

Notes and News

Meetings of the Institute

THE gatherings reported elsewhere in this number were an unqualified success. The concourse of members who had been separated for many years, the renewal of old and the formation of new friendships, was gratifying in the extreme. The most pleasing feature was the enlargement of the Executive Council to include, for the first time, Africanists of South Africa, Portugal, Holland, Sweden, and the United States. Our only regret is that it has not yet been found possible to bring in Africans—a defect that should be remedied at the first opportunity. It is sad to part from old colleagues. In particular it was with no common regret that we learned of the inability of the Rev. Father Dubois, who from the beginning has represented the Roman Catholic missions on the Council, to continue his service. His intimate knowledge of African affairs and his aptitude for persuasive exposition always evoked his colleagues' admiration, while his suavity, his tact, his courtesy and good humour endeared him to them. We may be permitted to quote from his letter to the Director:

' C'est avec le plus grand regret, croyez-le bien, que je me vois contraint, par l'âge et ses faiblesses, à renoncer à un travail qui m'était cher à tant de titres, ainsi qu'à des relations personnelles, dont j'ai tellement apprécié. . . . Permettez-moi aujourd'hui de vous redire un profond merci, spécialement à mes collègues très chers de l'ancien Conseil, que j'ai connus plus directement. . . . Je me tiens pour toujours des vôtres sinon par une collaboration active, du moins par l'intérêt qui je compte bien porter jusqu'au bout à l'œuvre si belle et si grande de l'Institut, toute consacrée au bien de notre chère Afrique. Je demande de tout cœur à la Providence de bénir vos efforts et de leur donner efficacité pleine et croissante.'

Of the members of the first Executive Council, appointed in 1925, only General de Rendinger remains on the new Council.

The Chairman

THE resignation of Lord Hailey, though expected since he had undertaken the office temporarily, was none the less a blow to members of the Council. The Institute was fortunate in having his capable leadership during a difficult period: it owes him more than we can express. Happily he will remain with us as a permanent member of Council. He is at present on a tour of about six months through the British East, Central, and West African territories for the purpose of studying the system of native administration and the part played therein by native authorities.

We welcome as his successor Lord Rennell of Rodd, who will bring to the Institute the fruits of very wide administrative experience. Son of a former British ambassador in Italy, he was born in 1895, was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and made a name for himself when, still in his twenties, he carried out explorations in the southern Sudan and wrote that fascinating narrative, *People of the Veil*. This exploit gained him the Cuthbert Peake Grant and the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society of which he became President in 1945. These journeys brought him into close contact with the French authorities of the Territoire du Niger and he received the unusual distinction of being made an honorary corporal of the local Camel Corps (Peloton Mehariste). During the First World War he served with the British army in France and, as a staff officer, in Libya and Egypt and at the Arab Bureau in Damascus. He thereafter followed his father into the