

Notes and News

L'Homme: Cahiers d'ethnologie, de géographie et de linguistique

A NEW publication under the auspices of the École Pratique des Hautes Études at the Sorbonne (Paris) is announced. The editorial board consists of Professors Émile Benveniste and Pierre Gourou of the Collège de France, and M. Claude Lévi-Strauss, sous-directeur of the Musée de l'Homme. This venture is designed to provide a means of publishing anthropological studies either as symposia of two or three papers on kindred topics, or as separate leaflets. Contributions from anthropologists of all nations are invited. The editors also ask for books and periodicals for review, particularly those published elsewhere than in France, which French libraries cannot easily acquire.

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Prix pour des Travaux en Afrique Noire

LA Commission des Prix de la Société de Géographie, ayant examiné l'ensemble des travaux en Afrique Noire de M. Marcel Griaule et son ouvrage *Arts de l'Afrique Noire*, lui a attribué le Prix des Fondations Africaines Duchesne-Fournet (décembre 1948).

Survey of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi by delegates from Belgian Senate

IN the autumn of 1947, for the first time in the history of the Congo, the Belgian Senate sent an official mission of nine senators for a two months' survey of the African dependencies of Belgium: Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. The delegation was led by Professor E. De Bruyne, formerly Minister of Colonies, chairman of the Institut de Recherches Scientifiques en Afrique Centrale (I.R.S.A.C.) and included representatives of all political parties.

It is possible to assess European action in an African territory either in relation to the state of affairs existing before the establishment of white administration, or in relation to what is regarded as the goal to be achieved. The senatorial Mission adopted the courageous attitude of looking at the Congo from the point of view of what it should be rather than in relation to what it was when Belgium took it over forty years ago.

The mission has published a unanimous report¹ which begins with the statement that full participation of the Africans in the public life of the Congo may be foreseen and that, consequently, the present policy must aim at giving the Congolese the maturity required for such a partnership. Good public health is a primary condition of such a development, but unfortunately movements of population have spread some diseases in areas which were formerly free from them. This applies not only to syphilis but also to malaria. Physicians and medical assistants are still too few except in some important industrial or mining enterprises. But even adequate medical care will not solve the health problem until diet, clothing, and housing are considerably improved.

In order to raise the standard of living of the Africans who retain, in the villages, the ancestral patterns of life, the Mission proposes measures for the efficient development of native economies: education in the bush-schools should be more directly relevant to agricultural tasks; schools for the training of instructors in handicraft and farming should be multiplied; co-operatives should be set up and the State should grant more loans for building better habitations.

¹ *Rapport de la mission sénatoriale au Congo et dans les territoires sous tutelle*. Bruxelles: Sénat de Belgique, 1947. Pp. 283.