

Notes and News

An African Studies Association in the United States

AN African Studies Association was recently established in the United States by thirty-five leading scholars and specialists on African affairs at a meeting in New York. A news release by the United States Information Agency reports that the functions of this non-political Association will be to facilitate communication among scholars interested in Africa and to stimulate research on Africa by specialists in various scientific disciplines and the humanities. The Association will focus attention upon the problems of sub-Saharan Africa, but since the ties between North and Southern Africa have been so greatly strengthened by modern communications, and in view of the interest expressed among the leaders of independent Africa in the creation of an African bloc, the Association will welcome to its membership specialists in North African Research.

The meeting set up a temporary organization, with Professor Melville Herskovits as President and Dr. Gwendolen M. Carter as Vice-President, and a Board of Trustees, including Dr. W. O. Brown (Director of the Boston University African Studies Program and Consultative Director of the International African Institute), Father John Considine, Dr. L. Gray Cowan, Dr. Leonard Doob, Dr. Walter Goldschmidt, Dr. Franklin Frazier, C. W. de Kiewiet, and Dr. Vernon Mackay. The Trustees were empowered to draft a constitution and administer the Association's affairs until the convening of the first annual meeting.

Members of the International African Institute will wish every success to this new departure in African studies in America.

Johns Hopkins University, Washington: African Studies 1957-8

THE School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C., announces a program of intensive study of current African political and economic problems, designed for University graduates preparing for careers in international service. Courses will be given on Southern, East, and West Africa, on social change, economic problems, and Africa in relation to world politics. Fellowships are available for qualified university graduates.

Health questions and Community Development in Ghana

THE April 1957 number of *Advance*, the organ of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, is largely concerned with questions of health, and includes articles on cleanliness in the home, on the Red Cross Society, on the work of the Ghana Leprosy service, and on problems of maternal and child care. The last article, contributed by the Medical Officer of the Princess Marie Louise Clinic in Accra, gives an account of the various agencies in Ghana concerned with the care of mothers and children—child-welfare centres, maternity and children's hospital services, ante- and post-natal clinics, and midwife services. The author lays particular emphasis on the problem of malnutrition which is widely prevalent among mothers and children. Malnutrition is to be attributed not so much to poverty as to ignorance, and the first necessity for overcoming it is education, particularly in the matter of food values, animal husbandry, agriculture, and hygiene.