

*Micro-film edition of Africa*

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the micro-filming of *Africa* in order to make it available to libraries, &c. in this considerably reduced form, thus facilitating filing and subsequent reference. The Micro editions, which will include volumes covering the period 1928-58, will be issued by Micro Methods Limited of East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorkshire, to whom all applications for further information should be made. The cost of one complete volume will be £3 per annum, and the complete set (31 years) will be available at £90. (Single issues cannot be supplied.)

*'The African Explains Witchcraft': a Correction*

WE are grateful to Mr. J. Lewton Brain for pointing out an error in 'The African Explains Witchcraft' which appeared in *Africa*, October 1935. The text given on pp. 504-7 under the heading 'Nuer' is not Nuer but Acoli. Mr. Lewton Brain confirmed this with the author, Fr. J. P. Crazzolaro, who told him that the error arose through a misunderstanding by Professor Westermann, who was then Editor of *Africa*.

*El Instituto Claretiano de Africanistas*

THIS Institute, founded recently in Santa Isabel, Fernando Po, is under the patronage of the religious order of the Misioneros Claretianos. Its object is to collect material and provide assistance for persons interested in the culture of Spanish Guinea and of Africa in general. The Institute has an Africanist library, which already contains 3,000 volumes, and a museum. It publishes the monthly review *La Guinea Española* and two small monthlies in the Bubi and Fang languages.

*Population Movements and Malaria Eradication*

SCHEMES for the control and eradication of malaria, sponsored by the World Health Organization, are being hampered by the contacts between areas from which malaria has been cleared and those which, because of the movement of peoples, remain malarious. The sixth report of the Expert Committee on Malaria of the WHO (1957) stated that mass movements of population in the malaria season are likely to exacerbate the disease.

More information is needed on the pattern, scale, and causes of these movements and the extent to which they can be controlled. The Planning Division for Malaria Eradication of the WHO have accordingly asked R. Mansell Prothero of the Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, and formerly of University College, Ibadan, and the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research, to prepare a report on existing information relating to movements of population in Africa South of the Sahara. A similar report is to be prepared for the Middle and Far East. The report will cover nomadic pastoral, migrant labour, and pilgrim movements. Though information and data are incomplete, it should be possible to assemble and analyse a body of worthwhile material.

Mr. Prothero will be travelling in Africa as a consultant of the WHO during the first six months of 1960 for discussions with officials and research workers in the social sciences. He will be grateful to hear of published or unpublished material relevant to his work. Information should be addressed to him, c/o the Department of Geography, 12 Abercromby Square, Liverpool 7.

[Communicated by R. Mansell Prothero]

*Study Group on Asian and African Languages*

A REPORT of the Study Group on Asian and African Languages, initiated by the N.A.T.O. Parliamentarians, Conference of 1958, held from 25 to 29 May 1959, has been issued by the

School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. It stresses the need for a fuller understanding between the Western world and the peoples of Asia and Africa by means of a more thorough knowledge of their languages and cultures. Improvement at the university level should come first because facilities and personnel, however inadequate, already exist there. A list of Asian and African languages essential for the purpose has been drawn up. The African languages are the following: Amharic, Bambara, Bemba, Berber, Ewondo, Bulu or Fang, Fula (Peul), Ganda, Hausa, Igbo, Kimbundu, Kongo, Krio, Lingala, Luba, Mandinka, Mende, Mongo, Mossi, Nyanja, Ronga, Ruanda, Sara, Senoufo, Somali, Susu, Swahili, Temne, Tigrinya, Twi, Wolof, Yoruba; Arabic and Malagasy are included in both lists. More teachers and research workers need to be trained and materials for the languages listed to be prepared. It is proposed that a fellowship and studentship programme should be established to widen the knowledge of Asian and African languages and cultures. A programme is also proposed for the support of study institutes, summer schools, or seminars for advanced or special topics in Asian and African studies.

The following categories of essential teaching materials are recommended in so far as they are relevant to the various languages: an elementary text and exercise book based on the spoken language and designed on modern principles for use in conjunction with a competent speaker of the language or with recorded speech; an introduction to the writing system and simultaneously to the written language; a substantial quantity of graded readings up to newspaper difficulty; a bilingual dictionary of the modern spoken and newspaper language; a reference grammar; graded recordings up to the level of radio broadcast difficulty. A preliminary review has shown that there is no complete set of adequate teaching material in these categories for any of these languages.

In addition to the Fellowship programme it is recommended that funds should be provided for the preparation and publication of materials essential for the teaching of the languages. As a first step, it is proposed that a guide to teaching materials should be prepared and published. Adequate libraries and specialist librarians should be provided for and facilities for the buying of foreign books improved. Scientific linguistic principles should also be applied to instruction on the languages and cultures of Asia and Africa for government, industry, and commerce.

It is estimated that the proposed development programme would, when in full operation, require a high level of expenditure, so that it will be necessary to collect further information and examine the financial needs more closely before making more precise proposals.

The Report concludes by emphasizing that the Western countries should study the most effective means of ensuring a higher degree of public awareness on the subject of Asia and Africa, and that the peoples of the West cannot and should not attempt to carry out such studies without the collaboration of Asians and Africans themselves. Existing facilities available for the study of African and Asian languages in Europe and the United States are listed in an appendix to the Report.