

Notes and News

Colonial Research Advisory Committee

MEMBERS of the Institute will be interested to know that a Colonial Research Committee has now been set up to advise the Secretary of State on all problems affecting research in the British Colonies. It has already had several meetings. It will be remembered that under the old Colonial Development Act of 1929 up to £1,000,000 was provided every year for development schemes in the Colonies, including research. During the eleven years of the Act's existence just under £600,000 was spent on research projects. Under the new Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940 up to £500,000 a year is set aside for 'promoting research or enquiry'. The new Research Committee has been appointed to advise the Secretary of State on schemes submitted for assistance under this Act. It is also entrusted with another task. It is 'to advise upon and co-ordinate the whole range of research in Colonial studies, irrespective of the provision of funds', and is actually engaged on a survey of this kind, as announced in the House of Commons on June 10th last.

The heading 'research' covers a wide field. Besides research in medicine, preventive and clinical, nutrition, agriculture, animal health, forestry, geology, fisheries, entomology, and so forth, the social sciences that lie nearer to the special field of interests of this Institute are to be included. Such social studies can presumably be taken to comprise Colonial administration, Colonial economics, labour management and industrial welfare in Colonial areas, demography, linguistics, sociology, Islamic, Bantu and other systems of law, educational methods as applied in Colonial societies, psychological studies, music and other arts, technology and archaeology.

The Committee is at present composed as follows: Professor A. V. Hill, O.B.E., F.R.S., M.P. (Secretary of the Royal Society), Sir Edward Mellanby, K.C.B., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (Medical Research Council), Sir Edward Appleton, K.C.B., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S. (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), Dr. W. W. C. Topley, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (Agricultural Research Council), Mr. A. M. Carr-Saunders (Director of the London School of Economics), Mr. Henry Clay, Sir John Caulcutt (Director of Barclays Bank, D.C. and O.). The Committee has power to call other experts to give evidence and to discuss particular projects.

Linguistic Training for Africans

A NOTE appeared in the last number of the *Africa* Supplement to the *Journal of the Royal African Society* on the training of Africans for linguistic and literary work. It may be of interest to readers to learn that two Yoruba graduates have begun a course of language work at the school of Oriental and African Studies. They are Mr. Rotimi Williams, B.A., Law (Cambridge) and the Rev. Tanimo Solaru, B.D. (London). Whether it will be possible to carry out fully the suggested programme of work under present conditions is doubtful, but the important thing is that a beginning has been made and two men have thought it worth while to devote time and energy to this work.

Appointment at the School of Oriental and African Studies

The Rev. M. Guthrie, ex-missionary with experience in the Belgian Congo, has been appointed to the Staff of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, as a Senior Lecturer in Bantu Languages. Mr. Guthrie is spending a year in Africa, where,

in addition to linguistic research in Northern Rhodesia and East Africa, he is visiting various centres on behalf of the British Council. His previous work on African Languages includes the translation of the New Testament into Lingala and a Grammar of Lingala (in French).

An Anthropological Expedition

An anthropological expedition to Nigeria under the joint auspices of the North-western and the Ohio State Universities, U.S.A., is to be undertaken. Dr. J. Harris, who spent 1939 in the Ibo country, and Dr. Bascom, who was in the Yoruba area in 1938, form the personnel, and their terms of reference, so to speak, are 'to study the acculturation of Europeans and Natives in Nigeria'. This will mean they will work in the larger centres of population mainly. With their background of experience, one of the east and the other of the west of Nigeria, they should form an excellent team for the purpose. We wish them every success.