

discovered the minor planet Ceres. The search being continued, Olbers, on March 28, 1802, discovered Pallas, on September 1, 1804, Harding discovered Juno, and on March 29, 1807, Olbers discovered Vesta. The fame of Olbers spread far and wide. He represented Bremen at the baptism of Napoleon's son the King of Rome in 1811, and during 1812-13 was a member of the legislative body in Paris. The Royal Society elected him a foreign member in 1804, and the Paris Academy of Sciences in 1829 made him a foreign associate. He was the correspondent of nearly every astronomer in Germany, and through him Bessel became known in the scientific world. Indeed he declared that his discernment of the genius of Bessel was a greater service to astronomy than his own work on comets and planets. He was a man of lovable disposition, generous and unassuming.

Laurent Théodore Biett (1781-1840)

DR. LAURENT THÉODORE BIETT, a celebrated Paris dermatologist, was born in 1781 at Schams, in the Grison canton of Switzerland. Seven years later he moved with his parents to Clermont-Ferrand, where he commenced his medical education under Bonnet, the senior surgeon to the Hôtel Dieu. At the beginning of the century he came to Paris, where he qualified in 1814 with a thesis entitled "Quelques Observations sur la frénésie aiguë idiopathique". Shortly after qualification he was appointed physician to the Hôpital Saint Louis, where he carried out some important improvements, including the establishment of an out-patient department for diseases of the skin, of which he was the director for sixteen years. While attending a patient in London in 1816, he took the opportunity of studying the work of Willan and Bateman, and on his return to Paris endeavoured to introduce their classification of skin diseases, which was in opposition to that drawn up by his friend Alibert.

Biett made many valuable contributions to the treatment of skin diseases, including the use of iron and arsenic internally, the employment of sulphur baths and the application of dry and hot air. His lectures, which were edited by Cazenave and Schedel, appeared in 1828, went through three editions, and were translated into English in 1842 by T. H. Burgess. He also contributed many articles to the "Dictionnaire des sciences médicales", and all the articles on diseases of the skin to the twenty volume "Dictionnaire de médecine", in addition to papers in periodical literature such as the *Bulletin de Thérapeutique*, *Gazette des Hôpitaux* and *Journal universel des sciences médicales*. Being a devotee of the arts, he was the medical attendant of many well-known painters, sculptors and actors. He died of heart disease on March 3, 1840.

Colonial Development and Scientific Research

PUBLICATION of the recommendations of the West Indies Royal Commission together with the important statement of policy on colonial development and welfare (H.M. Stationery Office. Cmd. 6174, 6175), to which Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, H.M. Secretary of

State for the Colonies, made reference in the House of Commons on February 20, mark a momentous enlargement in scope in the administrative and financial relations between Great Britain and her colonial and other dependencies of analogous status which will have a profound effect on their future. The measures which the Government now proposes after an examination of Colonial problems which had been begun sometime before the outbreak of the War is an acceptance of an obligation which has long seemed inevitable to those who have been engaged in the scientific investigation of conditions in these dependencies if Great Britain's responsibility is to be met.

In brief, the proposals are as follow: The place of the Colonial Development Fund, instituted in 1929, and limited to a sum of £1,000,000 a year, will be replaced by a greatly increased provision for development and welfare. The sum will amount to not more than £5,000,000 a year for a period of ten years, at the end of which period this provision is to be reviewed. The amount thus made available, is not, however, from one point of view the most important enlargement. On one hand, assistance will no longer be granted, as hitherto in the main, solely to capital expenditure, but recurring expenditure will come under this provision. On the other hand, while certain purposes of expenditure have not been ruled out in terms, assistance has been granted generally to material development. In future this will not obtain; and such services as agriculture, health, education and housing will be brought into the account.

Nor are the claims of the important question of research overlooked. Hitherto, as Mr. MacDonald pointed out, the Colonial Office has been able to call upon the assistance of scientific and technical experts in dealing with Colonial problems. This service will now be placed upon a permanent basis by the institution of a Colonial Research Advisory Committee, while for dealing with its recommendations a sum of £500,000 a year will be allocated. This will be used to assist in the various fields of research. As already mentioned, these proposals apply not only to the Colonies and Protectorates, but also to the Mandated Territories. The pause, which, as Mr. MacDonald intimated to the House of Commons, must ensue before they can come into full operation, will give the necessary breathing space for the careful preparation of plans.

Tibetan Coronation

It is perhaps not surprising that, even amid other and insistent preoccupations, the accounts of the final act of the installation of the new Dalai Lama sent by correspondents to the world's daily press, have created a profound impression. Nowhere else, except possibly in Japan, could the inauguration of a new head of the State have so closely wedded the spiritual and the political and civic elements in what is virtually an act of coronation, and at the same time united every member of the population in an expression of combined loyalty and religious fervour.