

submitted papers *in absentia*. As well as historians and archaeologists, the Conference embraced, *inter alia*, anthropologists (both social and physical), botanists, geographers, lawyers, linguists, and political scientists. About half the members came from outside the United Kingdom: some fifteen African countries were represented, Nigeria with 21 and Ghana with 10 members providing the largest contingents, and there were also members from the U.S.A. (eight), France (seven), Belgium (five), India (two), Portugal, and Germany.

Some 114 papers had been submitted and circulated in advance, and these provided the basis for the discussions at the Conference. The four morning sessions were devoted to general surveys of progress made or being made since the last conference. Dr. R. A. Oliver, the Conference Chairman, presided at the two sessions devoted to history and archaeology before the nineteenth century. The range and variety of the work discussed here was extremely wide, and the discussions were valuable in providing an overall frame within which it could be seen in perspective. The sessions allocated to the nineteenth century (Chairman: Professor G. W. Irwin) and to the twentieth century (Chairman: Professor Kenneth Ingham) were more orthodox, though still demonstrating the value of inter-disciplinary co-operation even for the most recent periods of African history.

The afternoon discussions were devoted to particular themes, those on 4 and 5 July being presided over by Dr. J. D. Fage (Secretary of the Conference) and that on 6 July by Dr. A. A. Boahen. On 4 July there was a very profitable discussion on the history of food crops in Africa, in which botanists, led by Professor R. Portères, and archaeologists, led by Dr. J. Desmond Clark, joined with geographers and others in pooling deductions made from very different sorts of evidence. There were two meetings in the afternoon of 5 July. In the first, there was a most useful discussion on the value of glottochronological techniques in Africa and on Professor M. Guthrie's recent work on the Bantu languages and its implications for early Bantu history. Following this there was a discussion on the value of blood-groups and other genetical characters as evidence of the African past. On 6 July, the existing state of knowledge of trade and trade-routes in pre-colonial Africa was considered.

The Conference ended in the afternoon of 7 July with a business meeting. In a final statement, the Conference expressed the wish that the centre of gravity of African historical studies would shift increasingly to Africa itself, and that to aid their development every effort would be made throughout the continent to preserve archives and archaeological remains and to secure to all scholars freedom of research, teaching, and publication. The Conference also passed specific resolutions calling for the production of a series of guides to archival material relevant to African history and also to the documents in Arabic script available for the history of sub-Saharan Africa; for the initiation of a series of translations making available the major texts of African history to African students; for the co-operative investigation of the history of the region between Lake Chad and the Nile; and for international support to initiate archaeological and historical research in the Somali Republic.

(Communicated by Dr. J. D. Fage)

*Recent Research at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, University College, Ibadan*

AN account of the activities of the N.I.S.E.R., University College, Ibadan, is given in its recently published Annual Report for 1960-1. These include the following studies:

The social and economic history of the Cameroons, by Mr. E. W. Ardener, for which documentary material from various sources including the German records has been examined and classified; his earlier study of fertility and marriage stability among the Bakweri had been completed and arrangements for publication are being made.

The Igala in Kabba Province, by Mr. J. S. Boston, including the pattern of social

organization and inquiry into different aspects of Igala culture—agriculture, religion, political and legal institutions, as well as the internal development of the kingdom and its historical relations to neighbouring groups such as the Jukun, Edo, Yoruba, and Ibo.

Productivity and absenteeism among coal miners at Enugu, by Mr. W. M. L. Bispham, concerning especially changes in performance that may be associated with changes in working conditions and factors involved in a large increase in productivity which has occurred.

The transport movement of Nigerian export crops—a joint study by Mr. V. W. Hogg and Mr. H. P. White, based on analysis of the purchases of Marketing Boards.

Petty trading among the Ibo, an ethno-economic study by Dr. Margaret F. Katsin, with special reference to the means by which imported goods move to consumers in remote rural districts and the channels by which farmers' produce reaches the consumer; the different types of traders and middlemen and their place in the social structure are also being studied.

The social history of Lagos in the second half of the nineteenth century, by Mrs. Jean F. Kopytoff (*née* Herskovits), which is being revised for publication.

The relationships between the growth of Nigerian enterprises and legal forms of business organization, which is being completed by Mr. J. D. Nyhart.

Methods of treatment of psychiatric disturbances employed by Yoruba native practitioners, by Dr. R. Prince.

The pattern of import consumption and domestic production of agricultural commodities, which is being continued by Mr. W. D. C. Wright, in connexion with research for the estimation of future demands for imports and the adequacy of future supplies of local foodstuffs.

Industrialization in Nigeria and the Cameroons, by Professor F. A. Wells and Mr. W. A. Warmington, which has now been completed for publication.

### *Africans in East London (Cape Province)*

THE Institute of Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, is preparing three studies on African urbanization in East London under the editorship of its Director, Professor Philip Mayer. The first in the series, *Townsmen or Tribesmen*, by Philip Mayer, is being published for the Institute by the Oxford University Press (Cape Town); a further volume by Dr. Reader is in the press, and another by Dr. Pauw is in preparation.

### *The African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles*

THE African Studies Center of the University of California, Los Angeles, provides a framework for communication and collaboration among scholars from all the social sciences, education, linguistics, and the humanities; for developing and co-ordinating teaching programmes centred on Africa; and for furthering research on Africa in various fields of study. It works in close co-operation with the Near East Studies Center, under whose auspices instruction is offered in the history, cultures, and languages of the Islamic world.

It also offers a large number of courses, at graduate and undergraduate level, in the fields of Anthropology and Sociology, Economics, Education, Geography, History, Languages and Linguistics, and Political Science. The Center offers each year several fellowships, grants-in-aid, and research assistantships to graduate students.

Further information on the African Studies Center may be obtained from the Director (Professor James S. Coleman), African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California.