Scotland, from 1888 until 1921, on October 7, aged seventy-four years, and of Sir Thomas Hungerford Holdich, president in 1916–18 of the Royal Geographical Society, on November 2, aged eighty-six years.

PROFESSOR AUGUST FRIEDRICH HORSTMANN, known for his investigations of the thermodynamics of chemical processes, has died at Heidelberg at eighty-seven years of age.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

THE London *Times* reports that, through the generosity of Mrs. M. E. Eaton, the department of entomology of the British Museum has received the collection of Psychodidae (moth-flies) formed by her late husband, the Reverend A. E. Eaton, and including over 1,800 pinned specimens and about 200 microscope slides. It is probable that the Eaton collection is the largest and most important in existence, including, as it does, in addition to a complete series of the known British species, much material from Switzerland, Algeria, Madeira, the Canary Islands and elsewhere.

For thirty years before his death, on March 23, the late Mr. Eaton had made the collecting of these little flies his special hobby, paying particular attention to species connected with running water. He had also accumulated extensive notes in preparation for a monograph on the group, and it is hoped that it may be possible to publish some parts of his manuscript.

Mr. Robert B. Benson has presented 2,500 specimens of British sawflies, collected by himself; this donation includes specimens which will be made the types of species new to science, as well as to the collection, and fine series of many rare species in excellent condition.

In the department of zoology an addition to the collection of Ungulates is a fine pair of horns of the black rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros* (*Diceros*) *bicornis bicornis*), bequeathed to the museum by the late Mr. Henry Allin Martyn. The specimen was shot in Kenya by the testator, and is of exceptional interest in that the rear horn is longer than the front horn. This rhinoceros represents the Keitloa type, which formed the basis for the description of a species known as *Rhinoceros keitloa,* which has since been shown to be founded on nothing more than an individual variation.

A fine example of the common porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) has recently been presented to the same department by the trustees of the Rowland Ward Bequest. It is mounted in a defensive attitude with its spines erected.

Mr. C. D. Soar has presented to the department a collection of nearly 600 slides of microscopic preparations of water-mites, forming the material described in the standard monograph, "British Hydracarina," by Mr. Soar and Mr. Williamson, published by the Ray Society (1925–29, three volumes). The water-mites, although little known except to amateur microscopists interested in pond life, form a group of animals remarkable for brilliancy of color and eccentricities of form. Many in this collection are remarkable examples of the mounter's art.

Additions to the department of geology include a cast and enlarged model of the tooth of the fossil man *Sinanthropus pekinensis* from the Pleistocene of China.

SCIENTIFIC STUDY IN THE ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC REGIONS

AN Associated Press despatch from Copenhagen reports that plans are well advanced for the scientific study of Arctic and Antarctic phenomena expected to be in evidence with more than usual force during 1932–33, which will be one of the so-called "polar years" which occur only once in every half century.

According to D. B. La Cour, director of the Meteorological Institute and president of the program committee selected at an international meeting of meteorologists in Copenhagen in 1928, the globe already has been divided among the nations interested in the polar year phenomena and each nation has been assigned its sphere of study.

Denmark will have three stations in West Greenland; Holland is to have an expedition stationed at Angmagsalik, midway up on the coast of East Greenland; France will have a station on Scoresby Sound, East Greenland, where an expedition ship has already landed supplies and scientific instruments; the United States will have stations in two other parts of Greenland, and Germany will have her station at Ivigtut.

Meanwhile Australia and New Zealand are cooperating with the American investigators who are establishing several stations near the magnetic south pole. These stations will attempt to establish wireless contact with their colleagues studying north polar conditions, and the simultaneous exchange of meteorological data regarding current conditions in the north and south polar regions is expected to be of immense scientific interest.

Other stations are also planned at Spitzbergen, Novaya Semlya, Baffin Land and Point Barrow. If possible radio communication will be established between all the stations and data on phenomena simultaneously checked from many points. The personnel