

## GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

THE October number of the *Zeitschrift für Kolonialpolitik, Kolonialrecht und Kolonialwirtschaft* contains no less than three articles dealing with German South-West Africa. Th. Rehbock discusses the prospects of farming in that country, which used to be regarded as hopeless, but where it now appears that good results can be obtained by irrigation. Karl Rode gives a very readable account of the country and its resources, and Gustav Voigts, in a paper concerned largely with personal and controversial issues, of which we cannot pretend to judge, goes into the causes of the Herero rising, and, after repudiating with some heat the suggestion that the traders are in any way to blame for it, comes to the conclusion that the native mind is entirely unaccountable and unfathomable (in support of which he quotes Mr. Selous), and that greater rigour is necessary in colonial administration. Incidentally, we get admissions that German rule has not been free from the mistakes which have more than once had such fatal consequences in our own case, e.g., the policy of setting native tribes against each other, and placing some insignificant chief of "a time-serving disposition" in a position of responsibility, to counteract the influence of abler men, whom it would be wiser to trust and conciliate. We cannot feel that Herr Voigts has thrown any real light on the origin of the rising, or that, were both sides of the story fully known, the native "treachery" we hear of would not assume a somewhat different aspect.

## OBITUARY NOTICE

THE AFRICAN SOCIETY has lost a generous supporter and member in the late Mrs. J. F. Bishop (*née* Isabella Bird), who died at Edinburgh on October 7th, 1904. Mrs. Bishop's travels are too well known to need more than a brief recapitulation. She first revealed to English readers *Untrodden Japan*; she described Korea, China, Tibet, the Philippines, and North America. She was meditating an extensive exploration of North Africa before her health (never very robust) gave way a year ago.