

*Bantu Authorship.*

IN recent years considerable development has taken place in South Africa in regard to Bantu authorship. For long the majority of the vernacular books produced were the work of European missionaries, and most of them had a specific missionary purpose in view. It has been more and more realized, however, that in a truly indigenous literature the African must play the largest, if not an exclusive, part. Happily there are signs that the Bantu themselves are stirring with a view to meeting the needs of their people in this field. In many parts of the country educated Africans are attempting authorship and submitting their work for publication. Mission presses are still the principal channel of such publication, but these are assisting the movement through the recognition that literature, though it may not deal specifically with religious and biblical matters, is in the best sense Christian if permeated by the Christian spirit. Thus in addition to religious publications, books on history, poetry, ethnology, drama, music, and fiction are coming from African pens. One mission press during the past ten years has published at its own risk and expense the work of nineteen Bantu authors and composers. It is symptomatic of the growing demand for literature that these works have been published without appreciable loss. The whole movement has been considerably forwarded by the holding of two Bantu authors' conferences. These were held in Johannesburg in 1936 and 1937 and were attended by authors, all of whom had had work published. Difficulties were frankly faced. One of the chief of these is the financial difficulty, and it is hoped to relieve this by raising a fund of £5,000 for the financing of African authors' works. A recent decision to bring into being a Central Literature Board with representatives from the Inter-University Committee on African Studies, the Christian Council, the Education Departments, and the Bantu Press, is a further step towards the encouragement of the African people. (*Communicated by the Rev. R. H. W. SHEPHERD, Director of Publications of the Lovedale Press, South Africa.*)

*Labour Problems in Tanganyika.*

A REPORT by a local committee, issued early in 1938, on the supply and welfare of labour in Tanganyika, emphasizes the African dilemma of the dependence of all large-scale production on the employment of labourers at long distances from their homes. In the 'labour reservoirs' the obvious effects of the migration lead to efforts to check it, by control of movement or by the development of local resources. In the centres of employment, where the inconveniences of a labour shortage are more keenly felt, misgivings are discounted and measures which tend to decrease the supply are resented. In Tanganyika independent native production has been encouraged wherever possible, on the principle that no native should be forced to seek