

established and six more had been planned, in addition to four village schools in Moslem areas. Where men from a village or group of hamlets have built a school by their own labour, they show a great interest in the school's development; parents' committees have been formed and are flourishing. Only the shortage of trained teachers prevents the building of great numbers of schools, and it is hoped that new Teacher-Training Centres will soon enable this limitation on progress to be removed.

The Uganda Museum

THE report of the Committee of Management for the years 1952-3, which includes the Curator's report, is mainly concerned with the museum's removal to a new site. The museum has hitherto occupied a block of class rooms within the precincts of Makerere College; in future it will be housed in a building of its own at the head of Kibante valley. Before the old museum was closed a survey was made of the views of visitors in order to ascertain their reactions to the exhibitions in general and to particular groups of exhibits. In 1953 most of the collections were moved to the new buildings by the museum staff and work was concentrated on preparing for the reopening of the museum as soon as possible. In the mean time exhibitions have been held in houses, collections have been lent to other exhibitions, and lectures have been given by members of the Museum staff.

Sierra Leone Society

THE Sierra Leone Society was founded in May 1954, as the result of a suggestion made by the Governor, Sir Robert de Zouche Hall. The Society has adopted *Sierra Leone Studies* as its journal and will eventually take over complete responsibility for its publication. It will hold meetings to hear and discuss papers; meetings so far have been held in Freetown, but it is hoped to develop activities in provincial centres and elsewhere. The Society also hopes to organize field clubs for the study of geology, natural history, and folk-lore, and to develop a museum more general in scope than the small collection already made under the auspices of the Monuments and Relics Commissions. A start has been made with the planning of the museum; a suitable building in Freetown is likely to be available and good small collections already exist at Magburaka Training College and other centres. Inquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. A. T. Porter, Fourah Bay College, Freetown.

Council for Old World Archaeology

AN organization has been created to advance the study, in America, of the archaeology of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. Its aim is to enable the various groups of specialists concerned with the study of different aspects of archaeology to become familiar with the activities of the others. The Council consists of representatives of nine American organizations, and it proposes to publish an annual survey of the more important archaeological activities in every area of the Old World, by areas, and for every period of time from the Early Pleistocene to the present time. These accounts will be supplemented by select annotated bibliographies. The office of the Council is at 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge 38, Mass.; Mr. Noel Morss is clerk and treasurer.

Historical Records of Nigeria

DR. K. O. DIKE, of University College, Ibadan, has reported¹ to the Government of Nigeria on the preservation and administration of historical records and the establishment

¹ *Report on the Preservation and Administration of Historical Records and the Establishment of a Public Record Office in Nigeria*, by K. O. Dike. Govt. Printer, Nigeria, 1954, price 9d. net.

of a Public Record Office. The report describes and classifies the historical documents relating to Nigeria, which include Arabic writings dating from the tenth century (though most of these were destroyed during the Fulani conquest of Northern Nigeria) and archives of the British administration dating from 1849. Of particular interest are the very full minutes kept by the Courts of Equity which settled disputes between European and African traders in the Niger Delta. Other archives are preserved at various local administrative centres; some records have been kept by indigenous administrations, such as Kano and the Egba United Government which, until 1914, enjoyed a semi-autonomous status. In addition there are the records of public corporations and of missionary societies. All these documents are of great historical interest, and the need for their conservation as national archives has long been recognized. Lack of space and of staff to examine and classify the material, as well as the absence of regulations relating to the destruction of public records, has prevented the systematic administration of these documents. As a result of a survey on which Dr. Dike has been engaged over the past three years, in collaboration with the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research, he recommends the establishment of a record office and the immediate appointment of a full-time archivist to work in conjunction with the survey staff. For the future he envisages the setting up of an Archives Committee representing Government, Churches, prominent Nigerians, the University College and commercial firms; the Committee would ask all departments of Government to initiate a system of examination, arrangement, and numbering of all archives preserved there. The transfer of records from government departments to the record office could then be proceeded with gradually and the relations between a central Record Office and regional offices for the housing of local archives could be worked out.

Éducation de base en Oubangui-Chari (A.E.F.)

UNE mission d'éducation de base a opéré à Boykota, près de Dékoa, en 1952 sous la direction de M. Pierre Fourré, Directeur du Centre Français d'Information sur l'Éducation de Base. Elle comprenait le personnel africain suivant: un instituteur, une monitrice d'enseignement, un médecin, un infirmier, un moniteur d'agriculture, un ouvrier menuisier, et, de façon intermittente, un instituteur européen et un cinéaste. L'équipe comptait au début deux autres Européens.

Trois buts principaux étaient assignés à l'entreprise: (1) réaliser une expérience d'éducation de base en milieu rural; (2) former et instruire des spécialistes en vue de la continuation de l'éducation de base en Oubangui-Chari et dans d'autres territoires; (3) produire des moyens audio-visuels d'éducation de base pour des missions ultérieures. Les grandes lignes du programme qu'il convenait d'appliquer étaient les suivants: santé et hygiène individuelle; vie familiale et domestique; vie économique; vie sociale; vie civique et morale. L'alphabétisation était l'objectif secondaire de la mission.

L'expérience de Boykota est passée par trois phases: (1) Démarrage: cette période a confirmé que les paysans s'intéressaient aux réalisations qu'on leur proposait mais que le travail collectif bénévole les déconcerte. (2) Phase deux a été marquée par l'extension de certaines activités à deux villages voisins et par l'affermissement de techniques qui ont été lancées en titre expérimental. (3) Au cours de la troisième phase, les activités de la mission se sont étendues à six nouveaux villages. Le meilleur travail a été effectué par le service de santé. Les cours de français parlé ont été fréquentés par une quarantaine d'adultes contre 60 à 75 au début. Par contre l'école a connu un engouement exempt de défaillance.

Le rapport de M. Fourré est consacré aux obstacles qu'il a trouvés sur son chemin, dont le plus grand paraît être l'attitude des femmes: ' Une société quelconque ne peut évoluer sans qu'évoluent parallèlement les femmes qui la composent . . . dans la société noire la