

Press) solicits the collaboration of educationists working in Africa. Its concluding paragraph is: 'The primary purpose of the Board is to get into touch with those who have written, are writing, or want to write books, but they will also be glad to hear from any who, while not themselves prepared to write, have views about the sort of history books they would like to be written. All communications should be addressed to Professor R. Coupland, All Souls College, Oxford.'

South African Institute of Race Relations.

DURING the seven years of its existence the South African Institute of Race Relations has gradually become the important centre of many forms of activity concerned with a better understanding between races living in South Africa, and notably between Whites and Natives. The report for the year 1936 provides ample proof of this. Of its varied content a few points may be mentioned here as showing how many-sided and far-reaching the activities of the Institute have become and how large a number of other bodies, official and private, are collaborating with it.

1. The Institute gives assistance to the Tiger Kloof Native Institution in studying the possibilities of developing cottage or village industries in native areas. The prospects for such 'home'-industries seem to be limited; they are dependent mainly on the European market, since the Africans have 'a strong prejudice against native-made goods'.

2. The Council of the Institute makes grants for educational and social research; a study of the mental and physical development of the Bantu pre-school child from a clinical point of view is now being made, as is also a study of the incidence and origin of miscegenation in South Africa.

3. The problem of harmonizing the efforts to place the uprooted rural White in industrial employment with the claims of Non-European workers to the right to keep the employment they have held for generations, has been studied continuously. In July, 24 natives serving as crews on the tugs in Durban Harbour, were given one day's notice to decide whether they would accept work in the sheds at half their wages or cease work at once. Their periods of service ranged from 10 to 30 years. Non-European workers are often suspicious of any effort to increase wages because they fear that the underlying motive is their removal from employment.

4. The Institute continues its efforts to find further opportunities for the training of Bantu, Coloured, and Indian nurses. The Institute has been called upon for advice and help in the planning of district nursing services by missionary and other bodies.

5. The increasing interest taken by Bantu women in the welfare of their people has called for the development of Bantu women's societies and the Institute's services have been enlisted by groups of Bantu women to help in the establishment of these societies.

6. The urbanization of the Bantu has led to an increasing number of destitute children and to the necessity for providing shelter for aged natives who are destitute. Until recently it was easy to find relatives of orphan native children; but it has now proved necessary to have places of safety in the larger centres, where destitute children can be placed until provision is made for them.

7. Among Non-European juveniles and juvenile adults there is an apparent growth of destitution and delinquency. In April 1936 the first hostel in South Africa for native juvenile delinquents was opened in Durban.

8. The Pathfinder and Wayfarer Movements, with which leading members of the Institute are personally very closely associated, have undergone important constitutional changes in 1936. The South African Boy Scouts Association (for Whites) has arranged for the (Non-European) Pathfinder Movement to be recognized as a parallel, self-governing Boy Scout organization. The Girl-Guide Movement has absorbed the (Non-European) Wayfarer Movement as a branch under the direction of the Girl Guide Council.

9. In response to representations made by the Institute, the Carnegie Corporation made a grant of £1,000 for the development of library facilities for Non-Europeans, particularly Bantu, in the Eastern districts of the Cape Province. The Transvaal Committee of the Carnegie Library Service for Non-Europeans appointed an African as a full-time travelling librarian. The Carnegie Corporation also made a grant for the purpose of establishing in Durban a library of books written by African and American Negroes.

10. The Institute continues to assist Joint Councils and Native Welfare Societies with information and advice.

11. The Institute serves as secretariat to the Inter-University Committee for African Studies. Research workers in African linguistics, ethnology, and cognate subjects have been supported by grants obtained through the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures. There is thus an important link between this Institute and the Institute of Race Relations, the Inter-University Committee recommending to the African Institute subjects for research and suitable persons to undertake the work. This co-operation has proved most useful and has already led to good results.

Le Style Oral en Afrique.

Si la littérature indigène fut pendant de longues années un simple objet de curiosité pour quelques-uns, de recherches folkloriques et ethnologiques pour d'autres, elle est devenue à l'heure présente, et à juste titre, un élément important dans l'œuvre éducative et civilisatrice entreprise en Afrique. Une étude très instructive des possibilités qu'elle offre vient de paraître dans *Artes Africanæ*.¹

¹ Dr. V. van Bulck. 'Gesproken Woordkunst in Afrika met toepassing op de Ba-Kongo'. Brussel: Uitgave van de Commissie voor de Bescherming der Inheemsche Kunsten en Ambachten. 1936. Bl. 39.