

Colonial Research

THE report issued by the British Colonial Office on research carried out during the period 1950-1¹ contains accounts of the work of the Colonial Research Council and the numerous councils and specialist bodies concerned with research of all kinds in the colonial territories. It includes a list of schemes made during the year and the grant allotted in each case from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The section concerned with activities directed or sponsored by the Colonial Social Science Research Council includes accounts of the regional Institutes of Social and Economic Research, now established in a number of oversea territories, and of researches carried out by Universities in the Colonies. A section is devoted to researches financed by Colonial governments or carried out by government officers. An impressive list of research projects now in progress in Africa is presented, which includes, besides projects undertaken by the International African Institute, studies in Islamic and Customary Law, land tenure, history of African administration, East African music, administration by native authorities, psychological testing, and numerous socio-economic surveys and anthropological studies of specific areas and peoples.

A Basuto Sculptor²

SAMUEL MAKOANYANE, of Koalabata near Maseru, first started, in 1933, making small clay models of animals, using illustrations in school and other books for his designs. In 1944 he died at the age of 39, by which time he had become well known, not only in Basutoland, but in the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, and examples of his work had reached Europe and the United States. Mr. C. G. Damant describes the development of his artistic activity—how from copying pictures in books he advanced to modelling from life; how the demand for his models expanded till he was hard put to it to fulfil all the orders he received; how he was commissioned by Professor Kirby, of Witwatersrand University, to make a set of figures playing Bantu musical instruments. His first human figures were taken from drawings made by early missionaries of Chief Moshesh and one of his warriors, Makoanyane, great-grandfather of Samuel himself. The photographs in Mr. Damant's book show the vigorous, lifelike quality of the models, as well as the strength and delicacy of their execution. Many of them represent Basuto women engaged on normal daily tasks—winnowing grain, carrying a clay pot, carrying a baby; the figures are full of movement, and, according to Mr. Damant, are lifelike portraits of the artist's neighbours and relations. Makoanyane, apparently, never received any instruction in his craft.

Social Welfare in the Gold Coast

A COMPREHENSIVE plan for mass education and mass literacy work has been prepared by the Gold Coast's Department of Social Welfare and presented for consideration by the Legislative Assembly. Over 200 mass literary classes are operating in Togoland, and 121 in Ashanti. In the Colony more than 1,200 men and women attend literacy classes twice a week. In the Northern Territories a new rural training centre at Tamale will be the starting-point for a mass education and mass literacy drive. The Bureau of Vernacular Literature is producing and printing primers and textbooks for use in these enterprises.

At the Accra Community Centre, presented by the United Africa Company to the people of Accra, classes in art, music, social science, commerce, and accounting are held, and many social organizations hold their meetings there. The subscribing membership has reached

¹ *Colonial Research 1950-51*. Cmd. 8303, London: H.M.S.O., pp. 241, 6s. 6d.

² *Samuel Makoanyane*, by C. G. Damant, Morija Sesuto Book Depot, 1951, pp. 35, plates.

2,500. A number of other community centres, often built by voluntary labour, have been established in other areas. The Castle of Anamabu has been used to accommodate parties of schoolboys from Ashanti, who spent a fortnight by the sea while taking part in courses on citizenship.

Visual Aids in Education

A SERIES of film strips covering a number of geographical regions has been prepared for the London County Council. Each film is accompanied by descriptive notes for the use of teachers, and is designed to illustrate the physical features of the region, the occupations, characteristics, and living-conditions of the people, aspects of urban life, transport, communications, &c. The film strips and other visual aids are produced by Educational Products Ltd., Bradford Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks.

Sudan Publications Bureau

IN 1950, as part of the programme for producing reading-matter for, and encouraging authorship among, literate Southern Sudanese, a quarterly magazine, *Future*, was started. It is edited, illustrated, and printed in Juba on a small rotary offset lithographic machine. No. 3, September 1951, contains an excellent illustrated article for teachers on the preparation of lessons, use of blackboard and other equipment, presentation of material, apportioning of time, &c.; short articles on subjects of general and topical interest, notes on world affairs, on schools, sport, scouting, &c., stories, puzzles, and a section written in Arabic (see also *Africa*, vol. xxi, 4, p. 333).

MARGARET WRONG PRIZE

This Prize will be offered annually by the Trustees of the Margaret Wrong Memorial Fund for original literary work by writers of African race living in a part of Africa to be decided upon each year by the Trustees.

Regulations for 1952

1. A silver medal and a money prize not exceeding £5 will be offered in 1952.
2. In 1952 manuscripts are invited from Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa and Angola.
3. The length of manuscripts should be not less than 5,000 or more than 15,000 words.
4. The language may be English or Portuguese.
5. The manuscript must be of an imaginative character or descriptive of African life or thought, and suitable for general reading.
6. Each manuscript should be accompanied by a statement signed by the author declaring that it is his own unaided work and has not previously been published.
7. Manuscripts should be addressed:

‘The Margaret Wrong Prize’,
c/o The International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa,
2 Eaton Gate,
London, S.W. 1.
8. Manuscripts must reach the London office of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa before 31 December 1952.
9. In the award of the Prize the decision of the Trustees will be final.