

Notes and News

African Prehistory

DR. L. S. B. LEAKEY, in agreement with the Government of Kenya, has arranged for a Pan-African Congress on prehistory to be held at Nairobi in January this year. An effort will be made to secure from the seventy members a desirable consensus on the terminology to be used in describing the pluvial periods and post-pluvial phases of the Pleistocene and African stone-age cultures, and also a definition of the terms 'Pliocene' and 'Pleistocene'. There will be discussions on the means of obtaining the maximum co-operation in respect of research programmes and on various other subjects. Papers will be read on the discoveries which have been made since the outbreak of war. Members of the Congress will have opportunities of visiting important archaeological sites and will no doubt be particularly interested in Olorgesailie, 42 miles from Nairobi, which Dr. Leakey described in *The Times* of 4 October. 'Here', he wrote, 'my wife walked suddenly on to an area so thickly strewn with Stone Age hand-axes and cleavers that one could scarcely walk over it without treading on them.' It was subsequently proved that there is a series of camp sites of Acheulean man 'such as had never before been found anywhere'. So far no trace has been found of the actual men who made these tools; but only preliminary work has yet been done and skeletal remains may later be unearthed. The Olorgesailie site has proved to be of such interest and importance that the Kenya Government has co-operated in protecting it and turning it into a 'museum on the spot'.

The French Ten-year Plans

By the law of 30 April 1946 the French Overseas Minister was charged to prepare plans for the economic and social development of the territories which used to be called 'colonies'. A Commission with seven sub-committees has been engaged in drawing up the plans, following the principles laid down by M. Saller, the Director. It is necessary, he says, to transform almost completely the conditions of production. In territories where the climate is inimical to physical effort and where the density of population is small, modern scientific methods which allow the machine to take the place of man must be imposed. This will result in a profound change in the nature of productive enterprises, for utilization of mechanical means is not economic except for enterprises of some magnitude. Federation, standardization of material, intensive methods will all be necessary. Territories must be industrialized so as no longer to be dependent exclusively on importation. Public works to be erected during the next ten years must be related to productive plans and include hydro-electric plants, railways, roads, maritime and river ports. To carry out the schemes it is indispensable to create organisms in the form of State societies to operate only during the execution of the plans, and to organize permanent bodies such as co-operatives. Parallel with this economic development there is to be a vast programme of social welfare. The necessary funds will be derived from F.I.D.E.S. (Le Fonds d'Investissements pour le Développement économique et social des Territoires d'Outre-Mer) which is to be fed by annual grants by the Metropolis and contributions by the interested territories, and from a Caisse centrale which will make loans at 1 per cent. on easy terms of repayment.

News from the Cameroons

MADAME DUGAST, secretary of the Société d'Études Camerounaises, wrote shortly after her return from furlough in France to inform us of the operations of her society. We quote some passages: