

Académie Royale des Sciences Coloniales

LE roi Baudouin a conféré à l'Institut royal colonial belge le titre d'Académie royale des Sciences coloniales à l'occasion du 25^e anniversaire de la fondation de cette institution et en reconnaissance des services rendus par elle à la Belgique et à la Colonie. La commémoration de cet anniversaire a été marquée par une séance solennelle qui s'est déroulée le 27 octobre au Palais des Académies en présence du Roi. Le président de l'I.R.C.B., le Docteur Rodhain, retraça l'action personnelle du roi Albert dans le développement de la recherche scientifique au Congo, en particulier dans la domaine de la médecine, et il évoqua l'arrêté royal de septembre 1928 portant création de l'Institut royal colonial belge, dont il définit les buts. M. E.-J. Devroey, secrétaire général de l'Institut, retraça l'activité des trois sections de l'I.R.C.B. au cours des vingt-cinq années et énuméra l'imposante série des publications de l'Institut : le *Bulletin des Séances*, les trois séries de *Mémoranda*, la *Biographie Coloniale Belge* et l'*Atlas général du Congo*. Il fit mention aussi du travail scientifique réalisé par les commissions de l'Institut et de la part prise par l'I.R.C.B. dans l'octroi des subsides à des savants s'occupant d'études entrant dans ses attributions. On peut remarquer que le Professeur Édouard de Jonghe, ancien Secrétaire Général de l'I.R.C.B., a été, jusqu'à sa mort, membre du Conseil Exécutif et Directeur Consultatif de l'Institut International Africain.

Symposium on the Future of Customary Law in Africa

ON the initiative of the Afrika-Instituut, Leiden, an international Symposium on the future of customary law in Africa will be held at Amsterdam from 13 to 15 April 1955. Belgian, British, Dutch, and French experts will participate, and a Portuguese and an American observer have been invited. The symposium will be concerned with both tropical and North Africa and will consider the ethnological as well as the juridical aspects of the subject. Some part of the discussions will be devoted to problems of Islamic law in Africa.

Reproduction of Bibliographical Card Index

OVER the past ten years the International African Institute has built up a bibliographical card index of books, reports, and articles relating to a wide range of African studies. The basic classification of the entries is regional, the regions being subdivided into territories; an introductory section, classified by subjects, relates to colonial territories, particularly Africa, in general. Each regional section is further classified under subject heads, e.g. Administration, Anthropology, Education, Linguistics, the anthropological and linguistic divisions being subdivided by tribes and languages. The card index comprises some 40,000 entries. It has been suggested that the card index should be reproduced and copies made available to libraries, research institutions, university departments, and other organizations specializing in African studies, and a grant from the Ford Foundation has now made it possible to finance the necessary preliminary work.

It is proposed that the reproduction of the existing card index should be followed by the issue of quarterly supplements based on the current bibliographies in this journal. Since it is to be a continuing bibliography, rather than a completed work, it might be most useful in the form of a card index, into which the supplementary entries could be inserted; on the other hand, considerations of cost and transport might make it advisable to issue the bibliography in the form of a series of volumes in which the entries will be arranged in such a way as to facilitate their use as the basis of a card index if desired.

Since this project will involve considerable labour and initial expense, it would be useful to know before it is set on foot how far it would receive the support of other organizations.

The Institute would welcome an expression of views on this subject; further information on the scope and arrangement of the bibliography and the proposed method of reproduction will be supplied on request.

American Anthropological Association

THE growing interest in Africa among American anthropologists was strikingly evident at the recent annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, held in Detroit, Michigan, 28–30 December 1954. Two symposia were devoted entirely to Africa. The subject of the first, on 29 December, was 'Stability and change in patterns of prestige and leadership'. The chairman was James B. Christensen, of Wayne University and papers were read on: 'The role of aesthetics in prestige, status, and authority' (J. J. Cordwell); 'The resistance to change in Pokot culture' (H. K. Schneider); 'Some preliminary notes on the dilemma of leadership in a tribe of Uganda' (W. Goldschmidt); 'Changes in leadership among the Afikpo Ibo of Nigeria' (S. Ottenberg); 'Changing patterns of agriculture and political authority in Idoma' (R. G. Armstrong).

A second symposium, during the morning of 30 December, on 'Authority in African society', had as its chairman David W. Ames, of the University of Wisconsin. The titles of the papers at this session were: 'Changing patterns of authority, prestige and leadership in a Yoruba community' (W. B. Schwab); 'The Chief and intratribal politics in an East African tribe: modern Chagga' (Irving Kaplan); 'Property rights and authority in West African descent groups' (Paula Brown); 'Religion and realpolitik in West Africa' (F. H. von Mering); 'The extension of kinship patterns into political structure' (A. W. Wolfe).

In addition, two papers in a general programme on the topic, 'Economic factors in stability and change', dealt with African materials. One, 'Changes in economic motivations in Western Ashanti', was given by Robert A. Lystad, of Tulane University. The second, by Daniel F. McCall, of Boston University, was entitled 'Plantation versus peasant production'.

(Communicated by M. J. HERSKOVITS)

Corrigenda

DR. J. B. DANQUAH has drawn our attention to certain errors of fact in the article 'Changing political leadership in West Africa' (*Africa*, July 1954, pp. 220–32). These points do not affect the main theme of the article, but we offer the apologies of the author and the editor who failed to correct them in proof. The Ashanti Confederacy Council was reconstituted in 1935 (not 1927, p. 225); Prempeh II was installed as Asantehene in 1935; it was the former Asantehene, Prempeh I, who had been exiled and returned to Ashanti in 1924 (p. 225); the cocoa hold-up took place in 1936 (not late twenties, p. 226); *Omanhene* cannot properly be used as a plural form, although the correct plural (*Omanhenfo*) is not always used by modern writers and speakers.

DR. M. D. W. JEFFREYS has drawn our attention to a misleading statement in a recent publication of the Institute, *Peoples of the Central Cameroons* (Ethnographic Survey, Western Africa, Part IX). The footnote 25, on page 79, referring to an account of the burial of kings of Bamum, reads 'Jeffreys was informed of this; it is not in Njoya's account'. The statement referred to occurs in fact in a hitherto unpublished chapter of Njoya's history which was translated for the first time by Dr. Jeffreys and published in an article contributed by him to *Africa*, vol. xx, January 1950. This article is mentioned in the bibliography and elsewhere in