

Notes and News

Lord Lugard

AT a meeting of the Bureau of the Institute on 26 March Lord Lugard announced that he must resign the chairmanship because he felt that he no longer had the physical and mental energy to carry out the duties of the office. Needless to say, this decision, though not unexpected seeing that Lord Lugard had entered his 88th year, was accepted with the most profound regret by the Bureau. A few days later he was stricken fatally and on 11 April his gallant spirit took its flight.

In this number we have not been able to include tributes to his memory from members of the Institute who reside outside Britain; but we are confident that they will wish to associate themselves with the tributes which we have printed.

The New Chairman: Lord Hailey

WE are happy to say that at the meeting of the Bureau on 26 March, Lord Hailey consented to step for a limited period into the breach created by Lord Lugard's retirement. He was appointed Chairman by the Bureau. There is no need to expend many words in introducing Lord Hailey to our readers. After a long and distinguished career in India culminating in the Governorship of the United Provinces, he undertook to direct for Lord Lothian's committee the Survey of Africa south of the Sahara the published record of which has been universally acclaimed as (in Lord Lothian's words) 'a clear and objective study of significant facts on a scale and of a quality never previously available'. Subsequent travels over large parts of Africa have given him a still wider knowledge of conditions and a deeper insight into the problems. It is not too much to say that Lord Hailey has inaugurated a new era in African colonial policy. He is a convinced exponent of the views in regard to the vital necessity of research upon which the Institute was founded. All his ripe experience in the conduct and direction of investigations will be of the utmost value in promoting international co-operation in this field. In these days of expanding horizons we confidently look to him to lead the Institute in fresh tasks and wider successes.

Some Other Items of Business

THE Bureau examined and adopted the budget for 1945. This shows a small anticipated deficit. Generous subscriptions have been received from, or are promised by, the Belgian, British, French, and Portuguese colonial governments, and by the Union of South Africa. There has been a pleasing increase in the membership. The present subscription of £1 barely covers the cost of the copies of *Africa* which members receive; and the Bureau considered it to be necessary slightly to raise the annual subscription to 25 shillings, from 1 January 1946. Among the publications which may be expected during this year are the first volume of Dr. Fortes's *Dynamics of Clanship*, the fruit of his research as a Fellow among the Tallensi, and Dr. Hilda Kuper's book on the Swazi entitled *An African Aristocracy*. The Bureau confirmed the appointment of Mrs. Wyatt as secretary of the Institute and of Edwin W. Smith as editor of *Africa*.

Under war conditions it has been impossible to bring together all the members of the Executive Council. It is now hoped that by the end of the year it will be possible to resume the meetings of this international board.

The Conference of Africanists at Dakar

THE Bureau received from the Director of the Institute, Professor Daryll Forde, an account of the Dakar Conference—*Première Réunion des Ethnographes, Géographes et Naturalistes*

Ouest Africains—organized by the Institut Français d’Afrique Noire (IFAN). He had the honour of being invited to serve as one of the three vice-presidents, the other two being Professor Théodore Monod and Professor Santa-Olalla of Madrid. The President was Professor Auguste Chevalier, the veteran French biologist of the Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, who travelled from Paris. At a public session Professor Forde delivered an address in French on ‘The Contribution of Ethnography to African Development’, in the course of which he outlined the plans for an Ethnographic Survey to be carried out, so far as West Africa is concerned, by the Institute in collaboration with IFAN. The Conference was not confined to anthropology but embraced all field studies and such subjects as national parks for the preservation of the fauna of West Africa. Papers were contributed by French, Portuguese, Spanish and British savants and administrators. A list of these papers can be consulted in our London office. Two half-days were devoted to West African ethnology and archaeology, during which there were valuable exchanges of views on such questions as the contribution of ethnological studies to the solution of problems arising from the division of peoples by international boundaries, the need for clearer distinction in field studies and reports between family, household and lineage groupings, and the recording and preservation of rock paintings.

The Conference formally constituted itself as the International Conference of West Africanists and set up an organizing committee to prepare for another gathering—it is hoped to hold one every other year from 1946. The members of the committee are as follows: representing French Africa, Professor Théodore Monod; British West Africa, A. E. Southern; Spain, metropolitan and colonial, Professor J. Martínez Santa-Ollala; Portugal, metropolitan and colonial, Professor A. A. Mendes-Correa; Great Britain, Professor Daryll Forde; France, Professor Paul Rivet. The Conference is divided into five sections viz. (1) the physical environment: physical geography; geology; human geography; economic geography; climatic factors; (2) the biological environment: ecology; biological oceanography; zoology; botany; (3) the human environment: physical anthropology (morphological and functional); linguistics; folk-lore; ethnography; African arts; sociology, religion, law; problems of contact; (4) national parks; historical monuments; (5) research and its auxiliaries: laboratories, libraries, museums, &c.

Among the resolutions adopted at Dakar we may quote the following: ‘La C.I.A.O. désire insister sur l’urgente nécessité qu’il y a à poursuivre les études ethnologiques systématiques en Afrique occidentale. La transformation toujours plus rapide des conditions sociales et économiques parmi les nombreuses populations intéressées exige un programme immédiat de recherches, à la fois pour recueillir les données scientifiques qui disparaissent rapidement et pour assurer à la science la contribution majeure qu’elle doit apporter à la solution des problèmes sociaux ouest-africains.’

Proposals for the Revision of the Constitution of Nigeria

WE draw our readers’ attention to Sir Bernard Bourdillon’s article in this number. One is apt to forget that until thirty-one years ago Nigeria did not exist as a single political entity. Within the memory of men now living there was indeed no ‘Nigeria’. In an area equal to that of France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom put together, a population which is double that of the Dominion of Canada is divided into numerous heterogeneous groups. There are considerable African states with a highly organized political structure. There are also tribes with very simple social organization. At least three hundred languages are spoken. The only bond of unity is that superimposed by Britain. Ever since Lord Lugard’s epoch-making governorship the problem has remained of making that unity real—a living thing which might progress from varying stages of adolescence to adult nationhood. The present governor, Sir Arthur Richards, has now put forward proposals with a threefold