

Colonial Research

THE report issued by the British Colonial Office on research carried out during the period 1950-1¹ contains accounts of the work of the Colonial Research Council and the numerous councils and specialist bodies concerned with research of all kinds in the colonial territories. It includes a list of schemes made during the year and the grant allotted in each case from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The section concerned with activities directed or sponsored by the Colonial Social Science Research Council includes accounts of the regional Institutes of Social and Economic Research, now established in a number of oversea territories, and of researches carried out by Universities in the Colonies. A section is devoted to researches financed by Colonial governments or carried out by government officers. An impressive list of research projects now in progress in Africa is presented, which includes, besides projects undertaken by the International African Institute, studies in Islamic and Customary Law, land tenure, history of African administration, East African music, administration by native authorities, psychological testing, and numerous socio-economic surveys and anthropological studies of specific areas and peoples.

A Basuto Sculptor²

SAMUEL MAKOANYANE, of Koalabata near Maseru, first started, in 1933, making small clay models of animals, using illustrations in school and other books for his designs. In 1944 he died at the age of 39, by which time he had become well known, not only in Basutoland, but in the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, and examples of his work had reached Europe and the United States. Mr. C. G. Damant describes the development of his artistic activity—how from copying pictures in books he advanced to modelling from life; how the demand for his models expanded till he was hard put to it to fulfil all the orders he received; how he was commissioned by Professor Kirby, of Witwatersrand University, to make a set of figures playing Bantu musical instruments. His first human figures were taken from drawings made by early missionaries of Chief Moshesh and one of his warriors, Makoanyane, great-grandfather of Samuel himself. The photographs in Mr. Damant's book show the vigorous, lifelike quality of the models, as well as the strength and delicacy of their execution. Many of them represent Basuto women engaged on normal daily tasks—winnowing grain, carrying a clay pot, carrying a baby; the figures are full of movement, and, according to Mr. Damant, are lifelike portraits of the artist's neighbours and relations. Makoanyane, apparently, never received any instruction in his craft.

Social Welfare in the Gold Coast

A COMPREHENSIVE plan for mass education and mass literacy work has been prepared by the Gold Coast's Department of Social Welfare and presented for consideration by the Legislative Assembly. Over 200 mass literary classes are operating in Togoland, and 121 in Ashanti. In the Colony more than 1,200 men and women attend literacy classes twice a week. In the Northern Territories a new rural training centre at Tamale will be the starting-point for a mass education and mass literacy drive. The Bureau of Vernacular Literature is producing and printing primers and textbooks for use in these enterprises.

At the Accra Community Centre, presented by the United Africa Company to the people of Accra, classes in art, music, social science, commerce, and accounting are held, and many social organizations hold their meetings there. The subscribing membership has reached

¹ *Colonial Research 1950-51*. Cmd. 8303, London: H.M.S.O., pp. 241, 6s. 6d.

² *Samuel Makoanyane*, by C. G. Damant, Morija Sesuto Book Depot, 1951, pp. 35, plates.