

NOTES AND NEWS

PROVISIONAL arrangements have been made to hold the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Council in the third week of November. It is proposed that the meeting should take place in London. Further details will be given in the next issue of *Africa*.

Professor Westermann has returned to Europe after visiting Nigeria and Sierra Leone to advise the Governments on linguistic problems. A full report of the results achieved will appear in the next number. Letters have been received from the Government of Nigeria expressing satisfaction with the work accomplished.

Professor Westermann also had an opportunity of visiting Accra where he gave advice in regard to the union of the two dialects Fante and Twi into one written language. The union of these two dialects into one language is particularly interesting, as Professor Westermann formed the opinion when he was on the Gold Coast in 1927 that such a step would be a necessary development in the stabilization of the orthography of the Gold Coast languages. He had, however, not anticipated that progress would be so rapid that this stage would be reached after a period of only two years.

On his return journey, Professor Westermann spent a short time in Liberia where he was able to give advice on various educational problems.

A special grant has been made by the Carnegie Corporation to the funds of the Institute for the purpose of enabling Professor Thurnwald of Berlin University to undertake an anthropological expedition to East Africa. The districts to be visited by Professor Thurnwald and the particular objects of his inquiry have not yet been decided upon, but he proposes to leave Europe in February 1930, and to remain in Africa for a year. The results of his investigations will be published in the series of monographs to be brought out by the Institute.

Miss Fegan, of Girton College, Cambridge, has recently returned from West Africa where she studied women's customs among the Bachama at Numan and on the Benue in Adamawa Province (Northern Provinces, Nigeria). Miss Fegan also investigated problems in connexion with the education of girls and women in West Africa generally. She hopes to publish an account of women's education and has also deposited notes on the birth customs among the Bachama at the Secretariat at Kaduna.

Mr. Bailey Willis of Washington has received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and is shortly leaving for East Africa, where he will make geological studies of the Rift Valleys in co-operation with experts from Tanganyika and Uganda.

Dr. I. Friedlaender and Dr. C. G. J. Friedlaender are shortly undertaking an expedition to East Africa. Both are specializing in the study of volcanoes. Dr. I. Friedlaender is the founder and head of the Volcanological Institute at Naples.

By the kind permission of the authorities concerned, the Executive Council have been able to obtain for the members of the Institute permission to read in certain libraries having collections of books of special value to those who are interested in Africa. The following is a list of the libraries which may be used : London : Library of the Royal Empire Society, Library of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Paris: Bibliothèque de la Société de Géographie; Brussels: Bibliothèque du Département des Colonies au Ministère des Colonies; Berlin: Bibliothek des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde, Bibliothek der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Bibliothek des Museums für Völkerkunde; Hamburg: Bibliothek des Seminars für Afrikanische und Südseesprachen.

As special conditions are made in certain cases, members desiring to avail themselves of this privilege are requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Institute, who will supply cards of introduction, together with any necessary information.

Mr. Hanns Vischer recently gave a lecture at Basel which has aroused great interest in the work of the Institute in Switzerland. He has been asked to give further lectures, and as a result of his visit to Basel twenty-five new Swiss members have joined the Institute.

A minute has recently been issued by the Governor of the Gambia impressing on administrative officers the importance of a knowledge of a native language in their work. Suggestions in regard to language study are made, particularly the study of place-names and proverbs, and it is announced that in future the standard of the examination test in colloquial and conversational Mandingo, Jolof, and Fulah will be raised.

The development of Kiswahili as an educational and administrative language in the Uganda Protectorate continues to engage attention, and correspondence on this subject between the Governor of the Uganda Protectorate and the Colonial Office of Great Britain has been published at Entebbe.

Dr. Doke of the Department of Bantu Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, is at work on language problems in Southern Rhodesia. He is at present travelling over the country obtaining information about the inter-related group of Chisona dialects which are spoken by the greater number of Natives in the Colony, and there is every reason to believe that with the help of the strong Committee behind him he will prove successful in establishing a common basic vocabulary and orthography.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS NUMBER

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