

matters as nutritional deficiency, survival rates of children, &c., has shown that Africans working for a wage packet are better off in certain respects than Africans in rural occupations. If, therefore, a real difference in health status were found to exist between the urban and the rural populations, industrialization as a factor in health could be measured.

These further investigations, like the initial inquiry, are being financed mainly by a grant from the Nuffield Foundation. The Edinburgh University team will also continue to co-operate with Fourah Bay and to provide the College with lectures and tutorials in a Social Sciences Seminar.

[Communicated by Dr. Kenneth Little]

Un Colloque sur la Rédaction des Droits Coutumiers à Bruxelles

LES 16 et 17 mai 1960, le Centre d'histoire et d'ethnologie juridiques de l'Institut de Sociologie Solvay, attaché à l'Université libre de Bruxelles, organisait à Bruxelles son premier colloque; celui-ci était consacré à l'étude comparative de la rédaction des droits coutumiers dans le passé et le présent.

Le droit coutumier de l'Afrique actuelle a été étudié dans trois communications: 'The recording of customary law in British Africa', par M. A. N. Allott, lecturer in African Law, de la School of Oriental and African Studies de l'Université de Londres; 'Les réalisations françaises dans le domaine de la rédaction des coutumes africaines', par M. J. Poirier, Faculté des Lettres de Lyon; et 'Vers un "programme" belge en matière de rédaction des droits coutumiers africains', par M. J. Vanderlinden, Aspirant au Fonds national de la Recherche scientifique. M. A. Abel, professeur à l'Université libre de Bruxelles, a fait un exposé sur la 'transmission du texte juridique dans l'Islam'.

[Communication du Dr. R. Sweetlove]

International Congress of Orientalists in Moscow

THE 25th International Congress of Orientalists was held in Moscow from 9 to 16 August.

The African Studies Section, which met in the Sternberg Astronomical Institute, under the direction of Professor I. Potekhin and Professor D. A. Olderogge, was attended by about 110 members, including a considerable number of Russian students and five Africans. Among the more general Africanists attending were: Professor K. R. Ruzicka (Czechoslovakia); Professors Ursula Hintze, E. Dammann, and K. Büttner (East Germany); Professor Tubiana (France); Professor I. Graham (Ghana); Professor A. N. Tucker, Dr. A. N. Allott, Dr. R. Oliver, Dr. J. D. Fage, Mr. F. R. Palmer, Mr. G. W. B. Huntingford, Mrs. Mary Holdsworth (Great Britain); Professor L. Ricci (Italy); Professor S. Streleyn (Poland); Professors M. Herskovits and W. Leslau (U.S.A.). It was divided into two sub-sections: History and Philology. The former attracted the larger share of the audience.

The work of the African History sub-section ranged widely over various topics, such as law, race relations, African art and literature. Most papers were on fairly strict historical lines, dealing with such subjects as the old kingdoms of West Africa, the evolution of African history and law, and the discussion remained, on the whole, on an academic level.

Papers in the Philology sub-section were rarely on philology itself, but dealt with more specific linguistic topics.

In between the reading of papers, members were able to make a good many contacts, including talks with advanced Russian students, and Professor Potekhin held a reception for members of the African section. It is hoped that a further exchange of ideas will follow. Members of the Congress were given a state reception in the Kremlin, and were able to take part in many excursions. A two-to-three-day visit to Leningrad was also organized.

An important resolution from the African section dealt with the desirability of establishing a Congress of Africanists, to be held in the various capitals of the new African states:

'The African Section of the XXVth International Congress of Orientalists, in view of the growing importance of African studies resolves:

- (1) That it is desirable to extend the work of the Section by establishing an International Congress of Africanists.
- (2) That the initial meeting of this Congress be held in one of the African University centres, if possible in 1962.
- (3) That, with their consent, a Committee of Organization composed of the heads of the National University of Mali, the University College of Ghana, the University College of Ibadan, the University of Addis Ababa, the University of Tunis, and the head of one Congo University, plus representatives of the International African Institute, the Africa Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the African Studies Association of the United States of America, and of the French Africanists be appointed, with the Principal of the University College of Ibadan as chairman.
- (4) That the Chairman of the present Section be requested to communicate with the above-mentioned individuals and bodies so as to facilitate the formation of the Committee on Organization.'

The Ethiopian delegate, Tekle Tsadik Mekuria, said that his country would in all probability be glad to invite the first Congress. At the same time it was felt that the African Section of the normal Congress of Orientalists should continue.

(Communicated by Professor A. N. Tucker and Dr. A. N. Allott)

*Leverhulme History Conference at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland,
5-15 September 1960*

THE main aim of this Conference, as of all the conferences being organized as a result of the Leverhulme Trust grant, was to provide an opportunity for scholars engaged in research and teaching within the same disciplines in tropical Africa, where the university community is so fragmented by distance, to meet each other. Most of the delegates to the Conference were members of the history departments of universities and university colleges from the Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Nigeria. Representatives from Dakar and the Congo were unable to be present. In addition, the Conference was attended by Dr. Ronald Robinson of Cambridge, Professor L. M. Thompson of Cape Town, Mr. George Shepperson of Edinburgh, and Professor I. Schapera and Dr. Roland Oliver of London. Scholars working in the linguistic, archaeological, and anthropological fields within Central Africa itself were also present.

The initial discussions on the interrelation of historical research with work in other fields were concentrated on Central and East Africa and provided an excellent introduction to a visit to the sites of Zimbabwe and Inyanga under the guidance of Mr. Roger Summers, and to the Stone Age sites at the Victoria Falls under the guidance of Mr. Desmond Clark.

One particularly interesting feature of these discussions was the general agreement of the conclusions drawn by Mr. Summers through the use of archaeological techniques with those drawn by Mr. D. P. Abraham through the use of an analysis of oral traditions concerning the kingdom of Monomatapa. It appeared possible, also, that the tentative results produced by Professor G. Fortune's application of certain linguistic techniques to the Shona language group could be taken to reinforce the conclusions drawn by Mr. Summers and Mr. Abraham. Central African studies, therefore, provided an encouraging example of the potentialities of co-operation between disciplines which was one of the themes of the Conference.