

Notes and News

The Kingdom of Benin

BENIN, one of the oldest and largest of the West African kingdoms and at one time the leading power in what is now Southern Nigeria, is to be the subject of an extensive research project in which a combined team of English and Nigerian scholars, including anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians, will participate under the direction of Dr. K. Onwuka Dike, the Nigerian historian. The project is jointly sponsored by the British Dominions and Colonies Programme of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, and the British Colonial Social Science Research Council. It will be directed from the Department of History at the University College, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Mission démographique de la Guinée Française (see *Africa*, xxv, 4, 1955, p. 434)

Two reports recently issued (February and June 1956) by the Direction de la Statistique Générale de l'A.O.F. give some account of the demographic study which has been carried out in French Guinea by a team including officers of the World Food Organization, medical officers, statisticians, research workers, and African assistants, under the direction of M. Théodore, Administrator of I.N.S.E.E. The first report, compiled by M. Théodore, is concerned with the general scope and nature of the inquiry—its terms of reference, methods of work, the organization and selection of material, personnel employed, and the errors in procedure and in the sampling process which became apparent in the course of the work. The concluding section discusses the value of sampling as a method of inquiry and indicates certain principles which have emerged from this largely experimental project.

The second report presents—mainly in the form of tables and diagrams—some of the provisional results obtained. These concern subjects such as family structure, nature of employment, fertility, mortality, relation between birth- and death-rate, reproduction-rate, migrations of population. The data which furnished the basis for these results related to about 50,000 individuals and were collected in four rural and two urban areas in French Guinea.

New Movement in Nigerian Art

AN exhibition of contemporary Nigerian drawings and paintings has been arranged at the Jos Museum, Northern Nigeria. Among the fifty-four exhibits, Mr. Ben Enwonwu is represented by three paintings; other interesting exhibits are drawings by Mrs. Du Preez and lino-cuts from the Government College, Keffi. Particularly notable are the paintings by boys aged between 12 and 18 from the Government College, Keffi. These are done by the powder tempera process, in bright blues, mauves, yellows and white, producing the effect of mosaic. Two hundred and fifty of these drawings were recently exhibited in the United States, at the Philadelphia Museum, and were enthusiastically admired. It is understood that the City of Manchester Education Committee is proposing to arrange an exhibition of them in Britain.

David Tait Memorial Prize

THE University College of the Gold Coast proposes to commemorate the late Dr. David Tait by founding a prize, of the value of £10, to be awarded each year for an essay on some topic in the field of Social Anthropology. Contributions towards this memorial may be addressed to: The Principal, University College of the Gold Coast, Achimota, Gold Coast, West Africa.