

*Experiments in Fundamental Education in French African Territories*

A RECENT publication of UNESCO, in the series Educational Studies and Documents,<sup>1</sup> gives an account of experiments in fundamental education carried out in a number of centres in French West Africa, French Equatorial Africa, French Cameroons, and Togoland. The account has been compiled by the French Information Centre on Fundamental Education from material supplied by the Fundamental Education Sub-Committee of the French Republic's Commission for Education, Science, and Culture. The foreword emphasizes that the term 'Fundamental Education' must be understood in its widest sense; the combating of illiteracy being only a very limited aspect of the chief aim, which is to preserve life, to improve material conditions, to promote the development of economic activities and to assist the process of political and social development. The accounts of the various experimental missions include descriptions of the staff and equipment used, methods of establishing contact, timetable of the various activities carried out, specimen lessons in reading and arithmetic, &c. Some give accounts of co-operative activities undertaken—such as the building of slaughter yards and drying yards (Daron-Mousti, Senegal), the building of a school (Oubangui-Chari), of a workshop for rural crafts (Tchekpo, Togo); most of the experiments included health lectures, medical treatments, practical instruction in carpentry, agriculture and horticulture, physical training, domestic education, and child welfare.

A Federal Seminar held at Dakar in 1953 attempted an assessment of the results of the several experiments carried out in French West Africa, and also gave the thirty-seven participants an opportunity for group work and further instruction and training in various specialized fields.

Certain conclusions arrived at after a consideration of all the experiments described are summarized at the end of the publication. Recommendations are made with regard to the recruiting and training of fundamental education teams and the effectiveness of various techniques employed is discussed. It is considered that pilot experiments, research, and short-term plans can now be replaced by large-scale and long-term campaigns, and the Government of the French Republic has therefore voted funds for a wide extension of fundamental education work in all oversea territories.

*Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale*

Du 27 au 31 décembre 1954, s'est tenue à Astrida la 6<sup>ème</sup> session du Séminaire qui réunit deux fois l'an les chercheurs de l'I.R.S.A.C. spécialistes en sciences humaines. Un sujet avait été proposé aux participants: la contribution que chaque discipline peut apporter à l'étude des migrations de populations en Afrique Centrale.

M. L. de Heusch indiqua ce que, du déplacement des traits culturels, on peut conclure au sujet des migrations; M. J. Jacobs traita de l'apport de la géographie linguistique et de la toponymie à la solution du même problème; M. J. Hiernaux passa en revue les informations que l'anthropologie physique et la paléontologie humaine peuvent fournir sur les mouvements anciens de populations; M. J. Vansina exposa comment l'on peut appliquer la critique historique classique aux traditions orales; M. J. J. Maquet esquissa une méthode d'étude des migrations contemporaines tandis que M. R. de Wilde donna quelques résultats provisoires d'une enquête d'émigration.

A côté du thème principal du Séminaire, d'autres sujets furent abordés, notamment l'étude de l'évolution économique des pays sous-développés. M. V. Neesen parla de l'interdépendance des facteurs économiques et démographiques; M. Ph. Leurquin, d'un plan

<sup>1</sup> *Experiments in Fundamental Education in French African Territories*, UNESCO: Educational Studies and Documents, No. IX, January 1955. \$0.50; 3s.; 150 frs.

d'enquête du revenu des populations coutumières et M. L. Baeck, de l'étude économique d'une cité africaine.

M. Thys, technicien, décrit certains appareils électroniques pouvant être utilisés par des chercheurs en sciences humaines.

### *East African Institute of Social Research*

A CONFERENCE was held at the East African Institute of Social Research, Makerere College, Kampala, from 30 December 1954 to 5 January 1955. The meeting was attended by the majority of the research workers attached to the Institute, by members of the Makerere College staff, and by a number of officials of the Uganda Protectorate government. Most of the papers read concerned field-work in progress, and Fellows working on the Carnegie leadership project reported on their research in North Nyanza province of Kenya, and in Buganda. One session of the conference was devoted to economic problems, one to psychology, one to clan structure, and another to land tenure. It is not intended to produce a formal report of the conference.

### *The West African Science Association*

THE West African Science Association was founded in October 1953 to encourage scientific research throughout West Africa and to enable scientists in the fifteen countries which make up this part of Africa to keep in touch with each other's work. The Association meets the needs of its members by holding regular meetings at the University College of the Gold Coast for the reading and discussion of papers, and by producing a journal. The journal not only publishes members' research work but records the papers read and the discussions held at meetings; in this way it serves the great majority of members who are unable to attend meetings.

The journal is published annually at the moment but it is hoped to produce two parts a year in the near future. Original papers are published in English, French, and German. The Association caters for Archaeology, Agriculture, Botany, Forestry, Geography, Geology, and Zoology. Papers on West African work on these subjects are thus readily available within one journal and not scattered through a number published in different parts of the world.

The annual subscription is one guinea (21s.) per annum for individual members and for corporate bodies. Applications for membership and all inquiries should be made to the Treasurer, Mr. M. M. Anderson, c/o Geology Dept., University College, Achimota. The headquarters of the Association is at the University College, but it is an independent body which is, however, able to call upon many of the facilities of the college.

### *Rhodes-Livingstone Museum*

THE Report of the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum for the year ended December 1953, besides an account of activities and developments during that year, includes a statement of the Ten-year Development Plan for the museum, which was submitted in December 1952 and is now being implemented. The museum owed its origin to the suggestion in 1930 of the then Secretary for Native Affairs that a sum of £100 should be included in the Government Estimates for that year for the purchase of ethnological specimens for a museum. The collections were first displayed to the public in 1934, and included a number of letters and other relics of David Livingstone. The new museum was named the 'David Livingstone Memorial Museum' and a part-time Curator was appointed. In 1937 the museum was incorporated