

the Centre National des Recherches. It is proposed to make systematic sound recordings of African languages, starting in the first instance with the languages of Cameroun français, and it is hoped by this means to secure phonetic material which will be of use to this Institute in connexion with the Handbook of African Languages on which work is now in progress. The material recorded will be based on certain questionnaires formulated by Dr. Tucker of the School of Oriental and African Studies. M. Nicolas, Directeur of IFAN Cameroun, has addressed a memorandum to the International African Institute describing the aims and scope of the project, the techniques and methods to be employed, and the procedure for presenting results. He suggests that similar enterprises might be undertaken by other organizations in other areas of Africa and the results collated.

### *Gramophone Records of African Music*

THE Musée de l'Homme, Paris, has assembled a collection of records of African music prepared by M. C. Rouget, of the Département d'Éthnologie musicale, in collaboration with the Office de la Recherche Scientifique d'Outre-mer. The records comprise a selection of those made by M. A. Didier, of the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, during his expedition to the Congo area in 1946, and include examples of the music of twenty-three native peoples in the Lower Congo, Gabon, Oubangui-Chari, and of two pygmy tribes of the Lower Congo—in all 103 recordings representative of all types of African music: instrumental, both solo and orchestral, as well as vocal and choral specimens both with and without instrumental accompaniment. Certain ceremonial performances of the pygmies have been recorded in their entirety; one of these, which occupies eight records, reveals very clearly the architectural quality of this music, the motive of which is participation in a magical and religious cult.

All the recordings were made in the field and out-of-doors, but they are not inferior in quality to studio recordings and the characteristic tone quality of African music has been faithfully reproduced. The name and geographical location of the people concerned, as well as the instrumental or vocal character of the music, is indicated on each record.

The complete set of thirty-four records is available for sale at 15,000 francs (exclusive of packing and postage): only fifty sets have been made, and no records will be sold separately. Orders should be addressed to: Département d'Éthnologie musicale, Musée de l'Homme, Palais de Chaillot, Paris.

### *Organisme d'enquête pour l'étude anthropologique des populations indigènes de l'A.O.F.*

AN account of the 'Mission Anthropologique' which has been at work from January 1946 to August 1948 in French West Africa, has been published by its director, Médecin Lt.-Colonel Léon Pales. The mission made a comprehensive study of the native populations of French West Africa, mainly from the point of view of nutrition and health. Within the range of its inquiries it included anthropometric, physiological, and biochemical studies, as well as psychological, pathological, and ethnological researches, and detailed analyses of food consumption and production, including nutritive values, preparation and conservation of food-stuffs.

The work of the mission was carried out in part by laboratory and documentary work, in part by tours in the field. Four separate tours were undertaken in Sénégal, Soudan occidental, Guinée occidentale, and Haute Volta—Côte d'Ivoire—Fouta Djallon. A great number of families and individuals, including school children and hospital patients, were examined, and reports on special aspects or particular sections of the work were published during the course of the investigation. Some of these have already been noticed in this *Journal* (xviii, 2 and 3, 1948).

The mission was regarded initially as a 'pilot project', and, in the words of the director, 'Elle a conduit sa barque'; its further activities, however, are uncertain and its continuance is threatened by lack of a permanent location and adequate equipment.

### *Corona*

A MONTHLY journal, primarily designed for members of the British Colonial Service, was started in February 1949 under the editorship of Kenneth Bradley, a member of the Colonial Service, who has served in Northern Rhodesia, Falkland Islands, and Gold Coast. *Corona* includes articles of general interest to all concerned with colonial administration, as well as book reviews, notes on current affairs in the United Kingdom, and comments and information on social diversions likely to appeal to officers on leave. Shorter articles and verses from time to time illuminate the lighter side of life in colonial territories, and a specially attractive feature of each number are the extremely beautiful and well-chosen photographs illustrating characteristic aspects of various territories. The October number (vol. 1, 9) includes an article on the Portuguese African Colonies, initiating a series dealing with the colonial dependencies of different nations. *Corona* may be ordered from H.M. Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London, S.E. 1. Annual subscription 14s. including postage.

### *Margaret Wrong Prize*

READERS of this *Journal* will not need to be reminded of the outstanding work which Margaret Wrong did for the spiritual and cultural development of Africa, to which she devoted the last twenty years of her life. She was particularly concerned, as Secretary of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, in the provision of books to satisfy the demands of the rapidly growing literate public in that continent.

It was felt that many of her friends in Africa and elsewhere would like to perpetuate her memory by the institution of a Prize intended to encourage literary production by Africans. A Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Sir Gerald Hawkesworth to organize an appeal for funds and to initiate arrangements for awarding the Prize. After the tragic death of the Chairman his place was taken by Mr. Christopher Cox, Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The fund is still open and any person or institution desiring to be associated with this project is invited to send a contribution to: THE MARGARET WRONG MEMORIAL FUND, c/o The Rev. Michael Davidson, M.A., Institute of Christian Education, 46 Gordon Square, London, W.C.

It is proposed to offer a Prize annually for original literary work by writers of African race resident in a part of Africa to be determined each year by the Trustees of the Fund. The Prize will be open to competition in 1950 subject to the following regulations:

1. A silver medal and a prize not exceeding £5 will be offered in 1950.
2. Manuscripts are invited from the Southern Sudan, Somaliland, Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, and the Belgian Congo.
3. Manuscripts should not be less than 5,000 or more than 15,000 words in length, and may be written in either English or French.
4. Works submitted should be of an imaginative character or descriptive of African life or thought, and suitable for general reading.
5. Manuscripts should be addressed to: THE MARGARET WRONG PRIZE, c/o The International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, 2 Eaton Gate, London, S.W. 1, and must be received not later than 31 December 1950.
6. The decision of the Trustees will be final.