

Notes and News

Political Reforms in Ibadan

DURING 1943 the Ibadan Native Authority accepted reorganization proposals to afford a reliable foundation for the political progress of Ibadan. From 1936, when it became apparent that the development of local government in a place of such a size might prove to be beyond the capacity of the traditional form of Native Administration, a number of measures have been adopted with a view to finding a means of keeping the Native Authority in touch with public opinion and putting at its disposal the advice and help of the younger and more politically minded elements in the community. The constitution of the Advisory Board appointed in 1940 did not satisfy either the Chiefs or the main body of the people, nor did the reforms provide a basis wide enough on which to build permanently. An administrative officer was therefore appointed to consult with the Chiefs and the people, to meet various political societies, trade unions, and other organizations, and to ascertain from them what form of reorganization would meet with their approval. From these investigations and consultations it became clear that the only form of reorganization acceptable to the people would be something based on the traditional form of administration, and that any attempt to ignore the influence of the Chiefs over the people would be a danger to the peace and an impediment to political progress. An Advisory Committee of 30 persons has therefore been formed, 15 selected by the chosen representatives of the 77 quarters of Ibadan, and 15 by the junior Chiefs and Mogajis; the two sections of the committee to be represented in the Native Authority by two councillors each.

This demonstration of the enduring strength of traditional institutions is important and interesting; nevertheless, continued reform is necessary if a town of the importance of Ibadan is to be competently administered, and the present scheme is regarded as a first step only. The next step—delegation of powers by the Native Authority—will be taken as soon as Chiefs and people can be persuaded to accept it. The need for developing political consciousness is recognized, and patience, propaganda, and constant endeavour will be needed to reconcile the demands of progress with loyalty to the still vigorous traditional institutions.

Colonial Research Fellowships

THE British Colonial Office has instituted a number of Research Fellowships, which will be open to qualified scientists to enable them to pursue research work in the Colonial Empire. The Fellowships will be for University graduates under 35 years of age, from any part of the British Empire; they will be tenable normally for two years, and may be extended for a third year at the discretion of the Secretary of State. The Fellowships carry a basic allowance of £400 per annum, which may, in certain circumstances, be increased to £600 per annum; travelling expenses and the cost of special apparatus or material will also be provided. During his term a Fellow shall be responsible to a supervisor appointed by the Secretary of State, and shall submit through the supervisor a progress report at the end of each year of his tenure, and a full report of his researches within a reasonable time on completion of his term. Applications should be addressed to:

The Secretary, Colonial Research Committee, Colonial Office, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

and should be endorsed by the Head of the College or Research Institute to which the candidate is attached, or by some other responsible person.