

Notes and News

East African Institute of Social Research

THE East African Institute of Social Research, which has been projected since 1948, has now been established at Makerere College under the Directorship of Dr. Audrey Richards. Work will be carried out in Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, and Zanzibar and will include sociological, linguistic, economic, legal, and psychological studies. The Institute will be closely associated with Makerere College and will report annually to the Council of that College as well as to the Colonial Social Science Research Council of the British Colonial Office. It has, however, its own staff, who will not be engaged on teaching duties, and an independent programme of research.

It is hoped that the Institute will fulfil the following functions: (a) The establishment of a centre of African and mainly East African studies for the extension of our knowledge of the cultures and languages of the peoples of East Africa and their present-day reactions to modern political, economic, and educational policies. The Institute will accumulate and analyse documentary material in the form of books, reports, unpublished manuscripts, maps, &c. prepared by its staff and other research workers in East Africa. It will have the great advantage of being able to share the library facilities of Makerere College. (b) The conduct of field studies both of an ethnographic and specialist character. The initial research of the Institute will probably consist of ethnographic and linguistic field studies carried out in areas for which no up-to-date descriptive material is at present available. But the staff will be interested from the first in problems as well as in peoples, and will endeavour to pool data collected in different tribal districts so as to throw light on particular problems of theoretical or practical interest. The Institute will devote immediate attention to the comparative study of African political structures in four or five type areas with reference to their adaptation to modern conceptions of local government and types of present-day activity.

Other problems which would benefit from comparative study are: (1) the effects of different education policies on social and individual life; (2) indigenous methods of upbringing and their effect on character and personality; (3) incentives to labour in different type areas and the participation of Africans and Indians in recent economic developments; (4) different patterns of migratory labour in East Africa; (5) differential race attitudes among East African peoples. (c) The organization of experiments in research methods. It is considered that the time has now come to conduct experiments in methods of social research which have been or could be most successful in acquiring information on the social and economic problems of East Africa, and that an academic body is more fitted than any other to carry out such experiments. Experiments in the techniques of urban social surveys under special African conditions will be made in the conduct of the Jinja social survey listed below. (d) The organization of studies of administrative importance on behalf of the Government. It is presumed that the Institute will sometimes be asked to undertake field investigations on behalf of the East African Governments and it will accept such tasks if it has the staff and funds to do so. It may also be able to get information on special projects of interest to Governments in areas where it already has a research officer working. The Institute will co-operate as closely as possible with Government research departments and has already arranged work on these lines with the Statistical Department on the East Africa High Commission. (e) The training and assistance of research workers. It is hoped that the Institute will be able to provide additional training in research methods, as well as preliminary linguistic training, for research workers who are new to the country. It also hopes

to train African investigators and research assistants. (f) The Institute will publish the results of the research of its own officers or others working in similar fields.

In addition to the Director the staff of the Institute will include five anthropologists. One urban sociologist has been appointed and a second post in this field is contemplated. A linguistic post has been advertised and the appointment of a senior economist, a psychologist, and a legal expert are under discussion.

The following projects of research are contemplated in the near future:

- (1) A social survey of Jinja to be started in 1950.
- (2) Anthropological studies in Buganda, Busoga, and Bunyankole, as well as tribal studies in the Lake Province of Tanganyika and in West Kenya which are under discussion. Co-operation with anthropologists at present studying the Alur, the Lugbara, the Acholi, the Turkana, and the Ambo, and with research workers shortly undertaking studies among the Kikuyu and the Teita, has been arranged.
- (3) It is hoped that Dr. Tucker of the School of Oriental and African Studies will initiate linguistic studies at the Institute and will himself carry out a survey of some of the Nilo-Hamitic languages.

The Institute is very anxious to accumulate information on the peoples of East Africa in the form of published work and unpublished manuscripts. The Director will be grateful for copies of unpublished material that members of the Government Service or Missionaries may have collected in the course of their work. Of particular value are historical accounts of tribal movements; data on social structure, clan organization, village organization, the family, marriage, age grades, &c.; accounts of local cases or court procedure; data on modern economic conditions and on urban problems.

The Institute will also welcome offers of help on research problems from members of the Government Service or missionaries who have opportunities for making observations.

All inquiries should be addressed to the Director, East African Institute of Social Research, Makerere College, P.O. Box 262, Kampala, Uganda.

Regional Organization of Research in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland

IN October 1945 the Central African Council appointed a Special Committee on Joint Research to report on the steps to be taken to co-ordinate research in the three territories and in particular on the appointment of a Joint Director of Research. The Committee reported in November 1946 and recommended that a Central African Research Council should be set up with headquarters at Salisbury. The Council accepted the recommendation in principle, but deferred action pending the results of a survey of Central African Research. The Survey was carried out in 1947-8 by Dr. J. E. Keyston, whose report was submitted to the Central African Council in September 1948.¹ Dr. Keyston travelled widely through the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, visited neighbouring territories, and had a great number of discussions with scientists, officials, and with representatives of many cross-sections of the community. He concludes that much more research should be undertaken, that more centralized organization is needed, that the conditions of service for research scientists are not satisfactory, and that arrangements for ensuring the supply of scientific manpower are inadequate. He considers, however, that the support and control of research are too exclusively governmental and that there is insufficient co-operation with other countries. He suggests that, though many of these deficiencies could be remedied to some extent by separate action in each territory, a more far-reaching improvement could be effected through co-operative action and that an essential element in the machinery required for collaboration in research is a joint

¹ *Regional Organisation of Research in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland: A Report to the Central African Council*, by Dr. J. Keyston, O.B.E., D.Phil., B.Sc., F.Inst.P., Salisbury, 1949, pp. 91. 5s.