

Notes and News

Historical Documents of East and Central Africa

ORIGINAL manuscripts, dealing with the early history of East and Central Africa, dating from the first Portuguese voyages of exploration to reach the east coast of Africa (probably in 1487) and covering the period up to the early nineteenth century, are to be published in a series of volumes, the first of which will cover the period 1487–1505. The publication is a joint undertaking of the Central African Archives and the Arquivo Historico de Moçambique. It is sponsored by the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Government of Mozambique and the Portuguese Ministry of Oversea Territories, and is being carried out under the direction of the Chief Archivist (V. W. Hillier) of the Central African Archives and the Conservator (C. Montez) of the Arquivo Historico de Moçambique.

The publication will include many hitherto unpublished documents which have been microfilmed by a special team working in Europe (Portugal and the Vatican) and in Goa. The work is being published simultaneously in an English and a Portuguese edition, the English translations being edited by Sr. Manuel Freire de Andrade. The selection, transcription, and co-ordination of the documents is being directed by the Portuguese historian, Dr. Alexandre Lobato. It is expected that the whole work may include as many as twenty volumes, the last of which will contain a general historical survey and consolidated index. Inquiries concerning the publication may be addressed to the Central African Archives, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Training of the Ministry in Africa

THE first two Reports of the survey of theological education in Africa, organized by the International Missionary Council, were noticed in *Africa*, vol. xxiv, 1954, p. 384. The third Report, by Dr. Norman Goodall and the Rev. E. W. Nielsen, is concerned with the Union of South Africa, the Rhodesias, and Nyasaland, which were visited in September to December 1953. The first chapter describes the existing institutions and organizations concerned with training recruits for the Ministry, including theological colleges of various denominations, theological correspondence courses, and Bible schools (designed mainly for training evangelists). Certain European centres of training were visited, but the Report is concerned with the training of Africans. In Chapter II, The African Ministry, the authors discuss the situation of the Church in Africa today—subject to tensions of various kinds, ‘caught within the tremendous encounter of . . . conflicting forces’, confronted with the problems of changing social patterns and conflicting economic structures. All these problems have their effect on the African Ministry—on its tasks, its training, and its recruitment. A serious feature of the present situation is the inadequate number of candidates for the Ministry. The reasons for lack of recruits, and various methods used to foster a sense of vocation within the Churches, are dealt with at some length; suggestions are made for further study of this problem. Questions concerning salaries of African ministers are briefly touched on and the chapter ends with a discussion of ‘the form of the ministry’—that is to say, the functions for which African ministers are trained, the qualities required of candidates for ordination, the nature of the Church and the importance of the local Christian congregation. Chapter III is concerned with general reflections on theological training and its relevance to the emergence of the indigenous Church. The standard of training, curricula,