

remarks upon a new specimen of the supposed fossil Lamprey (*Palaeospondylus Gunni*) from the Old Red Sandstone of Caithness, and read a note on its affinities. — A communication was read from Dr. Robert Collett, F.M. Z.S., on a collection of Mammals made by Mr. Knut Dahl in North and North-west Australia in 1894—96. The collection contained specimens of 34 species, two of which, viz. *Pseudochirus Dahlii* and *Smithopsis nitela*, proved to be new to science. The former species had been described in the 'Zoologischer Anzeiger' for 1895; the latter was characterized in the present paper. — Mr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., read a paper "On the Distribution of Marine Mammals." The marine area of the globe was divided into six sea-regions, viz. Arctatlantis, Mesatlantis, Indopelagia, Arctirenica, Mesirenica, and Notopelagia, which corresponded to a certain extent with the six land-regions proposed by Mr. Sclater in 1874. The characteristic Mammals of each Sea-region were pointed out. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., read a paper on a collection of Earthworms from South Africa, belonging to the genus *Acanthodrilus*, which had been made in the Cape Colony by Mr. Purcell, of the South-African Museum, and forwarded to him by Mr. W. L. Sclater. Examples of nine new species were contained in the collection, which fact was of great interest, as previously only one representative of the genus *Acanthodrilus* had been known to exist in South Africa. Mr. Beddard also described a new genus of Earthworms, belonging to the family *Eudrilidae*, from Lagos, West Africa, under the name of *Iridodrilus*. — Dr. Forsyth Major exhibited a series of skulls and photographs of species of the African Bush-Pigs (*Potamochoerus*), and pointed out the characters of a new species from Nyasaland, which he proposed to call *P. Johnstoni*, remarkable for its large size and slender snout. He also showed that the *Nyctichoerus hassana* of Heuglin, from Abyssinia, formed a distinct species of *Potamochoerus*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

III. Personal-Notizen.

Necrolog.

Am 20. Nov. 1896 starb in Glasgow David Robertson. Er war am 10. Dec. 1806 geboren und sollte, ohne Mittel, Landwirth werden, fieng aber an Medicin zu studieren und wurde schließlich Kaufmann. Sich mit 54 Jahren vom Geschäft zurückziehend widmete er sich nun der lange ersehnten Beschäftigung mit niederen Seethieren. Die Gründung der biologischen Station in Millport auf den Cumbræ-Inseln ist hauptsächlich seiner Energie zu danken. Liebenswürdig und allezeit hilfsbereit wird er seinen vielen Freunden unvergessen bleiben.

Am 7. Februar (26. Jan. a. St.) starb in Moskau A. N. Kortschagin (A. H. Кортягинъ), Conservator des zoolog. Museums der Universität zu Moskau. Der Verstorbene war als Erforscher der Crustaceenfauna des Moskauer Gouvernements bekannt.



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