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

of all the expeditions will spend the winter at their frozen posts.

THE NATIONAL PARKS

FOLLOWING President Hoover's lead in mobilizing the industrial and commercial interests of the country in aid of national prosperity, the Secretary of the Interior, Ray Lyman Wilbur, on December 6, opened a conference of representatives of the public utilities operating in the national parks which it is hoped will result in increasing the use of these areas by the public generally, and in promoting the expenditure of travel funds by our people in the United States rather than abroad.

The main purpose of the meetings, which are periodic and were expected to continue to the following week, is to work out, with the utility operators, methods of furnishing adequate standardized or similar service in the various parks.

In concluding his address Secretary Wilbur spoke of the educational development that is going on in the parks, saying, however, that the word educational does not quite express what the service is endeavoring to do.

"What we seriously want," he said, "is to make botany, zoology, geology and other natural sciences interesting to the people generally. We want to give them an opportunity in the parks to see just what nature is. We have got together a very interesting group of men studying the effect of the parks, which are really museums of nature, on the thinking of our people.

"The parks should be viewed as great natural resources rather than circuses where people go to have a good time in the popular meaning of the word. We find the development of this so-called educational phase of the parks is being well received by visitors generally."

The secretary also paid a tribute to the loyal support which the great western railway systems have given the government in its endeavor to popularize the parks.

In concluding, he asked the operators to consider (1) the working out of plans that will adequately protect legitimate investments; (2) how a reasonable standardization of service to the public in the various parks may be obtained; (3) means of arriving at uniform rates for similar types of service in all the parks, and (4) the prompt working out and submission to the government of plans for expansion to care for heavy travel.

A PHILADELPHIA SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM IN MEMORY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

NEARLY 400 leaders of science, industry and civic affairs, according to the New York *Times*, pledged themselves on December 5 to support the establishment in Philadelphia's Parkway, as a memorial to the genius and humanity of Benjamin Franklin, of a great scientific museum, a type of institution which the German Ambassador, Baron von Prittwitz und Gaffron, declared would "do more to establish peace and progress in humanity than all the work of all the diplomats."

Completed plans for a combined museum and memorial, patterned largely after the Deutsches Museum in Munich and expected to cost about $5,000,000, were presented at a dinner given by Cyrus H. K. Curtis, president of the Benjamin Franklin Memorial, Inc., at the Downtown Club.

Described "as a place not only where learning shall be shown in its greatness and power but where learning shall be made attractive," the museum project was outlined and praised in addresses and talks made by Dr. Howard McClenahan, secretary of the Franklin Institute, which, with the Poor Richard Club, is sponsoring it; former Senator George Wharton Pepper, Owen D. Young, Ambassador von Prittwitz und Gaffron, Pierre de la Blanchetai, of the French Embassy, and Mayor Mackey.

A resolution of support, introduced by Sidney E. Hutchinson, was adopted.

A plot of ground, 350 feet square, between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, and valued by Mayor Mackey at about $3,000,000, has been contributed by the city as a site for the memorial, and its sponsors hope to break ground next spring. It will combine a graphic arts museum, a planetarium, a Franklin memorial chamber, museum for displays of bridges, docks, canals and industrial developments, an observatory, library and headquarters for the Franklin Institute.

Several contributions of $250,000 or more have been pledged to the project, but the total in sight has not been announced. Samuel S. Fels has provided for a Zeiss planetarium. In the astronomical section will be a Foucault pendulum shaft in which a pendulum will demonstrate the rotation of the earth and a room for the display of Ptolemaic and Copernican planetaria. It is proposed that the library will be composed of one of the finest scientific selections in the world.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION

ACCORDING to a news bulletin of Science Service the first monument to Captain James Ault, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who was killed when his ship, *The Carnegie*, was destroyed by explosion and fire in Apia Harbor, Samoa, on November 29, will consist of his own work and that of his associates, which will form a special section at the institution's annual exhibition, open in Washington from Saturday, December 14, to Monday, December 16.