

Notes and News

U.N.E.S.C.O. in Nyasaland

NYASALAND will be the setting for a 'pilot project' in education by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with the Nyasaland Government. The experiment will try out the latest techniques and materials, including films and phonographs, for education in literacy, health, agriculture, and community living. The aim will be to raise living standards in a tribal agricultural community and to spread literacy, at first in the vernacular and later in English.

African Students take part in Cultural Survey

FOUR African students of Natal University College took part in the cultural survey of the Transkei carried out by the National Union of South African students with the approval of the Union Department of Native Affairs.

The Housing of Africans in the Union.

THE industrial revolution through which the Union of South Africa is passing entails, as Mr. Stent shows in his article, an increasing urbanization of the African population. So rapid has this been in late years that it has produced an acute housing problem: it is authoritatively estimated that 150,000 houses are needed for Africans alone. The problem is largely financial. Great municipalities, like Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, have initiated and carried through excellent schemes with the aid of subsidies from the central Government—the maximum is £30 per house—but the rents charged are sub-economic and impose a heavy burden on rate-payers which those in smaller towns are not always ready to bear. The Government is constantly urged to check influx into the towns and to remove Africans who are already domiciled there. Many town councillors are of the opinion that employers should be responsible for housing their own workers. It is now realized that the migration is not temporary but has become a permanent factor in the life of the Union.

The Government has authorized the National and Planning Commission to build sub-economic houses for Africans and is prepared to bear the whole loss incurred in respect of schemes carried out by the Commission. Since the Commission can produce houses at a cheaper rate than the local authorities are able to do—they are said to have proved this ability in regard to houses for Europeans—the Government appears confident of actually saving money by the new plan. Not only houses but roads, drainage, lighting, and communal buildings will now be the responsibility of the Commission. Ownership will remain with them, while administration is vested in the local authorities.

Education for Citizenship in Africa

THE sub-committee set up in March 1946 by the British Colonial Office Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies has now published its report (Col. No. 216, H.M.S.O.) which deals largely with Africa. The authors of the report point out that, since the declared aim of British Colonial policy is the achievement of responsible self-government, it is necessary, if such government is to be democratic, for citizens to be well informed on all matters which are the concern of government, to be capable of forming an independent judgement, and to develop a sense of public responsibility. The sub-committee makes

detailed recommendations as to the manner in which education can foster the acquisition of these qualities; with regard to children in schools it suggests that particular attention should be paid to relating the subjects of study to circumstances and events outside school and to providing opportunities for the exercise of responsibility. Reference is made also to adult education, to plans for mass education, and to the possibility of extending work in adult education through movements such as the Workers' Educational Association and University extension schemes in England. The importance of the cinema, wireless, the Press, and government information services are noted. The report is insistent on the need for educational work to be accompanied by advances in political responsibility, and attaches special importance to the development of local government and to the participation of Africans in development councils and the co-operative movement.

Memorial to Lord Lugard

THE Executive Council of the Institute, at its recent meeting in Brussels, approved a proposal from the Bureau that Lord Lugard, its first chairman, should be commemorated by the institution of a lecture, to be known as the *Lugard Memorial Lecture*, and to be delivered annually, if possible, on the occasion of the meeting of the Executive Council. An invitation to deliver the lecture shall be regarded as an award for meritorious work in the field of African studies.

Each lecturer will receive an honorarium of twenty guineas, or books of an equivalent value; the lecture, unless the Executive Council shall determine otherwise, will be delivered in either English or French and will be published in *Africa*, or in such other form as the Executive Council may recommend.

Inquiry into the Effect of Modern Contacts upon the African Family with Special Reference to Marriage Laws and Customs

A MAJOR research project, for the expenses of which grants have been awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the British Colonial Office, is to be carried out under the joint auspices of the Institute and the International Missionary Council. The subject of the inquiry is one which is arousing increasing interest in scientific, missionary, and administrative circles, and its importance for an understanding of the present situation in Africa, and for the solution of many sociological, religious, and administrative problems, will not be questioned.

The inquiry, as planned, will be carried out in two stages. The first stage will be concerned with a survey of the very considerable body of scattered and largely unco-ordinated material already available in published and other documentary sources, and with the preparation of a report which will be of immediate value to those directly concerned with the practical aspects of these questions. As a result of this survey it will be possible to delimit the special aspects of the study and the specific areas in which further researches will be required. It is hoped that field studies in selected areas will constitute the second stage of the inquiry.

The inquiry will be directed by a committee appointed jointly by the International African Institute and the International Missionary Council, and including representatives of the Colonial Social Science Research Council, the *Conférence Romaine des Missions en Afrique*, the Association of Social Anthropologists, and other interested bodies.

Centre Local de l'Institut Français d'Afrique Noire au Dahomey

LE Centre local de l'Institut Français d'Afrique Noire au Dahomey a été créé en 1942, mais n'a commencé à s'organiser qu'à la fin de 1944. Son activité s'est orientée tout naturelle-