

mirent d'accord sur la manière de transcrire les mots africains à employer dans des textes non linguistiques. Enfin ils rédigèrent un questionnaire destiné à faciliter l'application aux langues bantoues de la méthode de M. Swadesh.

Après avoir précisé le programme des travaux qui se poursuivront les prochains mois, chacun rejoignit sa base de recherches sur le terrain.

Communicated by J. J. Maquet, Chef du Centre d'Astrida

Nutrition Studies in the British Dependencies

THE London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine provides post-graduate courses for diplomas in public health, tropical medicine and hygiene, and bacteriology.

The Department of Human Nutrition is one of the newest in the School. It was established in 1946, and six years later, in co-operation with the Colonial Office, an Applied Nutrition Unit was set up, the main functions of which are the study and exchange of information on colonial nutrition and on the technology of foods of people in the dependencies, and the provision of advice and assistance in field work and investigations. In addition, the Unit gives assistance in the training of personnel from the dependencies in nutrition work.

Since its establishment in 1952 as part of the Department of Nutrition, the Unit has had to deal with a rapidly increasing amount of work. Several of the dependent territories have begun to take an interest in nutrition, particularly in the wider aspects of the subject, such as the estimation of the adequacy of food supplies in relation to the human population, which is now increasing at an unprecedented rate in many areas.

A memorandum on dietary survey technique was distributed, and as a result several territories, including Tanganyika and Uganda, set up territorial nutrition committees to review local problems and to co-ordinate attempts at improvement. Close liaison is being maintained with the Food and Agriculture Organization (F.A.O.) and the World Health Organization (W.H.O.), and with interested individuals at the University Colleges of Nigeria and the West Indies and other institutions.

One problem with which the Unit was asked to assist was the estimation of the quantities of different foods that would be required by the population of the projected new town and port of Tema in the Gold Coast. Another was concerned with the technological and nutritional aspects of food-processing techniques. The increasing urbanization of populations in the dependencies has created a demand for food in a semi-processed state, for example, flour or bread rather than unmilled grain, and the preparation of gari from cassava, the parboiling of rice, the milling of maize and smaller grains, and the preservation of fish are under consideration.

During the year, the Unit assisted many individual workers by evaluating the data collected by them in the field (food-consumption studies, height and weight records, &c.), and analysed the dietary records obtained by the *Survey of Economy in Cocoa-producing Areas in Nigeria*.

The Head of the Department of Human Nutrition also directs the work of the Human Nutrition Research Unit of the U.K. Medical Research Council in Gambian villages and at the Field Research Station at Fajara in the Gambia.

Two field studies have been conducted in Gambian villages. One, at Geneiri, was an experiment in the improvement of the health of the villagers by increasing agricultural productivity. This scheme, started by the Nutrition Field Working Party, was financed from U.K. Colonial Development and Welfare funds for a three-year period from 1947 to 1950, and at the end of this time the Gambian Government took over the work. Since that date research has continued and reports have been published on the economics of the village's agriculture, and on the energy expenditure of Africans engaged in various rural

activities, with special reference to the physiological and environmental factors which may influence their efficiency.

The second investigation—into the effects of control of malaria on the state of nutrition—is taking place in Keneba village. The Human Nutrition Research Unit aims at eradicating the malaria mosquitoes from the village. After a year, during which the number of mosquitoes was reduced by spraying, several changes had been noted in the people, and fewer showed signs of malnutrition. The fall in weight associated with the 1950 hungry season at Geneiri was over 10 per cent., but in Keneba in 1951 it was less than 4 per cent. In addition to measures to control mosquitoes, Africans are being tested for malaria, filariasis, and hookworm, and investigations are being conducted into the nutritional value of the grains eaten. New kinds and varieties are being grown, and the Gambians are invited to try them to see how they like them. The Unit has also introduced tractors and modern fertilizers, a step which has considerably increased the crop yields on the same total area of land farmed.

These investigations being undertaken in West Africa benefit not only the people of the Gambia but people in all tropical countries. They are paid for in part by the U.K. Medical Research Council, which supplies the scientific workers, and by Colonial Development and Welfare funds, which provide the equipment and maintenance. The field investigations carried out in the Gambia are backed by laboratory research in London at the U.K. Medical Research Council's Nutrition Unit and the Applied Nutrition Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

African Research and Study Program, Boston University

THE African Research and Study Program, which was formally inaugurated at Boston University in July 1953 (see *Africa*, xxiii, 3, p. 252), is now moving into a period of expanding activities. Its Director, Professor William Brown, made an extensive tour in Europe and Africa during the first half of that year, for the purpose of surveying and assessing research on Africa in progress. He visited the leading research institutions concerned with social sciences in Europe and Africa and prepared a comprehensive report for the Board of Overseas Training of the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Brown's initial preoccupations in connexion with the Program of Research and Study have been the establishment of a library, and the planning of a series of bibliographical surveys, as a basis for the organization of more intensive research at a later date. In addition to these activities courses are being arranged, within the existing departmental framework of the Graduate School of the University, on such subjects as Geography of Africa, Problems of contemporary Africa, Politics of contemporary Africa, as well as a Seminar in Cultural Anthropology.

Dr. Adelaide Hill, Instructor in Sociology at Sargent College and at the College of Liberal Arts, has been appointed Administrative Assistant to Professor Brown; in May–July 1953 Dr. Hill visited West and Central Africa, speaking to students and to numerous women's groups, mainly on the role of women in the United States. Dr. W. G. Newman, who has been actively engaged in the work of the Program, visited research organizations in the United Kingdom in the course of an investigation of African research resources in Britain. Mr. Daniel McCall of Columbia University has been appointed to the staff of the Program and, as well as assisting the Director in the planning of research, will serve as Instructor in Anthropology.

Oversea visitors to the African Research and Study Program during 1953 included Lord Hailey, Dr. J. J. Maquet of I.R.S.A.C., Astrida, Professor Gaston Leduc of the Sorbonne, Paris, Mr. Kenneth Robinson of Nuffield College, Oxford, Miss Peter Ady,