

## Notes and News

### *Linguistic Research in Northern Nigeria*

DURING Professor Lukas's recent linguistic expedition to Northern Nigeria and the Northern Cameroons, as holder of a research fellowship awarded by this Institute (see *Africa*, xxii. 3, 1952, p. 267) special attention was given to the collection of material for linguistic analyses of the following: 1. The Western Chado-hamitic languages in the eastern region of Northern Nigeria; 2. Languages of the pagan peoples of the Nigeria-Cameroons border, especially the little-known Matakam in the neighbourhood of Mokolo; 3. The Class-languages of the Jos area in Plateau Province.

Study of the Chado-hamitic languages included an exhaustive analysis of the two most important languages of the group in Nigeria: Bolanci around Fika and Bade (Bede) around Gashuwa. These languages, the structure and vocabulary of which were hitherto practically unknown, show unmistakable Hamitic features and thus provide a link with Hausa. They are well worth studying since they explain many of the characteristics found in well-known Hausa languages; moreover the information now available on these Chado-hamitic languages will supplement the material provided in the recently published *Languages of West Africa*.<sup>1</sup>

The Matakam language was studied at the suggestion of missionaries of the Sudan United Mission, who urgently need to learn and teach it in connexion with a new school recently opened in Sulede. The mission at Koza, near Mora, and the Administrations in Mora and Mokolo were equally interested, since it is intended to develop Matakam as a language of instruction. The Matakam number more than 120,000, and are a vigorous and enterprising people. Considerable material showing the structure of the language, as well as texts and a vocabulary, were collected.

It is hoped, at a later stage, to prepare for publication a study of some of the Jos languages, especially Birom and Jarawa; this would throw new light on the problem of the so-called class languages of Nigeria. (Communicated by Professor J. Lukas.)

### *Economic Survey of the Cocoa-Producing Areas in Nigeria*

A SURVEY of the economy of the cocoa-producing areas in Nigeria was decided upon by the Nigeria Cocoa Marketing Board in order to provide the information the Board needed for the determination of policy. The Board appointed a Committee, of which Professor A. W. Ashby was the Chairman, to organize and direct the survey. A pilot survey was conducted during the cocoa marketing season of 1950/1 and the main survey was begun in June 1951. The field work will come to an end early in 1953 and the compilation and analysis of the records, which is being done partly in Nigeria and partly in London, is now well under way. The conditions in Nigeria were found to require a continuous recording of the economic transactions of the cocoa-farmers and their families for a long period as well as enquiries of a more ordinary kind. The survey accordingly comprised:

1. Extensive inquiries about marketing, land tenure, labour co-operation, and other topics;
2. case studies of individuals;
3. a census and two stocktakings at an interval of a year of over 750 families in nineteen localities;

<sup>1</sup> *Languages of West Africa* (Handbook of African Languages: Part ii), 1952, see below pp. 163-6.