

## Notes and News

### *Executive Council Meeting.*

The twelfth meeting of the Executive Council of the Institute will be held in Brussels on 30 June and 1 July. The main subject for consideration will be the work undertaken in connexion with the Five Year Plan of anthropological and sociological research which has been made possible by the generous grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. An account of the work proposed has already appeared in an earlier number of this journal.

A report of the proceedings will appear in the next issue.

### *Third East African Archaeological Expedition.*

The third East African Archaeological Expedition, led by Dr. Leakey, returned to England in December 1932. The Expedition's work was mainly concentrated upon two areas, one on the southern shores of the Kavirondo Gulf of Victoria Nyanza and the other at the south-east corner of the great Serengeti Plains of Tanganyika Territory. For many years now it has been known that stone tools of the types which in Europe belong to the Chellean and Acheulean cultures occurred in East Africa. Moreover, in Uganda Mr. E. J. Wayland had already found evidence which indicated that these cultures in East Africa had a high antiquity. Unfortunately, however, no series of tools of these cultures had been found in East Africa in association with a fossil fauna, nor yet under geological conditions where a good stratigraphical sequence was obtainable.

The two principal areas chosen for the past season's work by Dr. Leakey have both long been known to be rich in fossil animal remains and they were therefore selected in the hope that Stone Age cultures might be found in association with these fossils and this in fact proved to be possible.

The Oldoway gorge at the south-east corner of the Serengeti was first worked over by Dr. Hans Reck in 1913, and he collected an excellent sample of the fauna, and also discovered a fossil human skeleton. This skeleton, which came to be known as 'the Oldoway man', was the subject of much controversy, and so in 1931 Dr. Reck was invited to join the British Expedition in its work at Oldoway in the hope of finally settling this problem of the Oldoway skeleton.

In the field the opinion was formed that Dr. Reck had been right in attributing a great age to this human find, but subsequently after numerous samples of the Oldoway deposits had been carefully analysed and compared with the matrix of the skeleton this view was rejected and the age was

determined as probably late Pleistocene, at the time when the East African form of the Upper Aurignacian culture flourished. More important than the fixing of the age of the Oldoway man was the discovery at Oldoway of a complete and continuous evolutionary sequence of Stone Age tools from a crude Pre-Chellean pebble industry up to a very advanced Acheulean. This sequence of culture stages found in a series of stratigraphical superimposed strata and in association with numerous fossils, is chiefly of importance because it is the first time such a complete and unbroken cultural sequence of this age has ever been found at a single site. Perhaps one of the most surprising features of the discovery was the fact that the earliest of these culture stages, the Pre-Chellean pebble culture, was found to be associated with fossil animals such as *Deinotherium*, an aberrant form of elephant which was supposed to have died out long before the Pleistocene period of the earth's history.

Whereas the Oldoway area yielded a very rich harvest of stone tools, the other area, of which Kanam and Kanjera were the two most important sites, yielded comparatively few tools, but on the other hand proved to be very important in that fragmentary fossil human remains were found in association with fossil faunas and with stone tools which determined their age very satisfactorily. At Kanam a fragmentary fossil human mandible was found with tools of the Pre-Chellean pebble culture and with animals such as *Deinotherium* and *Mastodon*, whilst at Kanjera very broken and fragmentary human skull caps were found associated with an evolved Chellean stage of culture and with a fauna which includes *Elephas antiquus*.

These various human remains are all of a very primitive type, but at the same time resemble more closely the modern type of man, *Homo sapiens*, than they do any of the other archaic types such as the Piltown and Peking men, with whom they were contemporary. Not only do these East African human remains reveal a type which in all probability represents the early Pleistocene stages through which modern man passed, but also for the first time we at last get some idea of the type of man who made the Pre-Chellean and Chellean culture stages, with which, up till now, no human fossils had been found for certain.

The Royal Anthropological Institute convened a conference to discuss the early human remains discovered by the Expedition and to examine the material which Dr. Leakey had assembled in Cambridge. The Conference met on 18 and 19 March at St. John's College through the courtesy of the Master and Fellows. Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, F.R.S., presided. After hearing Dr. Leakey's exposition of his discoveries and a general discussion of questions arising therefrom the Conference appointed committees to report respectively on the geological, palaeontological, anatomical, and archaeological evidence. The Conference accepted the reports, congratulated Dr. Leakey on the exceptional significance of his discoveries, and expressed

the hope that he might be enabled to undertake further researches, being of the opinion that there is no field of archaeological inquiry which offers greater prospects for the future.

*Exposition au Musée du Trocadéro par M. Labouret.*

Au cours de la mission scientifique qu'il a accomplie dernièrement en Afrique Occidentale, M. Labouret ne s'est pas borné à recueillir les observations scientifiques et directes sur les sociétés négro-africaines et sur les droits fonciers, il a collectionné de très nombreux objets concernant les diverses activités des communautés qu'il a visitées. Il a pu obtenir en outre un assez grand nombre de pièces relatives au culte et aux manifestations des sociétés dites secrètes, en particulier de celle du Simo.

Ces différents objets, de taille diverse, au nombre de plus de 500, comportant depuis des instruments culinaires jusqu'à des masques sacrés haut de plus d'un mètre cinquante ont été offerts au Trocadéro. Le Musée d'Ethnographie et le Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle dont dépend le Musée, ont jugé le don tellement important qu'ils ont décidé d'en faire une exposition ouverte au public du 28 avril au 28 mai.

Cette manifestation a eu le plus grand succès en faisant connaître l'Institut et son œuvre. Elle a été annoncée dans tous les journaux français et dans quelques organes de la presse anglo-saxonne continentale. L'Exposition a été ouverte par M. Albert Sarraut, Ministre des Colonies. Il s'est fait expliquer longuement les méthodes de travail et de recherches employées pour étudier les sociétés et les droits fonciers. Il a été vivement frappé par les procédés utilisés pour recenser les familles, observer les genres de vie, le travail, la collaboration des communautés. Le Ministre s'est arrêté dans la salle réservée aux masques Simo et il a admiré l'effigie monumentale de Nimba, représentation de la fertilité et de la fécondité, qui se dresse au milieu.

*Exposition du Livre Colonial.*

Une Exposition du Livre Colonial a été organisée à Paris du 29 mai au 3 juin. Elle a eu lieu au siège de l'Agence Économique du Gouvernement Général de l'Indochine, rue La Boétie à Paris. M. Albert Lebrun, Président de la République, et M. Albert Sarraut, Ministre des Colonies, avaient tenu à l'inaugurer en personne.

Grâce à l'amabilité du Comité Directeur, un stand avait été réservé aux publications de l'Institut, qui ont été admirées et consultées par de nombreuses personnes.

*The Linguistic Situation in the Western parts of the Niger Delta.*

Mr. Welch's communication on this subject in the April number of *Africa* (p. 220-222) is of great interest to those acquainted with this part of Nigeria