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GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE Admiralty has shown an unwonted activity. Capt. Nares's Report, dated Oct. 27, was actually printed at the beginning of the week, and is circulating privately.

Since Signor Gessi's navigation by boats of the last reaches of the Nile into Lake Albert Nyanza, this part of the river has been traversed by Col. Gordon in his little steamer, the Khedive, and some further interesting particulars regarding it have been received at Cairo. Thus it appears that the lake really begins at a distance of only twenty miles south of Appuddo (near the first rapids). From that point the river widens out, and the current becomes very slow—not more than half a mile an hour. The banks are low and fringed with a luxuriant growth of papyrus. Further on thousands of islands, clothed with papyrus, dot the surface of the waters, and the real junction of river and lake is very difficult to ascertain. The country on the western side is densely populated, and the natives seemed well disposed.

Mr. A. H. Everett has resigned his appointment in the service of the Rajah of Sarawak, and ment in the service of the Rajan of Salawa, and is about to start in a three years' expedition to the Philippine Islands. The Fauna of this group of islands is almost entirely unknown, or was so till very recently. Mr. Steere, the American naturalist, is the first man who has made any important additions to our knowledge of the natural history of the islands; he has lately returned from a voyage in these seas, and as the result of a very cursory examination has added no less than forty-one new species of birds to the meagre list which had previously been known. Mr. Steere will read a paper on this interesting subject before the Linnean Society next month, which paper will be published in the Transactions in due course. Mr. Everett is to explore the southern islands, and will begin with the large island of Palawan.

Herr Edward Mohr, who is travelling on behalf of the German African Association, reached St. Paul de Loando on the 28th of August. He has by this, no doubt, reached Malanje, from which place he proposes to push to the north. Nothing has been heard yet from Dr. Pogge, who may possibly have succeeded in reaching the capital of the Muata Yanvo. Another German traveller, Dr. Ervin von Bary, has been met by a caravan, near He intends to explore the Tuareg countries.

Mr. Walter Besant writes :- "A statement in the 'Geographical Notes' of last week's Athenœum, that the Americans have failed hitherto in the surveys that they undertook, is incorrect, and unfair to one, at least, of the officers employed by the Committee of the American Palestine Exploration Society. Four weeks ago I was in New York, and was permitted by the kindness of Dr. Hitchcock, President of the American Society, to see the whole of Lieut. Steever's survey work in Moab. It is laid down, with the hill shading, on a single sheet about the size of one of Lieut. Conder's sheets of Western Palestine. The map drawing appeared to my unprofessional eyes There will be before long an opporvery good. tunity of seeing this piece of American geo-graphical work, for Dr. Hitchcock is about to have a tracing made for the English Committee. I was also shown Mr. Selah Merrill's route maps together with his latest unpublished reports. No report has yet been issued of the second expedition under Col. Lane, but your readers, who have read Mr. Merrill's interesting letters on Transjordanic Lands in your columns, will be glad to learn that he will probably remain in the country."

The following letter explains itself :to find, from your notice of Mr. Barker's work on 'Syria and Egypt,' that you are one of a large section of the community who believe that 'the success of the rival route (to India) by Egypt' has left that by Syria 'small prospects of success.' It is very important that the public mind should be disabused of such an idea at the present crisis, and I feel sure you will allow me to express briefly,

and therefore imperfectly, the reasons why. In the first place, the two schemes never were rival. General Chesney, the leader of the Euphrates expedition, was as much in favour of the one as of the other. The fact is that England should have two means of communication with India, instead of one, which may be closed by accident or other-Secondly, the opening of the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris to commercial communication would be the resuscitation of population and prosperity in once powerful kingdoms and empires. Thirdly, the possession of those valleys would give security to both Turkey in Asia, to Persia, and to India. Whenever, as on the present occasion, difficulties arise between Russia and Turkey and Eogland, the former power pushes forward her Trans Caucasian army to threaten Turkey on the one side, or India on the other, by the easiest road of access to the latter country. Turkey and England united on the 'Great River could, with the aid of Kurds and Persians, at once out flank any such movement. The strategical importance of this valley is such, that even now, in case of a general war, England would have to occupy the mouths of the river. Yet the rendering the whole line available to commerce, civilization, and the protection of Turkey and India, would not have cost more than the profitless wars in the Crimea, or in Abyssinia. The opening of railway communication through, from Belgrade to Bussora or Basra, would also do more in time to pacify turbulent provinces, strengthen Turkey, and protect Persia and India, than all the efforts of diplomacy. I do not expect to live to see so great a result brought about, although it is understood that the present Sultan is in favour of some such a scheme; but I feel perfectly certain that it will one day be carried out-at all events in part-if not by Turkey and England, by 'others,' from the irresistible force of the natural advantages presented by this great valley to commerce, civilization, and political power.
"William Francis Ainsworth."

Our Lisbon Correspondent writes : - "The Government has received official intimation of the existence in the Dutch archives of many precious and inedited documents relative to the Portuguese colonies, past and present, in Africa, Brazil, coast of Malabar, and Coromandel. There are also documents relative to the little-known and disputed period of history, when the Prior do Crato, Dom Antonio, was a pretender to the throne, after the death of the Cardinal-King Dom Henrique."

THE CASTELLIERE OF JURKOVAC.

Trieste, October 16, 1876.

Among the many strangers that hurry through Trieste, there are a few archæologists who may take an interest in the Castelliere, or proto-historic dwelling-places of the Küstenland and the peninsula of Istria. My friend, Dr. (LL.D.) Antonio Scampicchio, of Albona, and I have lately surveyed one of these most interesting sites, lying within a few yards of the Nabresina Station, where the Süd-Bahn, or Great Southern, branches off to Italy. Its saucer-shaped outline, with a bush-grown rock protruding from the centre, and the débris of fawn-coloured nummulitic limestone disposed at the natural angle, must for years have attracted every observing eye; and yet, curious to say, it is not noticed either in the list or in the map of the late Dr. Kandler, a learned antiquary who did much to illustrate the remains of his fatherland.

The traveller had better take a carriage at Trieste and drive (an hour and a half) to Nabresina (the Roman Aurisina?) -- the village, not the stationwhere he will find the innkeeper, Giuseppe Tanei an adequate guide. Ascending the slope he will note that the diameter of the saucer's base is about 120 feet, whilst the oval inner enceinte measures 33 from north to south and 46 from east to west (Cadrastral Map of Austria). Amongst the stones which represent the outer wall, he will pick up fragments of broken pottery, thicker, coarser, and heavier than the usual yield of such

places. I have collected about half-a-dozen different types, and Col. A. Lane Fox is preparing to have them analyzed. The interior has evidently been divided into two compartments by a party-wall, intended probably to separate the cattle from their owners. The characteristic black earth, the decay of animal and vegetable matter, has been removed or buried by the furious Bora winds which sweep this section of the "Carso," or limestone plateau, extending from north-north-west to south-east of Trieste; but the cotti are to be met with in the crevices of the highest rock.

The site is known to the people as the Grad, or Castello di Jurkovac, the district extending between it and the seu; it lies to the north-west of the lands called Na Jugeleah (pronounced Yugeltsakh), meaning in the Wend or Slovene dialect, "upon the southern (Jug) slopes." presently to publish a translation of Slovene prowerbs and songs collected by the learned professor, W. Urbas, and to introduce this charmingly naive branch of the great Slav family to the notice of the English public. RICHARD F. BURTON.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

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Society of Engineers, 74.— Conversion of Peat into Pael and Charcoal, Mr. C. E. Hall.

British Architects, 9. Ohemistry, Mr. S. F. Buff.

Royal Academy, 8.— Ohemistry, Mr. S. F. Buff.

TES. Zoological, 8.—Reports on the Additions of the Society of Secretary; Letter from Dr. O. Finseh on the Supposed Engle ence of the Wild Camel; Letter from Mr. E. F. Ramay on the Habits of some Living Ceratodi in the Australian Museum, Schoey, New Species of Snake, Plaspheterres Hessioni, Bedd., Licut. Col. Beddomer, 'K. port on Addition to the Habits of some Living Ceratodi in the Australian Museum, Schoey, New Species of Snake, Plaspheterres Hessioni, Bedd., Licut. Col. Beddomer, 'K. port on Addition to the State of Habits of Structure and Development of the mill. A Sharks and Skates, Mr. W. K. Parker; 'Monograph of the Group Molossi,' Dr. G. E. Dobson.

Society of Biblical Archeology, 85.— Life and Labours of the late G. Smith, Mr. W. S. Clad Boscawen; 'Himyarite Insertiption contained in the Museum of the Royal Adaits Insertiption contained in the Museum of the Royal Adaits and Observations upon the Preceding Insertiption, Dr. H. Müller; 'Writings of Sphrem Syrus,' Rev. J. M. Rodwell.

Web. Literature, 41.— (ouncil.

Geological, 8.— Kessingland Cliff-Section and the Relation of the Furest-Bud to the Chillesford Clay, with some Remarks on the to-called Parrestrial surfaces the East of Navyell Anglia, Messra, S. V. Wood, Jun, and F. W. Harmer; 'Net on the Red Crag,' Mr. W. Wittaker.

Thurss. Mathematical, S.—Election of Council; 'Curres baving Fourpoint Contact with a Triply Infinite Pencil of Curres, Mr. W. Spottiswoode; 'Certain Identical Differential Relations,'
Fit. Astronomical, S.—Messurement of Direct Effects of Sus Spate and Council of Council of Charles and Planets with the Transt Circle at Doblin (Dustain), Br. Copelant, 'Ohervations of Lunar Eclipse, 375, September, Spates, S

Science Sassiu.

A NEW Natural History, under the editorship of Professor P. Martin Duncan, F.R.S., F.G.S., which has been for some years past in preparation. is now nearly ready for publication, and will be shortly issued in serial form by Messrs. Cassell, Petter & Galpin. Among the gentlemen with whom the editor has already arranged for contributions to the work, are Messrs. H. W. Bates, F.R.G.S., W. S. Dallas, F.L.S., W. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., Prof. A. H. Garrod, F.R.S., Dawkins, F.R.S., Prof. A. H. Garrod, Final Prof. T. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., Mr. R. Maclachlar, F.R.S., Dr. Murie, F.L.S., Prof. W. K. Parker, F.R.S., Messis. H. G. Seeley, F.G.S., R. Bowdler Sharpe, F.L.S., and H. Woodward, F.R.S.

UNDER the auspices of the Trades' Guild of Learning and the National Health Society, Prof. Corfield is to deliver a course of twenty lectures on the Laws of Health, on Saturdays, commencing November 11, at 830 PM. Thanks to a munifi noyember 11, at 8:30 PM. Thanks to a munificent endowment, three such courses were delivered, at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, by Prof. Corfield, in the years 1873.4, 1874.5, 1876.6, and will be followed by a fourth course during the present year. Dr. Corfield's lectures have been highly valued; of those who were examined at the termination of the last course three fourths at the termination of the last course three-fourths obtained more than half of the full total of marks. The "Teacher's Exhibition" was gained by a lady, who obtained no less than 465 marks out of 500, the same parameters of the same parameters. It is now proposed to secure the advantage of systematic instruction in the laws of health, on the same plan, for London. The lady-teachers of the National Health Society will assist the lecturer by revising and correcting the written answers which will be invited to questions on the lectures.