

Hausa–Russian—are being prepared, as well as a new edition of an Arab–Russian dictionary (Egyptian dialect). Of the other philological works which are planned one might mention ‘Studies in the folklore and literature of the South African Bantu’, ‘The origin and spread of Swahili’, ‘Studies in Swahili syntax’, ‘Studies in contemporary Egyptian literature’, &c.

The last section is devoted to geography. The Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has planned several works on Africa, including ‘A physical geography of Algeria’, ‘Morocco, natural resources and economy’, ‘Egypt, natural resources and economy’, ‘The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland’.

All the participants in the discussion welcomed the opportunities given by the conference, which was to provide the basis for the co-ordination of African studies in the Soviet Union.

M. B. Hornung (Institute of Geography) pointed out certain duplications in the plan, as, for example, the subjects chosen by the Oriental Institute—‘The growth in importance of African raw materials in the system of contemporary imperialism’ and ‘The part of African raw materials and population reserves in world war II’; the book ‘The peoples of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis in the struggle for national liberation’ (The Institute of World Economics and International Relations) in part duplicates the study ‘The formation of independent Tunis’ and ‘The imperialist struggle in North Africa on the eve of and during world war II’ (Oriental Institute). At any rate, if this is not actual duplication, it is at least an irrational use of resources, which is at present to be deprecated. This shortcoming of the over-all plan, in the opinion of M. B. Hornung, arises from the absence of one directing centre in African studies.

Members of the Leningrad section of the Institute of Ethnography, A. I. Sobchenko and E. N. Miachina, developed I. I. Potekhin’s point on the outstanding importance of studying the ethnic composition of the various countries of the African continent.

In conclusion, the conference underlined the importance of close contact between all the research institutes of the Academy of Sciences working on Africa. The conference put on record the desirability of organizing an inter-disciplinary expedition to Africa, with the participation of geographers, philologists, ethnographers, economists, and historians. Scholars expressed the hope that their joint studies would fill the gaps in Soviet African studies and would give moral support to the peoples of Africa.

M. H.

International African Seminars in Social Studies

THE International African Institute, in collaboration with a number of centres of research and higher education in Africa, is to arrange a series of four international seminars in tropical Africa over the period 1958–61. It has been generously granted funds for this purpose by the Ford Foundation. The seminars will consider and report on social research problems of significance for further social, economic, and educational development in Africa. They will also provide opportunities for research workers and other scholars holding posts in various parts of Africa to establish closer contact with each other and with their colleagues in Europe and America, and to exchange views on problems and methods of research. From fifteen to twenty persons will participate in each seminar.

It has been agreed that the successive seminars should be held in different regions, and offers for facilities for holding them have been made by the East African Institute of Social Research, Makerere College, Uganda; the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, University College, Ibadan, with the collaboration of I.F.A.N. and the University of Dakar; the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, with the collaboration of the Rhodes–Livingstone Institute; and by the University of Lovanium, with the collaboration of I.R.S.A.C.

The selection of subjects for study at the several seminars will seek to ensure that they will together cover a reasonably wide range of problems and methods, and that there will not be any undue overlapping of subject-matter and participants. Selection will also have regard to the interest and importance of a subject, both theoretical and practical, and its suitability for stimulating further research and, in particular, for promoting a greater exchange of views and information among scholars working in many different areas.

It is hoped to hold the first of these seminars at the East African Institute of Social Research, Makerere College, Uganda.

The Fifth Anniversary of the Ethnological Society of Addis Ababa

THE fifth anniversary of the Ethnological Society of Addis Ababa was celebrated on 7 July 1957, with a dinner, speeches, the reading of poems, and the distribution of prizes. Many messages of congratulation and encouragement were received from institutions and individuals, including Mr. Wolf Leslau, who emphasized that the society, in breaking through long-established taboos, was the first to deal with the scientific problems of its country and thus to be in direct touch with Western scholarship.

Mr. Assefa Liban, the President, paid tribute to the society's Adviser, Mr. Chojnacki, who is also the librarian of the University College, and who has spent much time and energy working for the preservation of the living traditions of Ethiopia. The society had been faced with three main difficulties: lack of interest in research work, lack of training, and lack of a transliteration system, but although progress had been slow there were now forty members trained in research.

Mr. Chojnacki stressed the point that the idea of research was a new one in Ethiopia; a start had been made with the subject most likely to stimulate the interest of Ethiopians, namely their own ethnology and their own past, and the field had proved to be rich and unexplored. The seventh Bulletin of the society contains ten articles of which two, 'Gada' and 'The commercial and agricultural documents of the Harari people in the nineteenth century', may be published as separate bulletins. Twenty-two members were offered new topics to work on during the vacation and three were working on Goggam.

World Health Organization Nutrition Training Course for English-speaking Countries in Africa South of the Sahara¹

A NUTRITION course for doctors, veterinary surgeons, agronomists, educationists, and administrators was held in October and November 1957 in Kampala, Uganda, by invitation of the Government. The Director of the course was Dr. G. W. Gale, Professor of Preventive Medicine at Makerere College, where the meetings took place.

In his opening address, Dr. F. J. C. Cambournac, Regional Director of WHO in Africa, emphasized the paramount importance of improvement in the diet, and spoke of Africa as 'not so much an undernourished as a malnourished continent'. While the training of specialists was essential, their activities called for the support of all departments concerned in the raising of food-consumption levels, better utilization of existing resources, and education of the public.

The course was divided into two stages: the first stage was a five-week training course, consisting of lectures, demonstrations, field excursions, and discussions covering every aspect of human nutrition in Africa; the second stage was a one-week seminar, more particularly intended for officers holding high administrative positions, such as administrators, economists, and others from the level at which policies and programmes are discussed and decided.

¹ See *Africa*, xxviii, 1, 1958, pp. 59-60.