rapid progress of the latter may not be due so much to racial superiority as to advantageous geographical surroundings."

THE list of additions to the library of the Royal Gardens, Kew, received during last year, occupies eighty-three pages in the *Kew Bulletin* (Appendix ii. 1901) just issued. The titles are printed on one side of the page only, so as to allow the list to be cut up and the slips used by persons and institutions having catalogues based on the Kew catalogue.

ANNOUNCEMENT has just been made by a committee of American anthropologists, of which Mr. F. W. Hodge, managing editor of the *American Anthropologist*, is secretary, of the proposed publication of an illustrated volume containing more than thirty folk-tales which were collected and translated by the late Frank Hamilton Cushing during his long and intimate association with the Zuñi Indian tribe of New Mexico. Information and subscription forms may be obtained from the secretary, whose address is Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

THE third divisional volume has been received of Thompson's "Gardener's Assistant," a new edition of which, edited by Mr. William Watson, assistant curator at the Royal Gardens, Kew, is in course of publication by the Gresham Publishing Company. Among the subjects dealt with are popular garden plants, greenhouse and conservatory, greenhouse plants, stove plants, orchids, indoor and hardy ferns, succulent plants, hardy shrubs, bedding and floral decorations. Several plates and numerous excellent illustrations accompany the descriptive text.

A LARGE terrestrial globe is an essential piece of furniture for the satisfactory teaching of geography. The ideal globe is in relief, but the price at which such a globe can be well produced is prohibitive to its extensive use. A large globe in which physical features are given prominence is the next best substitute, and this has been produced by Messrs. Philip and Son under the title of "Philip's Physical School Globe." The diameter is nineteen inches, and three forms of mounting of the globe are constructed, namely, one a pedestal for table, another the same with the addition of a graduated half meridian, and the third a tripod stand, with complete meridian and horizon.

THE following prices obtained for some of the natural history books from the library of the late Mr. P. Crowley, sold by Mr. J. C. Stevens at his auction rooms on Monday, are of interest:—"Transactions of the Entomological Society," complete set, 46 vols., 38*l.*; "Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum," vols. 1 to 27, 1874-95, 48*l.*; "The Ibis," 1859 to 1900, with indexes, 42 vols., 75*l.*; "Proceedings of the Zoological Society," 1830 to 1900, 60 vols., 60*l.*; "The Birds of the British Islands," by Lord Lilford, 7 vols., 63*l.*; "Biologia Centrali Americana," 35 vols., 90*l.*; "Birds of Europe," by H. E. Dresser, vols 1 to 8, 1871-1881, vol. 9 supplement, 1895-6, 56*l.*; "Histoire Physique, Naturelle et Politique de Madagascar," by A. Grandidier, 1875-95, 35*l.*; "The Birds of Asia," by John Gould, 7 vols., 1850-1883, 51*l.*; "The Birds of New Guinea, Papuan Islands and Australia," by J. Gould, 5 vols., 1875-78, 45*l.*; "The Birds of Great Britain," by John Gould, 5 vols., 1863, 49*l.*; "Monograph of the Pheasants," by D. G. Elliot, 2 vols., 1872, 53*l.*; "Rough Notes on the Birds observed during Twenty-five Years' Shooting and Collecting in the British Islands," by E. T. Booth, 3 vols., 1881-7, 25*l.*

NO. 1642, VOL. 63]

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Macaque Monkey (*Macacus cynomolgus*) from India, presented by Mr. C. L. Lane; a Mozambique Monkey (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) from East Africa, presented by Miss Leah Simmons; a Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*), a Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Brachypternus aurantius*) from India, presented by Mr. E. W. Harper; an Indian Python (*Python molurus*) from India, presented by Mr. C. Oscar Gridley; a Chameleon (*Chamaeleon vulgaris*) from North Africa, presented by Mr. C. King; ten Indian Cobras (*Naia tripudians*) from India, ten Reeve's Terrapins (*Damonia reevesi*) from China, ten Roofed Terrapins (*Kachuga tectum*) from British India, ten Blue Lizards (*Gerrhonotus coeruleus*), six Red Newts (*Sperlepes rubra*) from North America, a Red-fronted Lemur (*Lemur rufifrons*) from Madagascar, deposited; an English Wild Cow (*Bos taurus*), a Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*), born in the Gardens.

#### OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

NOVA PERSEI.—*Bulletin* No. 16 of the Yerkes Observatory contains a report from Prof. Hale on the work done in connection with the new star in Perseus. An examination of the Nova with the 40-inch refractor on February 24 failed to show any trace of nebulosity. Photographs of the spectrum were obtained on eight nights, using Erythro plates, with spectrographs of one and three prisms respectively. These extend from H<sub>α</sub> in the red to the ultra-violet H<sub>ε</sub>; comparison spectra were taken of titanium, hydrogen and sodium. Photographs of the region of the Nova have been obtained with the 40-inch telescope, and will be subsequently measured at Columbia College Observatory. The brightness of the star has been measured by the wedge photometer.

A REMARKABLE GROUP OF NEBULOUS SPOTS.—Prof. Max Wolf, of Heidelberg, writes to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (Bd. 155, No. 3704), describing an appearance of small nebulous bodies surrounding the star

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{R.A.} = \text{h. m.} \\ \quad \quad \quad 12 \quad 52 \cdot 6 \\ \text{Decl.} = + 28^{\circ} \quad 42' \end{array} \right\} (1855^{\circ}).$$

They are so close together as to form a remarkable feature in the field of view. He was able to count 108 in a circle about 30' of arc in diameter. Some of the fourth or fifth magnitude showed a central condensation, more or less elongated, while other fainter ones had a roundish form.

STONYHURST COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.—The annual summary of the meteorological, magnetical and other observations made at the Stonyhurst Observatory in Lancashire has just been issued by the director, Father Sidgreaves. Special co-operation with the International Meteorological Committee has been in force since November, observations of clouds and wind being made throughout three successive days of each month; on the second of these days balloon ascents are made by representatives of the Committee.

The work of comparison between individual sun-spots and terrestrial magnetic storms has been concluded and published in the *Memoirs* of the Royal Astronomical Society. This covers the period of eighteen years from January 1881 to December 1898.

Experiments are in progress in connection with the improvement of the present means of obtaining stellar spectra, quartz lenses being now employed, so that more of the ultra-violet region will be photographed.

CATALOGUE OF DOUBLE STARS.—Vol. i. of the *Publications* of the Yerkes Observatory consists of a general catalogue of 1290 double stars, discovered from 1871-1899 by Prof. S. W. Burnham. The stars are arranged in order of their right ascensions, full particulars being given of all the micrometrical measures of each pair. The work has been done with telescopes varying from 6 inches to 40 inches in aperture, the greater number (451) of the discoveries having been made with the smallest instrument.