

Dr. Thomas J. Woofter, jr., of the Research Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina, will deal with the 'Education of the American Negro'.

### *A New Orthography for Kikuyu.*

In 1933 a Committee of protestant and catholic missionaries convened by the Director of Education with an Education Officer as Chairman recommended the use of seven vowel letters in writing Kikuyu, and the symbols *o* and *ε* for the open *o* and *e*. They also recommended the letter *ŋ* for the velar *n*.

The Government of Kenya has decided to accept these recommendations, so that the new orthography will use the following vowel letters:

<i>u</i>	for the sound	<i>u</i>
<i>o</i>	„	close <i>o</i>
<i>ɔ</i>	„	open <i>o</i>
<i>a</i>	„	<i>a</i>
<i>ε</i>	„	open <i>e</i>
<i>e</i>	„	close <i>e</i>
<i>i</i>	„	<i>i</i> ,

and *ŋ* for velar *n*.

The Government as well as the Committee are to be congratulated on this decision, for it means changing from a very poor system of vowel representation to one which is practical and at the same time phonetically sound. Also the adoption of *ŋ* is definitely a change for the better, and it is only to be hoped that Swahili will now soon follow suit.

In this connexion the following comment may be made on the consonant system of Kikuyu. The sounds *b*, *d*, and *g* are always preceded by a nasal: *mb*, *nd*, *ŋg*; when standing between two vowels, *v*, *ɸ* and *ɣ* are pronounced instead of *b*, *d*, *g*. This shows that *v* and *b*, *ɸ* and *d*, *ɣ* and *g* are each one phoneme, the different pronunciation being due to the position of the respective sound. Therefore each of the pairs might be written with one letter, viz. *b* and *mb*, *d* and *nd*, *g* and *ŋg*, while the present usage is *v* and *mb*, *th* and *nd*, *g* and *ng*. The adoption of the principle of phonemes would thus mean a further simplification.

### *Orthographic Reform in Southern Rhodesia.*

This refers to the changes made in the orthography of Shona which is the general name accepted for the dialects of Mashonaland, hitherto known by the names of individual dialects or, unfortunately, by the name Swina which has crept in no one knows how and is both wrong and unacceptable.

The main dialects of Mashonaland are Karanga, Zezuru, Manyika, Ndau,