

There also exist, near the nine-mile corner at Enugu, ten 'step-pyramids', which stand in two rows on high ground and are of red earth, each about thirty feet high and forty feet in diameter at the base.¹ The people who live in the villages near them know nothing about them, and associate them with a juju to prevent theft. Excavations will show them also to be royal tombs. But these are only a few examples.

Also in the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia one can expect interesting finds, although probably less spectacular. Amongst other things there are the gold ornaments, stolen from time to time from old Ashanti graves, which still reach the Syrian pawnbrokers, who smash them up in order to sell the gold to British banks.

Archaeological finds in West Africa will be of particular interest, for they may testify that centuries ago this part of the world was in close contact with ancient civilizations, especially with the Nubian during the first to the seventh century A.D. Many tribes now living in Nigeria, for instance, claim to be able to trace back their ancestry to peoples who, as they allege, were once settled in this region of Africa.

Apart from its value to the recording archaeologist such surveys and excavations would be of immense psychological importance, if they could establish even the rudiments of a history for the present West African generation, which is searching for such a basis upon which to build its future cultural development.

(Communicated by MRS. EVA L. R. MEYEROWITZ.)

Institute of West African Arts, Industries, and Social Science.

On the eve of going to press, we can only record briefly that the scheme for setting up an Institute of West African Arts, Industries, and Social Science has been approved by the Colonial Office. A grant of £127,000 has been made by the Treasury, under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, to cover the capital and recurring expenses of the first five years.

This event bids fair to be a milestone in the history of West Africa. Although the Institute will be limited in its scope till after the war, its beginning, as a centre for research and training in arts and crafts with a view to their economic development, is none the less a notable event. And when, after the war, it expands into a centre of research and training in all aspects of West African culture, its potentialities will indeed be great.

One of the chief promoters of the Institute, Mr. H. V. Meyerowitz, gave a very interesting talk at the most recent of the International Discussion Group meetings held by the International African Institute and the School of Oriental and African Studies. The substance of his paper will be published in a forthcoming number of *Africa*, which will be devoted specially to the subject of African arts and crafts in the light of present economic conditions. Some of the innumerable and pressing problems involved will be discussed by experts in that number.

Literature and Language Publications in the Gold Coast

ONE aspect of co-ordinated planning in the Gold Coast is shown by the appointment of a committee by the Methodist Mission with the following terms of reference: 'To write under the general editorship of the Rev. Gaddiel Acquah, a series of graded Readers in Fante from Primer I to Reader VII, which would equip the schools for the reading of, and appreciation of, the standard set by such books as *Oguaa Aban*, *Fante Proverbs* and *John Wesley*.'

The first books published under the auspices of this committee are *A Fante Word List*,

¹ A photograph of these appeared in *Nigeria*, No. 16, 1938, p. 299.

and *A Fante Grammar of Function*. These, as is stated in the Preface to the latter, were felt to be necessary to clear the ground for the preparation of the Readers.

The Grammar is interesting in that it concentrates upon the function of words and word groups, and rightly illustrates that the sense-group and not the single word is the basis of speech, and therefore 'grammar' study should begin with the sentence. Old-fashioned 'parsing', to which some teachers have clung, is particularly unsuitable for a language like Fante, since it often takes a number of words to express one idea, and it is illogical to split up these words. New terms have been used for the parts of speech, not in order to compete with the accepted English terminology, but to show the work these words do in a sentence; they are the literal translation of the Fante terms recommended for use in teaching. An apology is made for the fact that the book is written in English. This is partly to extend the use of the book among teachers who are not Fante speakers by birth. A fuller Grammar is in preparation, which will be in the vernacular. This is in the tradition of the Gold Coast which already has a Grammar of Twi written in Twi.

Aequatoria

THE Catholic Mission at Coquilhatville in the Belgian Congo publishes a periodical entitled *Aequatoria*. The following information about it is taken from a circular sent out by the Editors:

Aequatoria a été fondée en 1937 sous la forme d'une série de brochures. Dès l'année 1939 elle s'est transformée en revue périodique. Revue scientifique, elle traite des questions intéressant l'évangélisation et la civilisation des populations de notre Colonie. Ethnologie et ethnographie, linguistique, droit, religion, art et métiers, problèmes de missiologie et de 'politique indigène', enseignement, forment son objet direct. Elle ne se limite donc pas à l'étude spéculative. Elle se meut aussi sur le terrain de la pratique, mais celle-ci fondée sur des bases scientifiques.

Aequatoria veut être une aide aux tuteurs des populations indigènes qu'ils 'dominent pour les servir', selon l'heureuse expression de Monsieur le Gouverneur Général Ryckmans. Ils pourront y trouver l'organe pour se communiquer les fruits de leurs études et de leurs expériences et y puiser, sous forme de considérations et de motifs, de l'aide dans leur grave devoir envers les autochtones, pour le plus grand bien de la Colonie entière. . . .

En fondant *Aequatoria*, nous avons cru combler une lacune. Le Congo Belge possédait des revues spécialisées: les *Bulletins Juridiques* du Katanga et *Brousse* de Léopoldville; mais nous n'avions pas de revue à tendance plus générale; comme en possèdent les colonies britanniques et françaises d'Afrique. . . .

Prix d'abonnement: Colonie et Métropole, 50 Frs., Étranger, 55 Frs., Abonnement de soutien, 100 Frs., Le numéro, 10 Frs.