

known to American biologists that it is useless for me to add anything in the way of a detailed description of its internal management, and yet this little account would seem very incomplete without some mention of Dr. Lo Bianco, whose knowledge of the plants and animals in the Bay of Naples, and whose skill in capturing animals and preparing them for study and for museum use is remarkable.

At present two tables in the Station are supported by American institutions (Columbia University and the Smithsonian Institution), but these are inadequate to meet the demands of American students who wish to make use of the Station's privileges. Thanks are due Dr. Dohrn, who always makes room for deserving American students when it is possible for him to do so. At one time during this year there were seven Americans in the Station; at present there are four. I believe I voice the sentiments of all Americans here at present, and those who have been here in the past, when I express the wish that provisions be made by Americans or American institutions for American students wishing to study here.

S. E. MEEK.

NAPLES.

#### *ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.*

THE sixty-eighth Anniversary Meeting of this Society was held on April 29th. After some preliminary business the Report of the Council on the proceedings of the Society during the past year was read by Mr. P. L. Sclater, F. R. S., the Secretary. It stated that the number of Fellows on the 1st of January, 1897, was 3,098, showing a net increase of 71 members during the year 1896. The number of new Fellows that joined the Society in 1896 was 207, which was the largest number of elections that had taken place in any year since 1877.

The total receipts of the Society for

1896 had amounted to £27,081 which was £123 more than the very successful year, 1895. The ordinary expenditure had amounted to £23,788 which was an increase of £327 over that of the year 1895. Besides this a sum of £2617 had been paid and charged to extraordinary expenditure, of which amount £2600 had been paid on account of the construction of the new house for ostriches and cranes. A further sum of £1000 had also been transferred to the Deposit Account, leaving a balance of £1066 to be carried forward for the benefit of the present year.

The usual scientific meetings had been held during the year 1896, and a large number of valuable communications had been received upon every branch of zoology. These had been published in the annual volume of 'Proceedings,' which contained 1,110 pages illustrated by 52 plates. Besides this, parts 1 and 2 of the 14th volume of the Society's quarto 'Transactions' had been published in 1896. A new edition of the List of Animals, containing a list of all the specimens of the vertebrated animals that had been received by the Society during the past twelve years, had been published and issued to the subscribers to the publications in November last. The 32d volume of the 'Zoological Record' (containing a summary of work done by zoologists all over the world in 1895), edited by Dr. David Sharp, F.R.S., had been published and issued to the subscribers in December last.

The library, containing upwards of 20,000 volumes, had been maintained in good order throughout the year, and had been much resorted to by working naturalists. A large number of accessions, both by gift and purchase, had been incorporated.

The number of visitors to the Gardens in 1896 was 665,004, being 322 less than the corresponding number in 1895. This slight decrease was easily accounted for by

the unsettled state of the weather in the latter part of the past year.

The number of animals in the Society's Gardens on the 31st of December last was 2,473, of which 902 were mammals, 1,132 birds and 439 reptiles and batrachians. Amongst the additions made during the past year 18 were specially commented upon as of remarkable interest, and in most cases new to the Society's collections. Amongst these were a young male Manatee from the Upper Amazons, a young male Klipspringer from northeast Africa, a young female Gorilla from French Congoland, a pair of lettered Aracaris from Pará, a young Brazza's Monkey from French Congoland, a Loder's Gazelle from the Western Desert of Egypt, three Ivory Gulls from Spitzbergen and three Franklin's Gulls from America. A serious loss was occasioned to the Society's menagerie by the sudden death, in March last, of the male Indian Elephant (Jung Pasha), deposited in the Gardens by H. R. H. The Prince of Wales on his return from India in 1876, and for the past twenty years well known to all visitors to the Gardens.

A vote of thanks to the Council for their report was then moved by Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., seconded by Lord Medway, and carried unanimously.

The report having been adopted, the meeting proceeded to elect the new members of Council and the officers for the ensuing year. The usual ballot having been taken, it was announced that William Bateson, Esq., F.R.S., Col. John Biddulph, Dr. Albert Günther, F.R.S., Osbert Salvin, Esq., F.R.S., and Joseph Travers Smith, Esq., had been elected into the Council in the place of the retiring members, and that Sir William H. Flower, K.C.B., F.R.S., had been re-elected President; Charles Drummond, Esq., Treasurer, and Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society, for the ensuing year.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### PRIMITIVE SYMBOLIC DECORATION.

Two articles have lately appeared which are worth a comparison. The one is by Mr. C. C. Willoughby, of the Peabody Museum, Cambridge, in the *Journal of American Folk-lore* for March, on the decorations upon pottery from the Mississippi valley. It is a recasting of that read by himself and Professor Putnam before the American Association in 1895. He points out a variety of simple designs which he identifies as 'cosmic symbols,' 'sun symbols,' others for the winds, the clouds, the bird, the band, etc. Of course, the svastika, the triskeles and the cross come in as other 'symbols.'

This is one view to take of the aim of primitive decoration, and it is now in the ascendant in the United States. But in France they think otherwise. In the *Bulletin of the Paris Anthropological Society* (1896, Fasc. 6) M. Regnault has an article on the beginnings of ornamental art among primitive peoples, in which he explains such figures as the natural result of crossing lines, joining angles, repeating designs, connecting curves, etc., all this in the most simple manner and without any occult or mystic intent whatever. They were mere decorative sketches, 'only this and nothing more.'

It is easy to read into barbaric scratches the thoughts of later times, and we must acknowledge that something more besides the figure itself is needed to prove its symbolic sense.

##### MAN'S SPEECH TO BRUTES.

A PRIMITIVE myth asserts that in the good old times men and brutes conversed together understandingly. How limited their intercourse by speech now is may be learned from Dr. H. Carrington Bolton's paper in the *American Anthropologist*, 'The language used in talking to Domestic Animals.'