

precious little book entitled *Miner's Companion* which is issued by the Prevention of Accidents Committee of the Rand Mutual Assurance Co. It contains vocabularies and sentences in four languages—English, Afrikaans, Sotho, and 'Mine Kaffir'—the last being the common speech. This is of very great interest. Each word and phrase in 'Mine Kaffir', we are told, has been carefully considered by a sub-committee which included a number of Boss Boys. The vocabulary is drawn from English, Afrikaans, and various Bantu languages, and the words are often strangely metamorphosed. 'Hospital' becomes *sibedele*; 'mistake', *masteki*; 'order', *odolo*; 'loafer', *lova*; 'washers', *amawashar*; 'accident', *losmesh* (smash); 'shelf', *ishelufa*. Afrikaans words are similarly transmogrified: 'gomlastiek' (rubber), *gaskit*; 'te betaal' (to pay), *batala*; 'te mors' (to waste), *masha*. 'Padlock' is rendered by *kiya*; 'putties' by *legin*; 'power' by *stim*; 'push' by *tshova*; 'prison' by *jele*. Some words bear more than one meaning, e.g. *skelem* is both 'scoundrel' and 'misfire'; *mali*, 'rate', 'wage', 'reef'; *layini*, 'string', 'line', 'pile'. In this variety of 'Kitchen Kaffir' there are naturally a large number of technical mining terms mostly adapted from English: *tshafu*, 'shaft'; *mtshini*, 'rock-drill'; *smok*, 'compressed air'; *stiksaiyd*, 'pillar'; *loskwer*, 'face'; *qala lo hol*, 'collar the hole'; *jompolo*, 'jumper'. The Bantu concords disappear. Where any prefixes remain they are used quite indiscriminately: *zonke* is 'all' whatever noun it may be attached to; so with *munye*, 'another'; *mangaki?* 'how many?'; *maningi*, 'many'; everything big is *makulu*. *Ka* is the invariable genitive particle: *lo foloman ka lo sayinete*, 'the cyanide works' manager'; *lo mlungu ka lo gesi*, 'the electrician'; *shap ka lo smit*, 'the smith's shop'; *lo tshif ka wena*, 'your shift'. *Lo* is the article. The personal pronouns are reduced to four: *mina*, 'I'; *wena*, 'thou'; *tina*, 'we'; *yena*, 'he', 'you', 'they'. 'You will get me into trouble' is translated *yena faka mina lo trabul*. Sometimes the perfect suffix *-ile* appears but as a rule verbs are used only in the stem-form. The future and potential are made by means of *yazi*; *yazi fika*, 'he may, can, or will come'. The universal negative is *hayi* generally used with *kona*, 'here': *hayi kona* is 'no' and also 'he must not', 'you must not', 'he does not', 'you do not'; *hayi kona vuma*, 'he does not agree, he refuses'; *hayi kona stim* is the equivalent of 'weak'; and *yena kona lo lak*, 'lucky'. The *Miner's Companion* has been compiled 'in order to assist European employees in the early days of their mine employment in overcoming the difficulty of making themselves understood by native labourers'. This seems to imply that the labourers know the lingo; indeed it is stated that 'Mine Kaffir' is a dialect understood by the majority of natives on the Witwatersrand gold-mines. It would be interesting to know how raw recruits acquire it and how long it takes them to do so,

A Beit Research Fellowship in Southern Rhodesia

ON representations by the Federation of African Welfare Societies in Southern Rhodesia and with the full support of the Southern Rhodesia Government, the Beit Trustees have generously agreed to provide the necessary funds for the appointment of a Research Fellow to undertake economic and social research among Africans in Southern Rhodesia, with special reference to problems of urbanization. The appointment will be for a period of three years. The work will be under the guidance and control of the Natal University College with the assistance of the Federation of African Welfare Societies in Southern Rhodesia.

VI^{me} Session du Congrès Colonial National en Belgique

SELON une heureuse tradition le Congrès Colonial National se réunit tous les cinq ans. Le dernier congrès ayant tenu ses assises à quelques jours près de l'invasion, fin avril 1940, le VI^{me} congrès aurait dû avoir lieu régulièrement en 1945. Les événements de la guerre