

examination is constantly growing, and the Swahili-English and English-Swahili Dictionary which is being published under the auspices of the Committee will soon be available. (*From a Report of the Committee, dated 18 April 1939.*)

A Twi Spelling Book

IN 1927 the script recommended by the Institute was adopted for the Twi language. But this was only a first step and many questions remained unsettled. In most West African languages the question of word division is a difficult problem; compound nouns and verbs or combinations of nouns and verbs are used to a very great extent, and the crucial question is which shall be written as one word, which separately, and which joined by a hyphen. None of the existing books in Twi is consistent in this respect. Two recognized experts of the language, C. A. Akrofi and Dr. E. L. Rapp, therefore undertook to compose a Twi Spelling Book (published by the Government Printing Office at Accra), which contains an extensive vocabulary of simple words, compound words, and grammatical forms written in the way the two authors recommend. The vocabulary is preceded by rules which deal with division of syllables, reduplications and repetitions, transliteration of foreign names, nouns and verbal nouns, and nasalization.

Though the Spelling Book does not provide an answer to every question, especially as far as compound nouns are concerned, it will prove a great help in stabilizing the writing of the language. Any one who has to read examination papers in African languages knows that word division is an unflinching stumbling-block to students. Similar spelling books are urgently needed for other languages in order to enable Africans to write and read their language correctly. The natural way of doing such work seems to be, as has been done in the present case, by the co-operation of a competent African with a competent European.