

Notes and News

The International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research

THIS Committee seeks to promote research into racial groups, tribes, cultures, and languages, where there is a particularly urgent need to save data which might otherwise be irretrievably lost. The first number of *Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research*, published in 1958, lists tribes of primitive hunters and food-gatherers in Africa, Arabia, India, and the Far East, among which it is important that research should be carried out. The section on Africa includes the Hadzapi and other small groups in Tanganyika, and the Nemadi Berbers of Mauritania. Specialists are invited to provide further information about other tribes of hunters from the whole of Africa, their numbers, present conditions, extent of knowledge about them, &c. This should, of course, include the lesser-known groups of Pygmies and Bushmen. The Committee will also be grateful to receive the addresses of scholars, missionaries, and government officials, who might be expected to collaborate, and to whom the *Bulletin* should be sent. While the Committee has at present no funds of its own for field research, its Secretariat will do everything in its power to help obtain financial support for urgent research projects.

The editors invite relevant contributions for future numbers of the *Bulletin*, which may be in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, or Portuguese. Requests for the *Bulletin*, which is distributed free, and all other correspondence should be addressed to the Committee's Secretary: Robert Heine-Geldern, Reitschulgasse 2, Vienna 1, Austria.

Political Change in a Bamenda Chieftdom (Nsaw) in the British Cameroons

DR. PHYLLIS KABERRY, Reader in Social Anthropology at University College, London, is preparing for publication the results of a field study of political change in the Nsaw chieftdom in Bamenda, British Cameroons, which she carried out last year. Dr. Kaberry had earlier, in 1945-8, studied the economic position of women in Bamenda as a research Fellow of the International African Institute. Her recent research has been concerned both with the working of the traditional political system and with the development of new political organizations. In connexion with the latter she will collaborate with Mrs. E. M. Chilver, Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at Oxford, who is engaged on a documentary study of the history and working of native administration in the South-eastern Federation of the Cameroons.

The Oxford University Tanganyika Expedition

AN Oxford University expedition, led by Mr. Peter Simkin and assisted by the Tanganyika Government, made a preliminary scientific survey of the Kungwe-Mahili mountains on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, from July to October last year. The main object of the expedition was to make a complete botanical survey of the area, and the party consisted of three botanists, one geologist, two zoologists, and two anthropologists. Technical help was provided by African assistants from the Game Department, the Forest Department, and the Geological Survey, Tanganyika.

The anthropological work of the expedition was carried out by Peter Simkin and Albrecht Roggenkämper of the University of Bonn. An enumeration was made of many villages in the southern, central, and western areas of the peninsula. This included the overall population, the marriage status and ages, where possible, of individuals, and other details of family life and history. Studies were also made of social customs and ceremonies, and witchcraft

and beliefs, with particular reference to the worship of the god Kungwe. Films were taken of various aspects of Mahili village life and tape recordings made of songs, musical instruments, drumming, dances, and speech of the Holoholo.

A Bibliography of the Belgian Congo

A BIBLIOGRAPHY of historical, ethnographic, and linguistic studies, at present lodged in the archives at Léopoldville, has recently been prepared by the Section Documentation of the Secrétariat Général. It is entitled *Documents pour servir à la connaissance des populations du Congo Belge* and is the second in the series *Archives du Congo Belge*. The majority of the studies listed are unpublished reports made in the course of administrative duties, but when they have been published, references are given wherever it has been possible to trace them. The first part of the volume consists of a general historical survey of the studies made from 1886–1933. The second part lists them under classificatory headings—ethnographic, geographical, linguistic, &c.—and by Provinces: ethnographic and linguistic maps are listed separately. The index contains names of authors, places, tribes, and languages, and there are fourteen Appendixes giving the text of the official instructions relating to the study of the Belgian Congo peoples.

International Bibliography of Social and Cultural Anthropology

THE second volume of this bibliography, consisting of works published in 1956, has just been published by UNESCO. It has been compiled according to the principles laid down in the first volume, which appeared in 1958, but the number of periodicals analysed has been increased and the subject index considerably developed.

Visit of S. P. Smirnov to the Sudan Republic¹

S. P. SMIRNOV, of the Akademia Nauk S.S.S.R., Moscow, visited the Sudan Republic in April last year to collect material for a history of the Sudan and to meet Sudanese historians. He went to the Gezira, Bad Medani, Sennar, and Port Sudan. He noted that the Beja, who live on the outskirts of Port Sudan, while undertaking casual labour, continue to keep cattle and preserve their tribal traditions. He considers that a single Sudanese nation is rapidly emerging in the Northern Sudan.

Conference Organized by the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, February 1959

THE Rhodes-Livingstone Institute holds frequent conferences on various aspects of its research in the social field, for discussion among interested research workers, administrators, and others, of topics of mutual interest. It is hoped that such conferences are of indirect use for governments and similar bodies in providing information, besides being sources of ideas for research projects.

The 13th of these conferences was held at the Institute's headquarters at Lusaka from 10 to 13 February 1959, on the adaptation of indigenous African political systems to the situation arising from the establishment of modern systems of government. After a general discussion of some Western policies in Africa, political adaptation was examined in the Belgian administered territory of Ruanda, among the Luvale, the Soli, and the Nsenga of Northern Rhodesia, among the Ibo of Western Nigeria, in Nyasaland, in Tanganyika, and in Somalia. The speakers on these societies were, respectively, Professor Maquet, C. M. N. White, W. J. Argyle, R. J. Apthorpe, A. H. St. John-Wood, D. G. Bettison, R. L. Wishlade, H. A. Fosbrooke, and I. M. Lewis. The main speakers explaining government policies were Roger Howman, Esq., Under-Secretary, the Division of African Affairs, the Government of

¹ Abridged by M. H. from S. P. Smirnov, 'Poezda v respubliku Sudan' ('A visit to the Sudan Republic'), *Sovietskaia etnografia*, 1958, no. 6, pp. 112–20, Akademia Nauk S.S.S.R., Moscow, 1958.