

## Notes and News

### *Linguistic Research in Northern Nigeria*

DURING Professor Lukas's recent linguistic expedition to Northern Nigeria and the Northern Cameroons, as holder of a research fellowship awarded by this Institute (see *Africa*, xxii. 3, 1952, p. 267) special attention was given to the collection of material for linguistic analyses of the following: 1. The Western Chado-hamitic languages in the eastern region of Northern Nigeria; 2. Languages of the pagan peoples of the Nigeria-Cameroons border, especially the little-known Matakam in the neighbourhood of Mokolo; 3. The Class-languages of the Jos area in Plateau Province.

Study of the Chado-hamitic languages included an exhaustive analysis of the two most important languages of the group in Nigeria: Bolanci around Fika and Bade (Bede) around Gashuwa. These languages, the structure and vocabulary of which were hitherto practically unknown, show unmistakable Hamitic features and thus provide a link with Hausa. They are well worth studying since they explain many of the characteristics found in well-known Hausa languages; moreover the information now available on these Chado-hamitic languages will supplement the material provided in the recently published *Languages of West Africa*.<sup>1</sup>

The Matakam language was studied at the suggestion of missionaries of the Sudan United Mission, who urgently need to learn and teach it in connexion with a new school recently opened in Sulede. The mission at Koza, near Mora, and the Administrations in Mora and Mokolo were equally interested, since it is intended to develop Matakam as a language of instruction. The Matakam number more than 120,000, and are a vigorous and enterprising people. Considerable material showing the structure of the language, as well as texts and a vocabulary, were collected.

It is hoped, at a later stage, to prepare for publication a study of some of the Jos languages, especially Birom and Jarawa; this would throw new light on the problem of the so-called class languages of Nigeria. (Communicated by Professor J. Lukas.)

### *Economic Survey of the Cocoa-Producing Areas in Nigeria*

A SURVEY of the economy of the cocoa-producing areas in Nigeria was decided upon by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board in order to provide the information the Board needed for the determination of policy. The Board appointed a Committee, of which Professor A. W. Ashby was the Chairman, to organize and direct the survey. A pilot survey was conducted during the cocoa marketing season of 1950/1 and the main survey was begun in June 1951. The field work will come to an end early in 1953 and the compilation and analysis of the records, which is being done partly in Nigeria and partly in London, is now well under way. The conditions in Nigeria were found to require a continuous recording of the economic transactions of the cocoa-farmers and their families for a long period as well as enquiries of a more ordinary kind. The survey accordingly comprised:

1. Extensive inquiries about marketing, land tenure, labour co-operation, and other topics;
2. case studies of individuals;
3. a census and two stocktakings at an interval of a year of over 750 families in nineteen localities;

<sup>1</sup> *Languages of West Africa* (Handbook of African Languages: Part ii), 1952, see below pp. 163-6.

4. detailed recording of labour, production, income, consumption, and expenditure of about 300 of the families for a year;
5. quarterly records of the stocks, livestock, cash and semi-liquid assets, and indebtedness of the selected families, and
6. quarterly studies for two weeks at a time of food consumption in a smaller sample of families.

From the material gathered a report will be drafted during 1953 showing in detail how the cocoa-farmers and their families live, work, and earn their living, and examining the labour supply, the sources of credit, the effect of co-operation, the environmental conditions, the effects of land tenure and marketing systems and other matters raised by the Cocoa Marketing Board in the terms of reference.

Dr. K. A. H. Murray succeeded Professor A. W. Ashby as Chairman in 1952. The other members of the Committee are Sir Sydney Phillipson (Chairman of the Cocoa Marketing Board), Sir Gerald Whiteley (a former Chief Commissioner of the Western Provinces of Nigeria), Professor Frankel (Professor of Colonial Economic Affairs, Oxford), Dr. J. R. Raeburn (London School of Economics) and Mr. G. P. Hirsch (Oxford Institute for Agricultural Economic Research). The Chief Research Officer and two Senior Research Officers appointed by the Committee (Mr. R. Galletti, Mr. K. D. S. Baldwin, and Mr. I. O. Dina) have been responsible for the conduct of operations in the field and will prepare the report under the direction of the Committee.

The survey was conducted at every stage in close association and liaison with the Nigerian Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Co-operation and other authorities concerned. Records and statistics were furnished by many departments, and in particular by the Cocoa Survey. The major exporting and importing firms also co-operated in the field of their own activities. (Communicated by Mr. R. Galletti.)

### *Co-ordination of Research in Africa*

THE Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (C.C.T.A.), which has now established its headquarters in London, is a six-member international body comprising representatives of the metropolitan powers responsible for non-self-governing African territories—the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Portugal, Southern Rhodesia, and the Union of South Africa. The Commission will maintain a periodical review of technical subjects of African interest in which action could usefully be taken by member governments; it will be responsible for holding technical conferences,<sup>1</sup> for making recommendations for the preparation of agreed measures of co-operation, and for furthering joint requests for technical assistance to the specialized agencies of the United Nations. It will also co-ordinate the work of the various Bureaux (such as the Soils Bureau, the Inter-African Labour Institute, the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Bureau) which have been established to deal with specific problems.

The Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara (C.S.A.), which consists of thirteen eminent scientists, each concerned with one special discipline, was originally set up as an independent body by the same six governments;<sup>2</sup> it has now been attached to C.C.T.A. as its scientific adviser; recommendations of C.S.A. will be passed to C.C.T.A., as the authority for approving budgets on behalf of the participating governments, and the two secretariats dealing with inter-African scientific and technical co-operation—C.S.A.'s on the scientific and C.C.T.A.'s on the executive side—will work in close co-operation.

At its second meeting at Dakar in 1951 C.S.A reviewed the whole field of scientific study

<sup>1</sup> The first statistical conference was held in July 1951 at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia (see *Africa*,

xxii. 2, 1952, p. 174).  
<sup>2</sup> See *Africa*, xxi. 2, 1951, p. 151.