

matters as nutritional deficiency, survival rates of children, &c., has shown that Africans working for a wage packet are better off in certain respects than Africans in rural occupations. If, therefore, a real difference in health status were found to exist between the urban and the rural populations, industrialization as a factor in health could be measured.

These further investigations, like the initial inquiry, are being financed mainly by a grant from the Nuffield Foundation. The Edinburgh University team will also continue to co-operate with Fourah Bay and to provide the College with lectures and tutorials in a Social Sciences Seminar.

[Communicated by Dr. Kenneth Little]

### *Un Colloque sur la Rédaction des Droits Coutumiers à Bruxelles*

LES 16 et 17 mai 1960, le Centre d'histoire et d'ethnologie juridiques de l'Institut de Sociologie Solvay, attaché à l'Université libre de Bruxelles, organisait à Bruxelles son premier colloque; celui-ci était consacré à l'étude comparative de la rédaction des droits coutumiers dans le passé et le présent.

Le droit coutumier de l'Afrique actuelle a été étudié dans trois communications: 'The recording of customary law in British Africa', par M. A. N. Allott, lecturer in African Law, de la School of Oriental and African Studies de l'Université de Londres; 'Les réalisations françaises dans le domaine de la rédaction des coutumes africaines', par M. J. Poirier, Faculté des Lettres de Lyon; et 'Vers un "programme" belge en matière de rédaction des droits coutumiers africains', par M. J. Vanderlinden, Aspirant au Fonds national de la Recherche scientifique. M. A. Abel, professeur à l'Université libre de Bruxelles, a fait un exposé sur la 'transmission du texte juridique dans l'Islam'.

[Communication du Dr. R. Sweetlove]

### *International Congress of Orientalists in Moscow*

THE 25th International Congress of Orientalists was held in Moscow from 9 to 16 August.

The African Studies Section, which met in the Sternberg Astronomical Institute, under the direction of Professor I. Potekhin and Professor D. A. Olderogge, was attended by about 110 members, including a considerable number of Russian students and five Africans. Among the more general Africanists attending were: Professor K. R. Ruzicka (Czechoslovakia); Professors Ursula Hintze, E. Dammann, and K. Büttner (East Germany); Professor Tubiana (France); Professor I. Graham (Ghana); Professor A. N. Tucker, Dr. A. N. Allott, Dr. R. Oliver, Dr. J. D. Fage, Mr. F. R. Palmer, Mr. G. W. B. Huntingford, Mrs. Mary Holdsworth (Great Britain); Professor L. Ricci (Italy); Professor S. Streleyn (Poland); Professors M. Herskovits and W. Leslau (U.S.A.). It was divided into two sub-sections: History and Philology. The former attracted the larger share of the audience.

The work of the African History sub-section ranged widely over various topics, such as law, race relations, African art and literature. Most papers were on fairly strict historical lines, dealing with such subjects as the old kingdoms of West Africa, the evolution of African history and law, and the discussion remained, on the whole, on an academic level.

Papers in the Philology sub-section were rarely on philology itself, but dealt with more specific linguistic topics.

In between the reading of papers, members were able to make a good many contacts, including talks with advanced Russian students, and Professor Potekhin held a reception for members of the African section. It is hoped that a further exchange of ideas will follow. Members of the Congress were given a state reception in the Kremlin, and were able to take part in many excursions. A two-to-three-day visit to Leningrad was also organized.