

International Congress of Comparative Law

THE International Academy of Comparative Law held its third Congress in London from 31 July to 5 August 1950. Members of the Congress, representing some 48 nations, were welcomed at the opening meeting by the Lord Chancellor of England and Mr. Justice Vaisey, and it was announced that Dr. Roscoe Pound, of Harvard University, had been elected as the new president of the Academy.

The programme of the Congress, as on previous occasions, included a section devoted to *Ethnologie Juridique*. The Committee dealing with this subject, which was presided over by Professor H. Trimborn and Mr. Arthur Phillips, began by considering the scope and methods of Ethnological Jurisprudence (as the subject has generally been designated in England), and then turned its attention to a number of specific questions. Among the *rapporteurs* whose contributions were closely concerned with the field of African studies were Professor Max Gluckman, who discussed the relation between law and custom with particular reference to Bantu land tenure; Dr. J. G. Peristiany, who dealt with the question of *La vengeance privée et l'intervention de l'autorité publique* on the basis of his study of the Pokot (Suk) tribe of Kenya; and Mr. Arthur Phillips, who read a paper on *Les cérémonies du mariage chez les indigènes*.

African Students in the United States

A SURVEY on the welfare of African students in the United States was carried out in 1948 under the auspices of the Phelps-Stokes fund with the aid of a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. The survey was undertaken by Dr. Ruth Sloan of the United States Department of State and Mr. Ivor Cummings of the British Colonial Office Welfare Department, who are the joint authors of a report published in 1949.¹ The sections of the report deal with the problems and needs of the student in Africa, in the United States, and on his return to Africa. It makes proposals relating to the selection of African students and the qualifications required for those desiring to study in the United States, and discusses existing educational facilities in Africa and the various forms of financial aid which are available from African and American sources. On the basis of interviews with 301 African students an evaluation both of the students and of the colleges at which they were studying is attempted, and a comparison is made of the educational standards in Africa with those in American schools. Analyses of replies to student questionnaires and of institutions in U.S.A. where African students are registered, are given in a series of tables. The survey was primarily a fact-finding survey, so that the report is concerned mainly with a description and analysis of various aspects of the existing situation and confines its recommendations to practical suggestions relating to financial and welfare problems, such as the need for planned vacations, for adequate information about expenses, for regional conferences and the circulation of information about students, for advice about clothing, lodging, travel, &c.

A Venereal Diseases Survey in Southern Rhodesia

DURING the months of April to October 1949, a Venereal Diseases Survey was undertaken in Southern Rhodesia with the object of ascertaining whether more rapid and more efficient methods of treatment could be instituted. The survey was carried out by Dr. R. R. Willcox of St. Mary's Hospital, London, assisted by a technician, Mr. Boulter, late of the Wellcome Institute, and Mrs. Boulter. Dr. Willcox and Mr. Boulter had both had previous experience in Africa. The unit was equipped with a car and a mobile pathological laboratory and in

¹ *A Survey of African Students studying in the United States*. Phelps-Stokes Fund, New York, 1949, pp. 78.

the course of the survey spent some time first at Salisbury, whence visits were made to the Government transit camp at Highfield and to the Umtali district; it then moved to rural areas, stopping at Fort Victoria, Enkeldoorn, and Zimbabwe and visiting a number of Government clinics. At Ndanga the laboratory was established near the new hospital buildings while Dr. Willcox visited the various clinics in the area; the next centre to be visited was Bulawayo, and the unit returned to Salisbury in October. The report presented to the Secretary for Health of the Government of Southern Rhodesia on 10 October 1949 gives a very full account, supported by numerous statistical tables, of the incidence of the different venereal diseases, as well as of still-births and miscarriages attributable to venereal disease; it discusses existing facilities for treatment, and the social aspects of venereal diseases prevention. With reference to prophylaxis, Dr. Willcox writes: 'Better results are likely to accrue from an improvement in social conditions rather than from prophylactic measures.'

Margaret Wrong Prize

THE 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 1951

1. A silver medal and a money prize, not exceeding £5, will be offered in 1951.
2. Manuscripts are invited from Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Gold Coast, Liberia, French West Africa, French Equatorial Africa, and French Cameroons.
3. The length of Manuscripts shall not be less than 5,000 or more than 15,000 words.
4. The language may be English or French.
5. The Manuscript must be of an imaginative character or descriptive of African life or thought, and suitable for general reading.
6. The 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, England.

7. Manuscripts must reach the London Office of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa before 31 December 1951.
8. In the award of the Prize the decision of the Trustees will be final.

The Memorial Fund is still open, and contributions should be sent to the Treasurer, the Rev. Michael Davidson, C.M.S., 6 Salisbury Square, London, E.C. 4, England.