

EDITORIAL

We are happy to be able to welcome you as readers of our Journal. The production of a Journal of this kind, which has to cover a very wide field, both of territory and subject-matter, is necessarily an experiment; but it is an experiment which is overdue. There is at present no periodical largely or solely devoted to the subject of the law in Africa. Our intention is to provide such a periodical, which may serve, in its chosen fields, to provide both material for the objective study and criticism of the law, and a forum for the discussion of general principles. We intend to deal primarily with the law of British Africa south of the Sahara (other than the Union of South Africa), including the general law (whether of English, colonial, Roman-Dutch, or Indian origin), African customary law, and Islamic law; but we hope to publish from time to time matter relating to the rest of Africa or to comparative or colonial law generally. Special attention will be paid to customary law within these limits.

We are honoured by the assistance in an advisory capacity of the very distinguished gentlemen who have consented to serve on our Board of Advisers. In particular, we are gratified by the ready co-operation accorded us by the Chief Justices of the several jurisdictions. In an enterprise of this sort advice emanating from the fountain-heads of authority is not merely welcome but essential. We also take this opportunity of thanking Sir Alfred Denning for his stimulating words of introduction. As Chairman of the Society of Comparative Legislation his interest and support are particularly gratifying.

The success of this Journal depends, to a considerable degree, on the contribution which its readers are able to make to it. It will include material from the African or native courts, usually in the form of a summary of the court's decision, together with explanatory comment which sets out the background of fact and law lying behind the decision. In this way we hope to illustrate particular features of tribal legal systems and also developments in the substance and administration of customary law in response to modern conditions. In this connexion we shall be pleased to receive contributions from lawyers, administrators, anthropologists, and others with special experience of these problems.

Another way in which our readers can assist in the conduct of the Journal is by their sending us their comment, criticism and advice on the aims and contents of the Journal. Where appropriate, such comment will be published.

Finally, we express our warm thanks to those gentlemen who are already helping us by acting as local correspondents of the Journal.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.