

Notes and News

U.N.E.S.C.O. in Nyasaland

NYASALAND will be the setting for a 'pilot project' in education by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with the Nyasaland Government. The experiment will try out the latest techniques and materials, including films and phonographs, for education in literacy, health, agriculture, and community living. The aim will be to raise living standards in a tribal agricultural community and to spread literacy, at first in the vernacular and later in English.

African Students take part in Cultural Survey

FOUR African students of Natal University College took part in the cultural survey of the Transkei carried out by the National Union of South African students with the approval of the Union Department of Native Affairs.

The Housing of Africans in the Union.

THE industrial revolution through which the Union of South Africa is passing entails, as Mr. Stent shows in his article, an increasing urbanization of the African population. So rapid has this been in late years that it has produced an acute housing problem: it is authoritatively estimated that 150,000 houses are needed for Africans alone. The problem is largely financial. Great municipalities, like Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, have initiated and carried through excellent schemes with the aid of subsidies from the central Government—the maximum is £30 per house—but the rents charged are sub-economic and impose a heavy burden on rate-payers which those in smaller towns are not always ready to bear. The Government is constantly urged to check influx into the towns and to remove Africans who are already domiciled there. Many town councillors are of the opinion that employers should be responsible for housing their own workers. It is now realized that the migration is not temporary but has become a permanent factor in the life of the Union.

The Government has authorized the National and Planning Commission to build sub-economic houses for Africans and is prepared to bear the whole loss incurred in respect of schemes carried out by the Commission. Since the Commission can produce houses at a cheaper rate than the local authorities are able to do—they are said to have proved this ability in regard to houses for Europeans—the Government appears confident of actually saving money by the new plan. Not only houses but roads, drainage, lighting, and communal buildings will now be the responsibility of the Commission. Ownership will remain with them, while administration is vested in the local authorities.

Education for Citizenship in Africa

THE sub-committee set up in March 1946 by the British Colonial Office Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies has now published its report (Col. No. 216, H.M.S.O.) which deals largely with Africa. The authors of the report point out that, since the declared aim of British Colonial policy is the achievement of responsible self-government, it is necessary, if such government is to be democratic, for citizens to be well informed on all matters which are the concern of government, to be capable of forming an independent judgement, and to develop a sense of public responsibility. The sub-committee makes