one of Great Britain's famous prime ministers failed.

It is quite generally known that the Right Honorable Wm. E. Gladstone was an eminent Greek scholar, regarded as an authority in university circles. It is not so generally known that on one occasion he went to Athens to deliver an address in Greek. It was a long speech seemingly full of eloquent and loud-sounding periods. The audience applauded vigorously, but the applause was due to politeness, not comprehension, as those present thought that the orator was speaking English.

Each commencement we behold some vacant-eyed youth crowned with a *summa cum laude* in Greek, and we wonder as we look at him if he should be dropped down in some corner of Greece, whether he could tell the natives his name and where to take him.

ALEXANDER MCADIE

QUOTATIONS

MEDICAL RESEARCH IN INDIA

THE committee on retrenchment in India, over which Lord Inchcape presided, recommended, among other things, that the payment of research officers from central revenue should cease, and that the grant-in-aid to the Research Fund Association should be discontinued. The association had accumulated 33 lakhs, derived from the Government contribution and earmarked for a new central institute at Delhi; the committee advised that the interest on this sum should be used for the maintenance of medical research. The *Pioneer,* which is commonly credited with being well informed as to the intentions of the Government of India, stated in its issue of June 7 that it was understood that the Inchcape Committee's recommendations regarding the continuance of expenditure on medical research will not be accepted in their entirety. The adoption of the drastic proposals put forward by Lord Inchcape and his colleagues would, our contemporary continues, have involved "the virtual closing down of all research work in India, for, in the face of such a curtailment of activity, the chances of obtaining research workers in the future would have been small indeed. As it is, there is ground for the belief that the policy to be adopted will be that of securing a state of suspended animation. Thus instead of abolishing the appointments of twelve bacteriological officers, as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, it is proposed to leave six of these appointments unfilled until financial conditions are more favorable. The establishment of a central research institute at Delhi and the grant of five lakhs a year to the Indian Research Fund Association are similarly suspended. This measure of retrenchment will be regretted, but it, at least, will not render the position hopeless, and it provides the retention of a nucleus for expansion when the occasion is suitable. The Directorship of Medical Research has been abolished for the time being, but arrangements are being made for that officer's duties to be carried on departmentally." The *Pioneer* goes on to express the opinion that if its prognostications prove to be correct, the Government of India has been able "successfully to temper its obsession on the subject of retrenchment with a due appreciation of the vital importance of medical research in a country like India." We can only express a fervent hope that this interpretation of the situation may prove to be correct; it does not seem to be a particularly courageous manner of dealing with a matter of so much importance. As we observed when the Inchcape report was first published, it is a paltry piece of economy to cut down the relatively small sum provided for the scientific study of the causes which lead to the high mortality among the 350 millions of the population of India. The amount represents an expenditure of about one twelfth of a farthing a head a year. The wisdom and policy of establishing a central medical research institute at Delhi is, we admit, open to doubt; it may be very much wiser to subsidize provincial institutes and special inquiries. It is easier to destroy than to build up, and even if a nucleus be retained the loss of experienced workers can hardly fail to make the eventual expansion more difficult.—*British Medical Journal.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Minéralogie de Madagascar, Vol. I and Vol. II. By A. LACROIX. Paris, Augustus Challamel, editeur, Librairie maritime et coloniale, 1922; Vol. I, 624 pp., 27 plates, one physical map in colors; Vol. II, vii, 694 pp., 29 plates and 11 maps in the text, 4to.

THE "Minéralogie de Madagascar," by Prof. Alfred Lacroix, of which the first and second volumes have appeared, is one of the most comprehensive studies of its kind that has been published, and gives us a wealth of information regarding the mineralogy and petrography of France's great island colony.

The first volume is devoted to the geology of the island, the first chapter giving a general idea of its geography (pp. 1–18). In the second chapter (pp. 19–148) the various geological aspects are described at considerable length under the sub-headings, "Region of Crystalline Schists" (pp. 19–51); "Sedimentary Formations" (pp. 52–56); "Intrusions and Post-liasic developments," "Recent Volcanoes" (pp. 77–150). This is followed by a section devoted to the mineralogy of the island (pp. 151–604).

The second volume treats of applied mineralogy, mining, etc. (pp. 1–218), of lithology (pp. 219–576).

The writer begins by noting that, after New Guinea and Borneo, Madagascar is the largest island of the