

*The Changing Role of Missionary Societies in Africa*

A PAPER on this subject was given to the Commonwealth Section of the Royal Society of Arts, London, by the Rev. Canon J. S. Kingsnorth, General Secretary, Universities' Mission to Central Africa, on 29 November 1962, with Mr. Philip Mason, Director of the Institute of Race Relations, in the Chair.

Canon Kingsnorth began by describing the early mission-states or stations which took African converts out of their own environment and often uprooted them from their background of tribal solidarity. The weakness of this early method was its rejection of African culture, which was regarded as too barbaric to be sublimated into a Christian and civilized way of life. In the next stage schools and hospitals were developed and missions expanded under the protection of the peace and order enforced by the ruling powers. But the association of Church and State was one of convenience only, and the struggle to demonstrate this is the essence of the crisis the Church is facing in Africa today. The important schools which grew up in Central and East Africa at this time have produced many of the leaders of the newly independent countries, who are thus men of Christian culture. On the other hand, most of the best scholars became teachers, and in the present crisis, when the Church needs educated leaders, very few of the African priests or ministers have any secondary education.

The missionary societies are now in the handing-over period. Most missionaries welcome the new governments and want to co-operate with them, and the missionary of today must identify himself with African aspirations. The Church in Africa now has its own governing bodies, officials, finance committees, ministers, priests, and bishops, and is independent of influence from abroad. Missionary societies have no say in the control of policy in the African Church. Their role is to act as 'prayer pressure-groups, fund-raisers, and recruiting agencies'. The need is for priests and ministers who will train African church leaders and for others who will do ordinary pastoral work under African supervision. Canon Kingsnorth foresaw groups of African Christians working on the missionary task in their own country and missionaries from abroad joining these groups and working in harness with the Africans. Similar groups in England will have African members. The permanent role of missionary societies is 'to organize the exchange of men and money this system necessitates, and the background of Christian prayer that must support it'.

*'The Journal of Modern African Studies'*

THIS new journal, edited by David and Helen Kimble, is to be published quarterly by the Cambridge University Press. The field of study will be modern Africa and the aim will be to bring together the best current work on a wide range of related subjects that have not hitherto found a common published forum. The main emphasis will be upon African politics and economics, peoples, policies, international relations, human geography, and social psychology. Literary and cultural topics will also be dealt with occasionally. Interest will centre on the present day and on the many new societies which are evolving, rather than on archaeology, anthropology, history, and linguistics, which already have their own outlets for publication. The journal will be concerned not only with academic and specialist interests but also with promoting more informed general discussion of contemporary African affairs. An Editorial Advisory Board will be established, composed of specialists from the relevant fields of study and from as many different countries as may be appropriate.

Contributions to *The Journal of Modern African Studies* are invited from scholars all over the world. Accounts of original research and field-work in progress will be particularly welcomed, provided that their significance is of some general validity. It is hoped that many working in related fields will thus be brought into closer touch. Articles written in languages other than English will be considered on their merits, and where necessary transla-