

## NOTES AND NEWS

THE Congress held in Paris last October under the auspices of the Institute was well attended by members and others interested in African problems and the papers read aroused much interest. Professor Labouret, the Vice-President of the Congress, is hoping that it may be possible to publish a volume of transactions. Those interested in such a publication are requested to communicate with him at the Paris office of the Institute, 26, rue de la Pépinière, for further information.

An account of the proceedings of the Congress and list of speakers appears in the Annual Report on p. 75 of this issue.

**LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS.** At an early stage of the organization of the Institute the Executive Council gave careful thought to the best way of providing library facilities for its members. The limited financial resources made it impossible to provide a library which could equal those already existing, and it was therefore decided to ascertain whether the authorities of libraries having collections of books of special value to students of African problems would permit members of the Institute to make use of their collections. This request met with a ready and cordial response, and in consequence members of the Institute are permitted to read in the following libraries:

Berlin. Bibliothek des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde, Bibliothek der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft.

Boston, U.S.A. Boston College Library, Newton.

Brussels. Bibliothèque du Département des Colonies au Ministère des Colonies.

Hamburg. Bibliothek des Seminars für afrikanische und Südseesprachen.

Italy. All government libraries.

London. Library of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Library of the Royal Empire Society.

Paris. Bibliothèque de la Société de Géographie, Bibliothèque du Ministère des Colonies.

These facilities are greatly appreciated by members and widely used. The list is reprinted in order to bring this privilege to the notice of new members.

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.

VERNACULAR PERIODICALS, no. 8, *Moxwera wa Babaso*. Sotho, Transvaal (information supplied by Rev. C. Hoffmann, Mphome).

*Moxwera wa Babaso* is a monthly paper for the Transvaal Basotho, and is written in their language. It has already reached its twenty-eighth volume and has a circulation of 600. The paper consists of four sheets, each approximately 18 in. by 12 in. The subscription is three shillings per annum.

The present-day Bantu are not like those of fifty years ago. In those days, practically all were satisfied with the tales which the old men told. The interesting events of the local and neighbouring tribes were usually discussed in the evening in the *Kxoro ya banna*, the meeting-place of the men. But times and customs have changed. The view of life has expanded and such tales are no longer sufficient. The brain needs other food. This new hunger for mental food is not confined to the Christians; the Basotho, who still believe in the spirits of ancestors, crave for news of the outer world, of other lands and other peoples. The European has opened up a new world to them. And with this is coupled a very strong urge for education. All the literature that can enrich them with knowledge, is eagerly sought.

It was not the aim of the editors of this periodical to draw the readers into the turmoil of politics. Their object was to act rather as advisers on other public and private problems in daily life, and especially on subjects of interest to the Bantu in general. The paper is thus composed of discussions of religious problems, articles on school matters, columns on interesting events occurring in all parts of the world, essays on historical or religious matters and articles on happenings that have occurred in the different communities to which the readers belong. Correspondence on interesting subjects is also encouraged, the readers themselves taking part. These subjects vary from discourses on church problems to discussions of topics of a more general nature. Such correspondence sometimes runs through several numbers and often raises interesting points which are of great educative value. The letters are read with great eagerness.

The paper is edited in the language of the Transvaal Basotho. But some of the readers belong to the BaVenda, and so a few articles are written in TsiVenda. Now and then an article appears in Afrikaans, for those who are more at home in that language.

The paper is edited in close co-operation with the Literature Commission of the Berlin Mission Society, from whose members the editors and sub-editors are chosen. The native parsons, teachers, and helpers support the editor with great enthusiasm by sending in numerous articles on happenings in their own individual communities or tribes.

How much the readers appreciate the value of 'their' paper is well shown by the fact that they, times without number, urge that the paper should be published, not monthly but weekly if not bi-weekly. When some years ago on account of financial stress *Moxwera wa Babaso* was in danger of ceasing to

exist, whole communities collected funds among themselves in order that 'The Friend of the Basotho' might still come into their kraals every month.

Unfortunately the circulation is not as large as could be wished. This is due to the fact that the average Transvaal Mosotho is a very poor man. That is why one copy is read by whole groups of natives, who cannot afford to buy their own copies.

The Literature Commission also publishes, in conjunction with *Moxwera wa Babaso*, an annual, called the *Thšupa—Mabaka a Kereke*, consisting of fifty to sixty pages, 8vo, price one shilling. This is written in Sotho, and is published in an edition of about 2,500 copies. It seems to be very popular with our Transvaal Basotho. It is richly illustrated, and contains, apart from a list of Bible texts for daily reading, numerous interesting articles, written by well-known and learned men who have made special studies of the Bantu and their customs, outstanding missionaries and native parsons and teachers, with a natural bent for literature.

UNBEKANNTE VÖLKER WESTAFRIKAS. [Herr E. von Sydow schreibt:] Unter diesem Titel fand in Dresden die Ausstellung der Forschungsausbeute statt, die der Expedition Bernatzik-Struck verdankt wird, die sich bis Ende April dieses Jahres in Portugiesisch-Guinea aufhielt und die Stämme des Festlandes sowie der vorgelagerten Bidyogo-Inseln untersuchte. Es ist eine erstaunliche Fülle interessanter Objekte, die z. T. kurz vor Toresschluss eingeheimst werden konnten: Kultgegenstände und Wirtschaftsgerät, Keramik und Figurenschnitzwerke, Flechtarbeiten und Farbstoffballen, Klangröhren und Schnitztrommeln und Tanzausrüstungen.

Wenden wir uns erst den Kunstwerken der *Bidyogo-Insulaner* zu. Hier treten zunächst die aus den Sammlungen E. Huntz nach Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden usw. gelangten bekannten Figuren auf, die ich in meinem *Handbuch d. afrikanischen Plastik* (1930) ausführlich besprochen habe: Tanzfiguren der Mädchen mit weit auseinander gespreizten Beinen, Stierkopfmasken, Schalen, die von Figuren getragen und bekrönt werden, Zierlöffel, die auf die einfache Form von Rührlöffeln zurückgehen und zu Trägern bemerkenswert hübscher figürlicher Beschnitzung entwickelt worden sind, usw. Interessanter aber sind noch Reihen von sog. Seelenbildern (Insel Ankaras), die man nach der Überlieferung in eine lehrreiche Abfolge anordnen kann. Anfangs Brettartige Idole mit knopfartiger und griffmässiger Bekrönung, bilden sie sich zu Hermen und schliesslich zu Sitzfiguren um — ein Verwandlungsprozess, der sich im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert vollzogen hat. In C. Einsteins *Negerplastik* findet man auf den Tafeln 26 und 27 ein Beispiel der letzten Entwicklungsstufe abgebildet. Hier ist Neuland der afrikanischen Kunstgeschichte, wenn auch nicht eben bedeutenden Umfangs.

Diese Dokumente beachtenswerter künstlerischer Begabung stehen nicht isoliert. Sondern sie sind eingebettet in eine grosse Fülle ethnographisch

wichtiger Objekte, von denen ich die wichtigsten Dinge hervorhebe, soweit sie Festland-Stämme betreffen. Da haben wir von den Pepel: Wirtschaftsgeräte, wie Tongefässe, Körbe, dann Tanz-Keulen, -Schwerter, Rückenhihlen der Tanzgruppenführer der Beschneidungskandidaten (analog den Balante), Tanzschmuck der Halbwüchsigen für den Flamingotanz, Kopfaufsätze für den Stiertanz und Hörnerkampf, nebst weiterem Tanzzubehör, wie Knieband, Leibgürt etc., endlich Schmuckgegenstände aller Art. Von den Bayot erwähnen wir Pfeile, Ruder, Körbe, Schild aus Nilpferdhaut, Bienenkörbe, kleine Kämme. Bei den Mankanaya war bemerkenswert ein Tanzschurz mit alten Perlen. Reich vertreten sind die Balante. Hier war als einzige auf dem Festland gefundene Figurenplastik eine Tonfigur von Belang; daran reihen sich als besonders wichtig Tanz-ausrüstungen der Halbwüchsigen (Aufsatz, Bauchring, Arming, etc.). Von den aussterbenden Kassanga brachte die Expedition u. a. eine Maske aus Palmblättern mit, die zur Nachtzeit in den Dörfern als Frauenschreck auftritt, ferner Zauberkörper in gedrehter Form, sog. 'Chine' (vergl. mein *Handbuch der afrikanischen Plastik*, i. Bd., S. 27 f.), und aus Indigoblättern gestampften, getrockneten Farbstoff. Bei den Mandyako sind grosse Prunktücher zu nennen, die vorwiegend als Leichentücher Verwendung finden, bei den Fulup farbig reizvolle Hochzeitstücher für Frauen.

Im Ganzen ist die Allseitigkeit bewundernswert, die diese Sammlung auszeichnet, deren Leitung in den Händen von Prof. B. Struck ruhte. Man darf hoffen, dass zusammen mit den fotografischen Aufnahmen von Bernatzik und den literarischen Arbeiten, die wir von beiden Forschern erwarten können, sich ein ebenso plastisches wie differenziertes Bild der materiellen und ideellen Kultur der erforschten Stämme ergeben wird.

Miss L. C. Mair, who has been working as research assistant to Professor Malinowski at the London School of Economics, has been awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship for research work in Africa. She has now left London for Uganda, where she proposes to study the effect of European settlement upon native institutions.

WELLCOME GOLD MEDAL FOR ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH. The Royal Anthropological Institute in London announces that Dr. Henry S. Wellcome has founded a gold medal to be awarded annually for the best research essay on the application of anthropological methods to the problems of native peoples, particularly those arising from intercourse between native peoples or between primitive natives and civilized races.

The medal will be open to competition among all nationalities and further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Contributors to *Africa* are requested to supply with their manuscripts a brief summary of their articles which can be translated into a second language. Experience has shown that summaries prepared by the authors themselves are most useful to readers, and, although he will make every effort to do so, the Editor cannot always undertake to publish a summary unless one has been supplied by the author.

MEMORANDA. The attention of readers is called to two new memoranda which have recently been added to the series.

Memorandum VIII, *The Missionary as an Anthropological Worker*, price one shilling, has been added to the series in response to numerous requests. It contains the articles 'The Missionary as an Anthropological Field-worker', by D. Westermann, and 'The Missionary's Concern in Sociology and Psychology', by R. Thurnwald, which appeared in *Africa*, vol. iv, nos. 2 and 4 respectively.

Memorandum IX, price one shilling, is a reprint of the paper on the Five-Year Plan of Research which appears on p. 1 of this issue.

Binding covers for Volume IV of *Africa* have been prepared and can be obtained either direct from the offices of the Institute or through any bookseller. Price 3s. 6d., postage 3d.

Bound copies of previous volumes of the *Journal* are also available, price £1 10s. 0d. per volume, and can be obtained in the same way as the binding covers.