

There are now 133 members of the Society, which was founded in 1952 'to promote the study of the history of Ghana and of adjacent territories in West Africa and their peoples'. Its headquarters is in the History Department of the University College of Ghana and there are active branches at Kumasi and Cape Coast.

At the Conference five papers were read: 'Richard Brew: an 18th Century trader at Anomabu', by Margaret Priestley; 'The Migration of cocoa farmers from the early 1890's to the present day', by Polly Hill; 'Jacobus Elisa Johannes Capitein (1717-47)', by F. L. Bartels; 'The role of Anglo-African journals and journalists in the 19th and 20th Century history of Ghana', by K. A. B. Jones-Quartey; and 'Some developments in Akan administrative practice, 17th and 18th Centuries', by Ivor Wilks.

The Society's Ninth Annual Conference will be held at the Kumasi College of Technology in January, 1960.

[Communicated by G. W. Irwin]

### *Seminar for Anthropological Field Workers in British Central Africa*

ANTHROPOLOGISTS at present engaged in field work in the Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland met at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland under the auspices of the Department for African Studies for a seminar which lasted from 2 to 11 June. The following papers were read—Dr. I. Lewis on 'A Classification of African Political Systems', Mr. G. K. Garbett on 'Structural Changes in some Zezuru Villages: 1948-1958', Mr. R. Wishlade on 'Modern Sectarian Movements in Nyasaland', Mr. J. Argyle on 'Clan and Lineage amongst the Soli', Dr. R. Apthorpe on 'Nsenga Clan Joking Relationships', Mr. R. Rotberg on 'Growth of Missionary Activities in Northern Rhodesia', Dr. P. Roumeguère on 'Dialectics of Order and Disorder among the Karanga Complex', and Mrs. J. Roumeguère on 'Dynamic Approach to the Kulunga Karanga Complex'.

### *Seminar on the Place of Vernaculars in Literary Study in African Schools*

A SEMINAR on the place of vernaculars in literary studies in African schools was held at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland over the weekend of 5-7 June. Thirty delegates from Departments of Education, Information Departments, Publications Bureaux, and the University College, together with several individuals who were personally interested in this problem, met to discuss the place that Vernacular Studies should occupy at both primary and secondary levels of education. After an opening address by Professor N. H. MacKenzie the following papers were read—Dr. J. K. Louw on 'The Study of African Vernaculars at Primary School Level', Mr. E. Smith on 'The Use of Vernaculars as the Medium of Instruction in African Primary Schools', Mr. G. Mhlanga on 'Method used in teaching Vernacular in Secondary Schools', Miss M. Gordon on 'What Vernacular Teaching could learn from Methods of Teaching English', Mr. G. Wilson on 'What African Vernaculars can offer for Serious Study', Mr. G. Michongwe on 'The Outlook for Vernacular Literature', Dr. C. Wake on 'Language Teaching Policy in French Territories', Mr. P. Stevenson on 'The Teaching of Classics in African Schools'.

### *East African Institute of Social Research Conference, January 1959*

THE following papers were presented and discussed at the East African Institute of Social Research's Conference in January: 'The Arms Trade in Africa in the late Nineteenth Century', by R. W. Beachey; 'The Attack on the Supreme Court in the U.S.A.', by Marjorie Dilley; 'Some Social and Economic Implications of Paternalism in Uganda', by C. Ehrlich; 'Administrative Aspects of the 1958 Uganda Elections', by C. F. Engholm; 'The Sudanese

Troops in Uganda: from Lugard's Enlistment to the Mutiny, 1891-7', by O. W. Furley; 'Taxation Problems of Federalism', by J. D. Nyhart; 'Some Preliminary Reactions to Uganda's Development Plans', by D. Walker; 'Some Aspects of the Administration of the Belgian Congo', by P. Whitaker; 'Administration and Politics in two Swahili Communities', by G. E. T. Wijewardene.

### *Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research Conference*

THE Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research held a conference of social scientists from all parts of West Africa between 15 and 20 December last. The conference was the sixth of the series started by the former West African Institute of Social and Economic Research in 1952. It took place at University College, Ibadan.

The fifty-five delegates who attended included members of the staff of N.I.S.E.R., of University College, Ibadan, the University College of Ghana, the Universities of Oxford, Edinburgh, Dakar, Stanford, and of Nigerian Government Departments.

Twenty-seven papers on subjects of economic and social relevance to West Africa were read and discussed. The proceedings will be published.

### *Inter-African Committee on Linguistics (C.C.T.A.)*

THE Inter-African Committee on Linguistics of C.C.T.A. met at Tervuren near Brussels from 29 June to 1 July 1959. The meeting was attended by representatives from Belgium, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the Union of South Africa, with M. Jean-Paul Lebeuf as Secretary of the Inter-African Committee for Social Sciences.

The project for republishing rare grammars and dictionaries of African languages is now at a stage where member governments will be asked to finance the publication of ten books during the years 1960 and 1961. The books are Armstrong: 'The phonetic structure of Somali'; Christaller: *A Grammar of Tshi*; Laman: *Dictionnaire kikongo-français*; Endemann: *Versuch einer Grammatik des Sotho*; Chatelain: *Grammatica elementar do Kimbundo*; Smith: *A Handbook of the Ila Language*; Bazin: *Dictionnaire bambara-français*; Goldie: *Dictionary of the Efik Language*; Krapf: *A Dictionary of the Suaheli Language*; van Warmelo: *Tshivenda-English Dictionary*, or Gaden: *Le Poular*.

The Committee has recommended that a conference of African linguists, especially those working in African university institutions, be held under C.C.T.A. auspices in Africa in 1961. The purpose of the conference would be to plan a programme for studying the nature and development of the different *linguae francae* and pidgin languages used in Africa south of the Sahara, and also to find ways of studying the modifications which European languages undergo when they are used in African communities.

Other projects include the compiling of a list of African grammars written by African authors. The list will consist of the title and location of each grammar, with notes on the terminology used by the author. It will be a guide to unpublished manuscripts as well as published works. The Committee also intends to issue an annual register of field work which is in progress on African languages.

[Communicated by Guy Atkins]