

Notes and News

International Institute for Afro-American Studies

WE have been informed by our member, Dr. Jorge A. Vivó, of the foundation of the Instituto Internacional de Estudios Afroamericanos at Moneda 13, Mexico, D.F., under the directorship of Doctor Fernando Ortiz. The object of the Institute is to collect and distribute to Governments of the countries concerned, to unofficial bodies and to individuals, information and the results of scientific research regarding the Negro population in America, the laws and customs concerning them and their relations with the rest of the population; to undertake scientific research, to organize conferences and courses of studies, to publish a periodical journal and other matter, and finally, to act as a centre of information.

Professor Melville J. Herskovits is one of the consulting members of the Institute.

Schweizerisches Tropeninstitut in Basle

WITH financial support from the Swiss Federal and the Basle Cantonal authorities, a Tropical Institute was opened at Basle last Autumn. The Institute is affiliated to the University at Basle. It consists of a school of tropical medicine, with laboratories and hospital accommodation for patients, and a school which provides a general course for people intending to take up life in the tropics. This course includes instruction in general subjects, European languages, Geography, History, as well as Ethnology, African languages, tropical hygiene and tropical agriculture. The medical activities are under the direction of Dr. Lauterburg-Bonjour, who for many years worked under Dr. Schweitzer at Lambarene. African languages will be taught by Inspector Huppenbauer of the Basle Mission who was for many years in West Africa, and the teaching staff also includes Professor F. Speiser who is well known in the anthropological world.

In view of present circumstances and the general international situation, it has been decided to open the Institute on a provisional basis for the first two years.

Industrial Development of the Netherlands Indies

IN a pamphlet¹ which has recently reached us through the courtesy of Dr. Huender, of the Netherlands Government, Mr. Peter Sitsen, Director of the Industrial Division, Department of Economic Affairs at Batavia, gives an account of the industrial development of the Netherlands Indies from 1928 till the Japanese occupation. His account, which is illustrated with numerous statistical tables, is of the greatest interest to all those who are studying or planning the economic and social development of colonial territories.

Mr. Sitsen recalls that as early as 1901 the Netherlands Parliament stressed the importance of developing secondary industries in the Netherlands Indies, and called for reports from technical experts; in 1916 a Commission for Factory Industry was appointed, and a number of mechanized factories, organized on Western lines and managed by Europeans, were started in the Indies, but many of them proved to be unsuccessful. In Mr. Sitsen's view, although 'there existed a strong and sincere desire to industrialise the Netherlands Indies in order to increase the prosperity of the Indonesians, comparatively little was achieved only because all attempts were based on transplanting Western organising methods to an Indonesian society not prepared for them. Too little attention was paid to the basic social

¹ *Industrial Development of the Netherlands Indies*, by Peter H. W. Sitsen. Bulletin 2 of the Netherlands and Netherlands Indies Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations.