

## Notes and News

### *West African Institute of Social and Economic Research*

THE Institute's fifth Annual Conference held at the University College, Ibadan, from 15-21 March 1956, was concentrated mainly on the theme 'Means of Social and Economic Control'. This topic was treated from the point of view of labour migration and resettlement schemes in papers by M. Hauser (French Sudan), Mr. Baldwin (Dept. of Agriculture, Nigeria), Mr. Niculescu (University College of the Gold Coast), as well as in a general discussion. Professor Margaret Read presented a paper on 'Education and Social Control'; Dr. Audrey Richards described the study of leadership in two East African tribes, conducted by the East African Institute of Social Research; Mr. Sutherland (Ministry of Housing, Gold Coast) discussed housing and town planning as an instrument of social control. Other papers dealt with 'Labour employment on Gold Coast Cocoa-farms' (Miss Polly Hill), 'Environment and Land Use in the Gold Coast' (Mr. H. P. White), 'The Gold Coast building industry' (Mr. E. R. Rado), and 'Local Government in Accra' (Mrs. A. I. Acquah). Linguistic topics were considered in a paper on 'Problems in Linguistic Anthropology' (Mr. Roger Westcott).

Mr. H. J. Uldall presented the Report of the Linguistic Survey Committee which had been appointed at the 1955 conference to consider the organization of research into West African languages. The Committee recommended that the work of the Linguistic Survey should be of two kinds: (a) research and publication of material which is of interest chiefly to linguists; (b) research undertaken at the request of or in collaboration with representatives of other disciplines, notably anthropology and history. It was further decided that the Survey could best be undertaken by the existing Institutions of Higher Learning in West Africa, and the co-operation of IFAN, the University College of the Gold Coast, the University College, Ibadan, and Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, was invited in the setting up of a Council to prepare a detailed plan and finally to direct the Survey. Professor Greenberg was invited to become Chairman of the Council. Meetings of this Council were held during the 1956 Conference, with Mr. Uldall in the chair, when a memorandum presented by M. Houis (IFAN) was considered and every aspect of the proposed Survey was discussed. The decisions of the Council have been embodied in a memorandum which, if approved by Professor Greenberg, will be circulated to a wider public and will form the basis of an appeal for funds.

It is announced that the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research, as an inter-territorial organization, is being wound up. It is being replaced, for the Gold Coast, by the Economic Research Unit directed by Professor J. W. Williams (University College). Plans are being made for a successor to carry out social and economic research in Nigeria. It is hoped, however, that arrangements can be made for the series of conferences organized by WAISER, which have proved to be most useful, to be continued.

### *The Art of Ife*

A RECENT publication of the Nigerian Museum, Lagos,<sup>1</sup> gives an account, illustrated by 17 plates, of the remarkable brass and terra-cotta heads discovered in and around Ife in

<sup>1</sup> Obtainable from the Nigerian Department of Antiquities, The Museum, Lagos, and the Crown Agents for Oversea Administrations, London. Price 1s.