

Notes and News

Arts and Crafts at Achimota College

By the courtesy of the Gold Coast Information Department, Mr. H. V. Meyerowitz has been allowed to adapt for publication the talks to Gold Coast teachers given over the Government Broadcasting Station Z.O.Y. at Accra.¹ It is an excellent thing that these words of wisdom should be pinned down and not allowed to melt into thin air and disappear, for in this way, those who enjoyed Mr. Meyerowitz's talks can have a permanent record of them and others who did not hear can read them.

Everyone interested in African development should not only read, but mark, learn, and inwardly digest. So full of matter is this little book that it is difficult to select points for comment. Suffice it to say that the four chapters are entitled 'The Teacher as Crusader', 'The School as Craft Centre', 'Co-operation a Vital Necessity' and 'Local Industries—a step towards a new West Africa'; and the main thread running through the book is the development of West African crafts and industries in the best tradition of the past and with the new techniques of the present, with African materials, African designs and for the joy of making something useful and beautiful.

Achimota College, where Mr. Meyerowitz is in charge of the Arts and Crafts Department, by conducting the necessary research, has already laid some of the foundations for the development of Gold Coast crafts. A pottery and tile factory is now in being and working full speed to provide for local use roofing tiles, glazed ware, water-coolers, drain-pipes; a textile expert is now to begin his investigations so that yarn and cloth can be spun, woven, dyed and printed in the Gold Coast. 'All your traditional industries—your building, your pottery, your weaving, your leather-work, your jewellery, your glass, metal and woodwork—can be developed into new industries, and used by the new generation which will demand and purchase the products of them. As for the old artistic values, they will not be lost. They will come out, in another form, in the new work.'

Mr. Meyerowitz makes his appeal first to teachers as the key workers who will awaken a sense of pride in craftsmanship and give it an honourable place in school and in village and town life.

But it is not merely, nor even primarily, as a school activity that he urges this crusading spirit, but, as his final chapter-heading indicates, as a step towards a new West Africa.

A Yoruba Society

THE foundation of a Yoruba Society in Lagos is announced in the December number of the *West African Review*, which devotes a column to this subject. His Excellency the Governor is President; and mention is made of the encouragement given to the movement by Bishop Taylor. The aims of the society include the serious study of the Yoruba language and customs and the training of a number of Yoruba to become experts in their own language. We welcome this sign of vigorous life among the educated Yoruba people, and we are particularly interested that training for linguistic and literary work stands so prominently among the aims of the Society. The Institute would be glad to hear of any similar movements in other parts of Africa.

A Portuguese-Olunyaneka-Dictionary

THE number of Bantu languages and dialects is not known with any exactitude, and many

¹ *The Making of Things*, by H. V. Meyerowitz, African Home Library, Sheldon Press, 1d.

of them are not represented in print by serious studies. A welcome is therefore due to a new Olunyaneka-Portuguese Dictionary issued by the Missão da Huila (1941), as we are not aware of any previous vocabulary or dictionary of this language of Portuguese West Africa. It is based upon a manuscript left by the late Father Bonnefoux, and its present Editor pays tribute in the Introduction to the scrupulous exactitude of Father Bonnefoux's work and says that his excess of modesty might have withheld it still longer from publication. Scholars will welcome this addition to the mounting list of documents on Bantu languages and it should contribute notably to our knowledge of the languages of this area of Africa.

The manuscript has been revised and added to and includes the scientific names of the commoner flowers and animals of the region. Dialectal relationships and problems have evidently been considered and certain variants indicated.

Anthropos

ENGLISH anthropologists will all welcome the appearance of the 1940-1 volume of *Anthropos* (vol. xxxv-xxxvi, nos. 1-3), published in Switzerland in July 1942, and still under the editorship of Pater Wilhelm Schmidt. In the shrinking world in which we live it is comforting to find a periodical that reviews learned journals from Germany to Japan, from Sweden to Switzerland, and from America to Belgium. The volume is produced, too, with its customary scholarship and presents an almost peace-time appearance.

There are three English articles in the volume—one by Earl W. Count on 'Red and Black', a study of the distribution of red and black in American Indian designs; a valuable account of 'Azania', the Greek geographers' name for the East African coast, by G. W. B. Huntingford; and a study of 'Bhagwān, the supreme deity of the Bhils', by Pater Koppers. Pater Matthias Hermanus contributes an interesting note on some of the peoples of North-eastern Tibet with beautiful photographs. Pater Albert Aufinger describes 'Siedlungsform und Häuserbau an der Rai-Küste Neuguineas'. English readers will be interested in Pater L. Molinaro's 'Appunti circa gli Usi, Costumi e Idee religiose dei Lotuko dell' Uganda'. Felix Speiser has provided a long article on the distribution of fire tools in the South Seas, 'Über Feuerzeuge in der Südsee'. French anthropologists are represented by Pater Jérôme Adam's 'Nouvel extrait du Folk-lore du Haut-Ogooué' and Jean Gabus' 'Les mouvements migratoires chez les Esquimaux-caribous'.

There is a full bibliography of works published since 1939, reviews, and notes.

Linguistic Studies in French Equatorial Africa

WELCOME news of linguistic activity comes from French Equatorial Africa. Madame Barat-Pepper, of the Fighting French Forces, who attended a short course of lectures organized by the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Colonial Department of the Institute of Education in the winter of 1940-1, went subsequently to do educational work in Brazzaville. She and her husband, who are both trained musicians, became interested, during their course in London, in linguistic problems and particularly in the study of tone. They had the great good fortune, when they arrived in Brazzaville, to find Monsieur Éboué, the Governor-General, ready to give them every encouragement. He himself is a keen linguist and in his book, *Les Peuples de l'Oubangui*, he made interesting suggestions about the correspondence between the tones of the Banda language and the drum-taps used for sending messages. He has recently arranged for M. and Mme Pepper to do a linguistic tour including both Banda-Linda country and the Chad area. For Banda they were to get the tones of the words in Monsieur Éboué's *Vocabulaire Français-Banda* by listening to the tapping of these words on the *linga*—the percussion instrument used for sending messages.