

techniques of the engineer for a rigorous verification of his hypotheses.

At the very moment when attention was fixed on the great electronic calculating machines and their theoretical implications from the point of view of human communication, certain Africanists were formulating a theory of gong language, i.e., they discovered a form of communication among the native populations whereby these could transmit, on their wooden drums, the most complicated messages over often quite considerable distances. Specialists have not yet come to any generally accepted agreement as to the interpretation of these messages;⁶¹ but in certain instances, at least, there can be no doubt that the gong language is based on a system of code analogous to that used in the electronic calculating machines, viz., the reduction of a complex system of symbols to a system of base 2. So the most primitive forms of communication are linked to the most modern.

However unexpected it may have been, the short circuit between disciplines so apparently at opposite poles in scientific research as ethnography and mathematical physics forebodes great upheavals in the study of man. In this revolution anthropology is now sure of playing a major part.

⁶¹ cf., for example, A. Schaeffner, *Une société noire et ses instruments de musique*. Paris: L'Homme, 1951. His observations seem to contradict those of J. F. Carrington, as expounded in 'A Comparative Study of Some Central African Gong Languages', Institut Royal Colonial Belge, Sciences morales et politiques, Mem. xviii, 3, 1949.

ERRATA:

We wish to apologise for a number of errors in the text of R. D. Gillie's 'Discoveries and Disputations' (*Diogenes*, I, pp. 83–96), in particular we should like to draw the readers attention to the following:

Page 90, lines 6–7 should read: 'Iberian appears to be a preponderantly Hamitic language with Caucasian elements, while Basque appears to be a Caucasian language with some elements of Hamitic vocabulary'.

Page 95, line 9 should read: '... the axe of Kelermes was found in a barrow of the Kuban ...'