

closer touch with the main stream of African development. (d) The Institute has rendered service in the field of African languages. It is willing to give help and advice in questions relating to the practical and the scientific side of African linguistics as well as of anthropology.

Human Geography in Tanganyika.

Two publications recently issued by the Tanganyika Government give information of a type which is sought, usually in vain, by students of every African territory. The first is Mr. C. Gillman's *Population Map of Tanganyika*, which shows not only population densities but areas alienated to non-natives, forest reserves and anti-sleeping-sickness concentrations. A smaller map shows the types of occupation of land and their relation to the nature of the water-supply, and the fly-free areas. The question of water-supply, as the author points out, is of paramount importance in determining settlement in a territory like Tanganyika, where in many regions, though rainfall may be sufficient to make cultivation possible, permanent water-supplies for domestic purposes are lacking. Another significant factor is the distribution of tsetse-fly. In the author's opinion the fly has no chance where the bush is kept down by a sufficiently dense human population maintaining or extending its area of cultivation; it does not drive man away, but at once occupies any land which has been allowed to revert to bush. But when human settlement penetrates into the dry savannah forests, the pioneers are small bands who shift their ground and keep no clearings permanently open. Here man is a competitor of the fly, with the odds against him.

Over 62 per cent. of the Territory is uninhabited, mostly in the centre and west—not because vast open spaces are waiting to be peopled, but for the greater part through the lack of permanent water, in some places aggravated by floods in the rainy season. Ten to 20 per cent. of the uninhabited area is accounted for by forest reserves, swamps, land alienated but not yet developed, the upper regions of the great volcanoes, and the scarps where the land is so steep as to make settlement difficult.

One practical conclusion that results from the plotting of population is that while the main railway lines link up the areas where it is densest, the branch lines prove to have been uneconomically planned, and that in the districts where railways have not yet been built the population is too scattered to justify the expenditure, and the present policy of preferring the Diesel-engined road-train is the more efficient.

Another important point is that the provision of domestic water-supplies in areas where the rainfall is sufficient for cultivation should be more productive than the development of irrigation in regions where the rainfall is lower.

The second publication, by Mr. R. C. Jerrard, officer in charge of labour in Tanga Province, is intended as an aid to 'rationalization' in the employ-

ment of labour. It lists every tribe in the Territory—138 in all—by Provinces and Districts, and gives the altitude and temperature of the tribal area, customary diet, and chief pursuits. The normal diet is a guide to employers, for experience has shown that unaccustomed food, even if it does not incapacitate the labourer, often makes employment unpopular and leads to desertions. In addition, a scale of rations worked out in collaboration with the Medical Department is given, with the method of germinating pulses to provide green food in regions where fresh vegetables and fruit are unobtainable.

The information on climate and normal pursuits is for the guidance rather of recruiters, who by using it can avoid directing labour to regions of markedly different climate from that to which they are accustomed, or recruiting men for work of a type for which they have no aptitude.

The advice given to employers and recruiters has followed these lines ever since the Labour Department was constituted some ten years ago, and inquiries of this type, and the action taken upon them, are described in Major Orde Browne's *Report on Labour* of 1927. This pamphlet, however, for the first time puts all the information together and makes it easily available. (*Communicated by Dr. L. P. MAIR.*)

The Education of African Communities.

In 1925 the Secretary of State for the Colonies issued a memorandum on Education Policy in British Tropical Africa (Cmd. 2374) prepared by the Advisory Committee on Education and ten years later, in the light of growing experience, a further memorandum has been issued dealing with the education of the mass of the population and in particular of those living in rural conditions. The main purpose of the memorandum is to show the educational significance of the interrelation of all the factors in community life. The school can make its most effective contribution only as part of a more comprehensive programme directed to the improvement of the total life of the community. This involves a recognition of the close connection between educational policy and economic policy and demands collaboration between the various agencies responsible for public health, agriculture and schools.

The backwardness of the African people is largely due to unsatisfactory health conditions, and improvement can come only from simultaneous propaganda among adults as well as school-children. An interest in agriculture and the development of improved methods cannot easily be stimulated without the help of the schools.

If the school tends to weaken social bonds and to introduce a new set of values entirely unrelated to the old, its ultimate effects are likely to be harmful: hence it is a primary concern of the educator that established institutions, loyalties and values should not be destroyed before new bonds have had