

Notes and News

A Survey of Africa

A SURVEY of Africa south of the Sahara, specially designed to supply the American public with 'non-partisan and unimpeachable information', is to be prepared by Dr. G. H. T. Kimble under the auspices of the Twentieth Century Fund, New York. It is proposed that the survey, after an introductory account of the history of European discovery and settlement of Africa and of 'the present ferment', shall include the following major sections: *Colonial Africa as a whole*; this will include a survey of geographical, geological, and climatic features, including water supplies, vegetation, fauna, soils, mineral resources, &c.; an account of African peoples in which such subjects as ethnic groupings, population density and distribution, languages, religions, social structure, diet and living standards, and 'cultural diffusion and fusion' will be discussed. This chapter will also deal with detribalization, 'evolus', European, Asiatic, and multi-racial communities, and the spread of 'the western veneer'; a discussion of the economy, covering types of economic activity, land use and land tenure, mineral exploitation, industry, trade, transport and communications, labour and capital, with references to schemes of land and industrial development, will occupy a third chapter; a fourth will be devoted to government, including indigenous political structures, colonial administration, indirect rule and native authorities, nationalist movements; this chapter will include a discussion of law and justice. A fifth will be concerned with health and medical services, including 'the inter-connections of diet, health, productivity and prosperity'. Education, including adult education schemes, vocational training and higher education will be dealt with in Chapter 6, and the concluding Chapter of this first section is devoted to 'Research and Development'. The second major section, *African Colonies*, will treat each non-self-governing territory separately, presenting much of the material in the form of maps and tables. The last section will discuss *Some Contemporary Problems* in a series of essays on such subjects as 'The education of an African Intelligentsia', 'The democratization of Colonial Administration', 'Inter-Colonial Co-operation', 'Integration of European and Indigenous Cultures'. The survey will include a bibliography of sources, a list of authorities consulted and information on centres for African studies in North America, Europe, and Africa.

The comprehensive character of the survey and the systematic treatment of material are clear from the foregoing summary of the prospectus issued by Dr. Kimble and circulated by the Twentieth Century Fund. Indications are given that those responsible for the survey intend to consult all the existing sources of information in America, Europe, and Africa—official and independent organizations, research institutions, academic bodies, and individual scholars. In addition field studies extending over a period of 9–12 months are envisaged. Since the basic components of the survey are considered to be geography, economics, social anthropology, and government, the first stage of the survey will be the preparation of a series of illustrated reports written by specialists in these fields. The production of film-strip series, documentary films, maps, illustrated booklets, and newsletters may follow, while the final report, described as 'a one-volume distillation of many peoples' skills, experience and opinions', will be more concerned with synthesis than with analysis and would be addressed to the educated layman rather than the specialist.

East African Literature Bureau

IN pursuance of its aim to increase the number of books available to East African readers, the Bureau up to the end of 1952 had published, or helped to publish, 281 books in 16

languages. Sales at the end of 1952 were over 366,600 volumes of 154 titles published by the Bureau, and 300,000 volumes of 127 titles published by commercial firms with the Bureau's help. Books on health constituted 21 per cent. of the Bureau's own publications, but general educational books have sold best, accounting for 26 per cent. of total sales. African authors have contributed 40 books to the Bureau's publications and 20 for publication by commercial firms. A library service started operating in 1952, being organized in three territorial branches, in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika-Zanzibar. It has been found that schools make very good use of the library services, as well as village centres in some areas. Postal services have also been developed. In Kenya alone 8,000 books were sent by post to readers during 1952.

During 1952 the Bureau started publication of a magazine *Tamaza* which has a circulation of about 12,000 copies per issue, and is designed to provide reading matter of an entertaining nature as well as articles of general information.

Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland Publications Bureau

THE Bureau's report for 1952 gives details of 25 new titles published by the Bureau or with its assistance, as well as 8 reprints; of these 11 were in Nyanja, 6 in Lozi, 5 in Bemba. The majority (13) of the new publications were by African authors, and the subject-matter included novels and stories, plays, histories, technical books, studies of social problems, dictionaries, phrase-books, and readers. The total number of volumes produced during the year was 175,500.

Inter-Territorial Language Committee

SINCE April 1952 the Inter-Territorial Language Committee has been attached to the East African Institute of Social Research, and Mr. William Whitely, who holds a senior Fellowship in Linguistics at the Institute, is acting as Secretary to the Committee. At a meeting of the Committee in December 1952 it was resolved that in future the Committee should concern itself only with manuscripts specially intended for use in schools as textbooks. The Committee also approved two research projects: a study of the Kimvita dialect of Swahili, to be carried out by the Secretary, and an analysis of observable trends in Swahili derived from scrutiny of current newspapers. Plans were also made for improving the Bulletin by subsidizing its printing.

Symposium on Popular Education

THE Afrika Instituut, Leyden, organized in March-April 1952, a conference on popular education, a report of the proceedings of which was published in Leyden in 1953. The conference concerned itself with popular education in French North Africa, Tropical Africa, Indonesia (before the Second World War), and Netherlands New Guinea. M. A. Brye and M. A. Gille discussed literacy campaigns in the Belgian Congo; Professor Margaret Read dealt with Adult Education in British African Territories, and Professor A. N. Tucker contributed a paper on the Linguistic Aspect of Mass Literacy Movements. The problem of popular education in French Tropical Africa was treated by M. Georges Balandier. In addition to the text of the papers presented at the Conference, the report includes lengthy bibliographies, a summary of discussions (in English and French), and the resolutions formulated by the Conference. These record the opinion of the Conference that the provision of superficial or simplified education is only a first step towards the fullest possible education of African peoples; that such education should be related to Africa's economic, political, cultural, and spiritual needs; should take into account the needs of urban and rural