

Notes and News

Entretiens internationaux sur l'Afrique à Royaumont

IL s'est tenu au mois de juin de l'année dernière une intéressante réunion internationale, organisée par le Centre de Hautes Études d'Administration Musulmane, sur les problèmes administratifs qui se posent en Afrique à la France, à la Grande-Bretagne, et à la Belgique. Dans le cadre reposant de la vieille abbaye d'Île de France, fondée par la mère de Saint Louis, une cinquantaine d'auditeurs des trois nations, hommes d'action et hommes d'étude qui ont passé de longues années sur le continent Noir ou en Afrique du Nord, ont cherché pendant plusieurs jours à comparer leurs expériences avec l'espoir de parvenir à mener à bien, dans les meilleures conditions, la lourde tâche que leurs pays ont assumée auprès des peuples africains. Parmi les conférenciers britanniques, se trouvaient MM. G. Allen, R. East, G. B. Masefield, E. W. Thomas, K. Robinson; la Belgique était représentée par M. Le Gouverneur Général A. Marzorati et M. Gaignaux. Les auditeurs français étaient surtout des administrateurs d'Afrique Noire et d'Afrique du Nord en relation avec le Centre de Hautes Études d'Administration Musulmane de Paris. M. Robert Montagne, Professeur au Collège de France, Directeur du Centre de Hautes Études d'Administration Musulmane, qui avait organisé les débats, se vit confier la présidence des entretiens.

Les principaux sujets abordés, ' Mise en valeur du Soudan anglo-égyptien ', ' Entreprises modernes de mise en valeur de l'Est africain ', ' Évolution sociale de la Nigéria africaine ', ' Protection du travail et évolution sociale au Congo Belge ', suscitèrent dans l'esprit des auditeurs de nombreuses comparaisons avec les problèmes qui se posent dans les régions de l'Afrique placées sous l'autorité de la France. Les relations de l'Islam en Afrique avec le paganisme ou le christianisme furent également évoquées.

L'atmosphère de libre discussion qui dès le début régna sur cette réunion de techniciens se révéla extrêmement féconde. Ces entretiens et leurs conclusions trouvèrent leur fin à Paris au Centre de Hautes Études d'Administration Musulmane. Le Recteur de l'Université de Paris organisa pour clore ces journées, une réception en l'honneur des hôtes britanniques et belges.

La réussite de cette initiative fait désirer qu'une nouvelle réunion ait lieu en 1950 à Royaumont dans des conditions analogues. Le problème de ces entretiens pourrait être encore élargi de manière à mieux apprécier l'ensemble des problèmes d'évolution sociale et économique qui se posent dans ce vaste continent, aux nations d'Europe.

Institut pour la Recherche scientifique en Afrique centrale

THE first annual report of IRSAC, for the year 1948, includes reports from the directors of its various scientific commissions and sections. Prof. Olbrechts, Chairman of the Commission des Sciences de l'Homme, in his report, sets out the methods adopted by the commission for the assistance and guidance of research workers, both those specially appointed to IRSAC and those already resident in the Congo. In the first case research fellowships for a period of two years are to be awarded by IRSAC; in the second subsidies towards expenses of field researches. Fully to implement this programme would require a greater number of trained ethnologists than existing facilities in Belgium can provide. Two ethnologists, Dr. J. Maquet and M. Biebuyck, graduates of Louvain and Ghent, had therefore been sent to study in London, under the direction of Professor D. Forde, Director of the International African Institute; one of these had also spent 18 months in the Department of Social Relations,

Harvard. Subsidies had been granted to two missionaries in the Belgian Congo to enable them to pursue their studies of African peoples in this area. At the instance of the Commission des Sciences de l'Homme, IRSAC had subsidized the biometric researches carried out by Professor Dory under the auspices of the Institut National pour l'Étude agronomique du Congo Belge; had made a grant to the Centre pour l'Étude de l'Art Africain attached to the Musée du Congo Belge, and had given its support to the expedition to the Congo undertaken by Mlle Boone for the purpose of preparing a revised edition of *Les Peuplades du Congo Belge*. Professor Olbrechts also refers to the assistance given by IRSAC to Miss Mary Tew, a research fellow of the International African Institute who is making a field study of the Bashilele of the Belgian Congo.

A Research Service for the Colonies

A RESEARCH Service for the British Colonies has been introduced by the Secretary of State with the object of creating a service with salary, terms of service, and standards comparable to those for research workers in the United Kingdom. Members of this service will normally work in the Colonies, but arrangements will be made whereby research workers in the Colonies may be able to work for a time at a scientific institution in the United Kingdom, and a scientist in this country to undertake research in the Colonies. All such work will count as one continuous period of pensionable service. Full details are given in the pamphlet *Appointments in His Majesty's Colonial Research Service*, published by the Colonial Office, London.

Higher Technical Education in the Colonies

A COMMITTEE has been set up to advise the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the development of Colonial Colleges of Arts, Science, and Technology and the expenditure of Colonial Development and Welfare funds allocated for this purpose. The committee consists of representatives of British universities, technical institutes and training colleges, of colonial education departments, and includes the Educational Adviser and Assistant Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State. Initially the committee will concern itself primarily with West Africa, where it is hoped that two new colleges, one in the Gold Coast and one in Nigeria, will be established in the near future. It will be the aim of these colleges to provide courses of Higher Technical and Commercial education as well as training courses for teachers and social welfare workers. They will also participate in adult education schemes, and will provide refresher courses and centres for the encouragement of arts and crafts.

Nigerians to Study British Local Government

TWENTY-ONE local government officials from Nigeria—fifteen Ibo and six Yorubas—are undergoing an intensive course of study in local government. After a period spent at a central training centre in Surrey they have been working in groups of three with various local authorities in England and, after a month in London and Oxford, will return to Nigeria in August.

Education Plan for the Sudan

THE Sudan Legislative Assembly recently approved a revised education plan for 1949-56, designed to promote a more rapid expansion of education. It is proposed that by 1956 elementary and sub-grade education will be available for 40 per cent. of the population of the Northern Sudan; this will mean that the present number of elementary schools, both