

# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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