

Educational Publications used in the Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast Education Department published in 1930 schedules to help the native teacher to prepare his syllabus. In these schedules stress is laid on the importance of the vernacular.

In the first three classes (Infant School) teaching is carried on only in the vernacular, except in 'Spoken English'. The three following classes (Junior School, Standards I-III) reading, writing, composition, and grammar are in the native language, which is also to be used in certain other subjects. Thus, according to the schedules, a solid introduction into the native language is one of the most important tasks during the first six school years. In the higher classes (Standards IV-VII) it is expected that the instruction will be given in the native language, though this is not compulsory. As vernacular textbooks are still needed, it will be difficult to carry this out. In any case it is desirable that at least composition should be practised in the native language until the end of the school training.

In 1928 the Education Department began to publish the *Teachers' Journal*, which is sent free to every teacher in the colony. There are three to four numbers a year, each containing 50 to 60 pages (up to the end of 1932 four volumes had been published, containing 1,000 pages altogether). The articles are usually written by members of the Education Department or by teachers belonging to the teaching staff of Achimota College. They assist the teacher by giving him material for his lessons, recommending suitable literature, and showing him the best methods of teaching. Good illustrations add to their value. Articles have appeared on 'The Necessity for Group Work with Young Children', 'Colour Work', 'The School Garden', 'The Teaching of English', 'The New Script', 'Vernacular Reading Material', 'Our Country', 'Study of Sounds used in English Speech', 'Teaching of Geography', 'Teaching of Singing' (with numerous music supplements). In this connexion should also be mentioned: 'The new script and its relation to the languages of the Gold Coast.' There are in addition notes of general interest, and nearly every number brings a fable for children in one of the important vernaculars of the colony, usually in Akan.

As supplements to the *Journal* the Education Department has already published a number of booklets, for instance, *Nature Study*, which is intended to help the teacher in preparing the syllabus for natural science. The publication of a series of booklets is also planned which will describe and illustrate indigenous animals and plants. Nearly thirty have already been published, two of them containing 41 and 46 pages, on *Saltwater Fishes of the Gold Coast* and *Gold Coast Crabs and Lobsters*. Much stress is laid on the use of vernacular names of plants and animals, and also what the natives themselves know about animals and plants is given as far as possible. *Notes on the Teaching of Arithmetic* (51 pages) is another recent publication.

A booklet *Village Health*, printed in a large size, was also sent to every school. It shows the village teacher how to obtain healthy water supplies, housing and food, so that the general standard of health may be improved through the school. There are numerous pictures, drawings and plans which considerably enrich the booklet. One of the finest publications of the Education Department is a small book giving a short sketch of the life of David Livingstone, illustrated by seven pictures representing scenes in his life. These pictures are intended to be hung up on the classroom walls.

The government has instituted two efficiency bars in the scale of salary for teachers, so that after five years' and ten years' service the teacher has to pass an examination if his emoluments are to be increased. One of the conditions of this examination is a good knowledge of the vernacular. Though this new regulation has not yet come into effect, it is a proof of the importance attached by the Education Department to the vernacular.

(Communicated by HERR PAUL WIEGRÄBE.)

Die Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen.

Im Jahre 1910 begründete Professor Carl Meinhof die *Zeitschrift für Kolonial-sprachen*. Die besonders in den deutschen Kolonien Afrikas und der Südsee tätigen Missionare und Beamten hatten viel sprachliches Material gesammelt, das der Verarbeitung harpte. Es bot sich in der neuen Zeitschrift gute Gelegenheit, dieses Gut der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich zu machen. Als Deutschland dann aber nach dem Kriege seine Kolonien verlor, wurde der Titel in *Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen-Sprachen*¹ umgewandelt; und es ist seitdem gelegentlich auch eine Studie über amerikanische Sprachen darin erschienen. Der grösste Teil aller Abhandlungen betrifft jedoch afrikanische Sprachen.

Die Zeitschrift ist für die Afrikanistik in verschiedenen Richtungen wichtig. Zunächst ist sie eine Fundgrube von Eingeborenentexten. Märchen, Lieder, Sprichwörter, Rätsel und geschichtliche Erzählungen sind in ihr veröffentlicht worden, und die Beiträge dazu sind aus den verschiedensten Sprachgebieten Afrikas geflossen. So erfahren wir z. B. etwas über religiöse Vorstellungen der Togoneger (Bd. I), über Kerbstocklehren der Dschagga (Bd. XV) und über Wahrsagerei bei den Venda (Bd. XXI). Manche Sprachen, die in absehbarer Zeit wohl aussterben werden, sind so noch einmal zu Worte gekommen. Deshalb sind die Texte, die sonst schwerlich Aussicht hätten, an anderer Stelle gedruckt zu werden, besonders wertvoll.

Da die Schilderungen der Eingeborenen stets mit Übersetzung versehen sind, sind sie auch dem Sprachunkundigen zugänglich. Ethnographen, Religionswissenschaftler und Missionare werden durch diese Lektüre gute Einblicke in die Welt der Eingeborenen bekommen.

¹ Verlag Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen) A. G., Berlin. Preis RM. 20 für den Jahrgang.