

## NOTES AND NEWS

THE seventh meeting of the Executive Council of the Institute will take place on November 28th and 29th in London.

Any member of the Governing Body who expects to be in London at that time and who is qualified under Article V, Rule 6 (f) of the Statutes to attend the meeting of the Council is requested to notify the Secretary by November 1st if he wishes to be present.

The Editor had much pleasure in announcing in the last issue that by permission of the authorities concerned members of the Institute would be able to read in certain libraries having collections of books of special value to those interested in Africa. The Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft, Berlin, has also kindly agreed to extend this privilege to members.

Through the kind offices of the Rev. J. J. Williams, S.J., the Boston College Library, Newton, Mass., U.S.A., will allow members to read there. The Rev. J. J. Williams has presented his personal collection of volumes on Africa to the library, so that American members of the Institute will doubtless find this privilege of great value.

Members who may not have seen the full list of libraries and who desire to make use of any of them are requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Institute who will supply cards of introduction and give information in regard to any special conditions.

The alphabets for the Efik, Ibo, and Yoruba languages and also for Mende, Temne, Soso, Kono, and Limba, agreed upon during Professor Westermann's recent visit to Nigeria, are mentioned by him in the Report which appears in this number. These alphabets have been printed in leaflet form for the use of the educational authorities in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. A limited number is available for general distribution and they can be supplied to members on request.

Monsieur Henri A. Junod, the author of the well-known book *The Life of a South African Tribe*, some years ago published a book in the Ronga language entitled *Bukhaneli*. The book gives a grammatical description of the Ronga language and is intended for natives. It is used in primary schools, before the children are taught the grammar of a European language. Monsieur Junod tells us that the book has proved very useful and is highly appreciated by the Africans. It has now been translated into the Djonga dialect of Thonga and is used in the schools of the Mission Suisse Romande in the Transvaal.

At the request of the Institute Monsieur Junod very kindly translated the book into French and an English version has been prepared by Mrs. Hanns Vischer, so that this valuable work is now accessible to Europeans who know neither Ronga nor Djonga. At present there is only one copy of the French and English versions available, but these could be lent to any reader interested in the work. If there is a considerable demand for it the question of preparing more copies of the book will be considered.

The announcement that the Institute proposed to encourage the production of a vernacular literature by instituting an annual prize competition for books written by Africans in their own languages has been received with general approval and considerable interest has been shown in the plan. Five prizes will be awarded annually and the languages chosen will vary each year.

Full information in regard to the conditions of the competition was published in the April number of this journal. Leaflets have been prepared in French and English for circulation among Africans likely to be interested and can be obtained on application to the Directors or the Secretary.

Prizes for 1930 will be offered in the Xosa, Swahili, Hova, Kongo and Akan (Twi or Fante) languages. Works in these languages must reach the Institute by October 1st, 1930. The prizes will be awarded in January, 1931.

The languages selected for 1931 are Mende, Suto, Luganda, Mandingo, and Hausa. Full particulars in regard to the 1931 competition will be announced later, but it is hoped that by publishing the list of selected languages well in advance opportunity will be given for the competition to be made known in good time among Africans speaking the languages in question.

Among other work recently undertaken by the Education Department of Uganda has been the translation into Luganda of one of the publications of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association entitled *Lessons on Leprosy and how to avoid it*, by C. A. Wiggins, C.M.G., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. A Kiswahili version is also in course of preparation.

The Government of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan have asked Dr. E. E. Evans-Pritchard to undertake an anthropological study of the Nuer tribes in the Nile and Sobat areas. Dr. Evans-Pritchard will leave England in December to commence this work. Since the Nuer killed Captain Fergusson last year they have been causing the Government considerable trouble and anxiety and it is hoped that researches into their political organization and religious and magical beliefs will be of assistance in persuading this brave and warlike people to submit to peaceful penetration and control. The dispatch of an anthropologist to a troubled area is a new departure in dealing

with backward peoples and one which will, it is hoped, produce results of value both to science and to political administration.

Under the auspices of the Sudan Government Dr. Evans-Pritchard has already made two ethnological expeditions to the Sudan, chiefly amongst the Zande of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, and has thus been able to carry on the investigations made by Professor and Mrs. Seligman on behalf of the Sudan Government in three expeditions to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

It will be remembered that an important linguistic conference was recently held at Rejaf at which the administration asked Professor Westermann to be present as expert adviser, and that they have appointed Dr. Tucker to assist the education department in carrying out the recommendations of this conference. It will not be out of place to remark that the Sudan Government not only stimulates all political officers to master the native language of their area of administration but also encourages anthropological investigation as the pages of *Sudan Notes and Records* bear testimony.

Father Wanger in his article on 'Afrikanische Völkernamen in Europäischen Sprachen' discusses the question of whether Bantu tribal names when used in European languages should have the Bantu prefixes or not, and he comes to the conclusion that it is scientifically more correct to use the form without a prefix, e.g. a Swahili, the Swahilis (or, the Swahili people), the Swahili language, instead of a Mswahili, the Waswahilis or Waswahili, the Kiswahili language. We agree with the author's view and believe it would be decidedly better to use the stems of these words only, without a prefix. On the other hand we doubt whether it will be possible in every individual case. The form Bantu (instead of Ntu) has become so much a household word and an acknowledged technical term in European languages that it will be difficult to discard it. The same is true of some other names, as e.g. Uganda. But apart from these few exceptions we hope that Father Wanger's recommendations will meet with general approval.