

Notes and News

Research in the Social Sciences in Africa South of the Sahara

At a meeting of specialists organized by the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara (C.S.A.) and held at Makerere College in February 1953 it was decided to prepare summary statements describing organizations currently concerned with research in the social sciences and operating in Africa, including notes on the work being undertaken and the names of the workers concerned. These statements have now been prepared by the various specialists who attended the meeting, and have been published, under the auspices of C.C.T.A.¹ The pamphlet contains accounts of the organizations engaged on research in the social sciences, both those operating from headquarters in metropolitan countries, and institutions established in African territories. The section on Belgium, Belgian Congo, and Ruanda-Urundi is prepared under the direction of Professor van den Berghe of IRSAC; France and French African territories are dealt with by Professor H. Deschamps, Portugal by Dr. J. Santa-Rita, the Union of South Africa by Professor Monica Wilson, Rhodesia and Nyasaland by Dr. Clyde Mitchell of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute; the United Kingdom, British West Africa, and the High Commission Territories, by Mrs. E. M. Chilver, Secretary of the Colonial Social Science Research Council; British East Africa by Dr. A. I. Richards, Director of the East African Institute. Each section describes the method of organization of the institutions concerned and gives information on researches in progress and, in some cases, on collaboration with other institutions. The whole pamphlet thus provides a fair conspectus of researches and national research organizations concerned with social sciences in Africa.

A brief section at the end of the book is devoted to international organizations, i.e. the International African Institute and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Unfortunately the section on the International African Institute, for which no author's name is given, contains numerous inaccuracies and gives no indication that this Institute's contribution in the field of sociological and linguistic research in Africa long preceded that of most, if not all, of the other organizations described.

Community Schools in Zaria Province

CONSTITUTIONAL changes, as well as social and economic progress, in Zaria Province, Northern Nigeria, have recently created a much more urgent and widespread demand for education, and the Native Authority's 'Development Plan' has proved quite inadequate to meet it. A scheme has been devised by the Provincial Education Officer whereby villages are building and maintaining their own schools. Certain initial difficulties in erecting suitable buildings had to be overcome, but in 1952-3 five community schools were started. The buildings were erected by communal labour, largely using local materials. The maintenance of the school buildings is undertaken by the community; the Native Authority is named as the 'Proprietor' of the school and the 'Manager' is the N.A. Council member for education. Teachers and equipment are provided by the Native Authority. Religious instruction is provided for by sending the children to classes organized by the various missions operating in the area. (In strictly 'pagan' villages there is some difficulty in complying with the Government regulation on this subject!) By Sept. 1954 ten community schools had been

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established and six more had been planned, in addition to four village schools in Moslem areas. Where men from a village or group of hamlets have built a school by their own labour, they show a great interest in the school's development; parents' committees have been formed and are flourishing. Only the shortage of trained teachers prevents the building of great numbers of schools, and it is hoped that new Teacher-Training Centres will soon enable this limitation on progress to be removed.

The Uganda Museum

THE report of the Committee of Management for the years 1952-3, which includes the Curator's report, is mainly concerned with the museum's removal to a new site. The museum has hitherto occupied a block of class rooms within the precincts of Makerere College; in future it will be housed in a building of its own at the head of Kibante valley. Before the old museum was closed a survey was made of the views of visitors in order to ascertain their reactions to the exhibitions in general and to particular groups of exhibits. In 1953 most of the collections were moved to the new buildings by the museum staff and work was concentrated on preparing for the reopening of the museum as soon as possible. In the mean time exhibitions have been held in houses, collections have been lent to other exhibitions, and lectures have been given by members of the Museum staff.

Sierra Leone Society

THE Sierra Leone Society was founded in May 1954, as the result of a suggestion made by the Governor, Sir Robert de Zouche Hall. The Society has adopted *Sierra Leone Studies* as its journal and will eventually take over complete responsibility for its publication. It will hold meetings to hear and discuss papers; meetings so far have been held in Freetown, but it is hoped to develop activities in provincial centres and elsewhere. The Society also hopes to organize field clubs for the study of geology, natural history, and folk-lore, and to develop a museum more general in scope than the small collection already made under the auspices of the Monuments and Relics Commissions. A start has been made with the planning of the museum; a suitable building in Freetown is likely to be available and good small collections already exist at Magburaka Training College and other centres. Inquiries about the Society should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. A. T. Porter, Fourah Bay College, Freetown.

Council for Old World Archaeology

AN organization has been created to advance the study, in America, of the archaeology of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. Its aim is to enable the various groups of specialists concerned with the study of different aspects of archaeology to become familiar with the activities of the others. The Council consists of representatives of nine American organizations, and it proposes to publish an annual survey of the more important archaeological activities in every area of the Old World, by areas, and for every period of time from the Early Pleistocene to the present time. These accounts will be supplemented by select annotated bibliographies. The office of the Council is at 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge 38, Mass.; Mr. Noel Morss is clerk and treasurer.

Historical Records of Nigeria

DR. K. O. DIKE, of University College, Ibadan, has reported¹ to the Government of Nigeria on the preservation and administration of historical records and the establishment

¹ *Report on the Preservation and Administration of Historical Records and the Establishment of a Public Record Office in Nigeria*, by K. O. Dike. Govt. Printer, Nigeria, 1954, price 9d. net.