

Notes and News

Meetings of the Institute

THE gatherings reported elsewhere in this number were an unqualified success. The concourse of members who had been separated for many years, the renewal of old and the formation of new friendships, was gratifying in the extreme. The most pleasing feature was the enlargement of the Executive Council to include, for the first time, Africanists of South Africa, Portugal, Holland, Sweden, and the United States. Our only regret is that it has not yet been found possible to bring in Africans—a defect that should be remedied at the first opportunity. It is sad to part from old colleagues. In particular it was with no common regret that we learned of the inability of the Rev. Father Dubois, who from the beginning has represented the Roman Catholic missions on the Council, to continue his service. His intimate knowledge of African affairs and his aptitude for persuasive exposition always evoked his colleagues' admiration, while his suavity, his tact, his courtesy and good humour endeared him to them. We may be permitted to quote from his letter to the Director:

' C'est avec le plus grand regret, croyez-le bien, que je me vois contraint, par l'âge et ses faiblesses, à renoncer à un travail qui m'était cher à tant de titres, ainsi qu'à des relations personnelles, dont j'ai tellement apprécié. . . . Permettez-moi aujourd'hui de vous redire un profond merci, spécialement à mes collègues très chers de l'ancien Conseil, que j'ai connus plus directement. . . . Je me tiens pour toujours des vôtres sinon par une collaboration active, du moins par l'intérêt qui je compte bien porter jusqu'au bout à l'œuvre si belle et si grande de l'Institut, toute consacrée au bien de notre chère Afrique. Je demande de tout cœur à la Providence de bénir vos efforts et de leur donner efficacité pleine et croissante.'

Of the members of the first Executive Council, appointed in 1925, only General de Rendinger remains on the new Council.

The Chairman

THE resignation of Lord Hailey, though expected since he had undertaken the office temporarily, was none the less a blow to members of the Council. The Institute was fortunate in having his capable leadership during a difficult period: it owes him more than we can express. Happily he will remain with us as a permanent member of Council. He is at present on a tour of about six months through the British East, Central, and West African territories for the purpose of studying the system of native administration and the part played therein by native authorities.

We welcome as his successor Lord Rennell of Rodd, who will bring to the Institute the fruits of very wide administrative experience. Son of a former British ambassador in Italy, he was born in 1895, was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and made a name for himself when, still in his twenties, he carried out explorations in the southern Sudan and wrote that fascinating narrative, *People of the Veil*. This exploit gained him the Cuthbert Peake Grant and the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society of which he became President in 1945. These journeys brought him into close contact with the French authorities of the Territoire du Niger and he received the unusual distinction of being made an honorary corporal of the local Camel Corps (Peloton Mehariste). During the First World War he served with the British army in France and, as a staff officer, in Libya and Egypt and at the Arab Bureau in Damascus. He thereafter followed his father into the

British diplomatic service, from which he retired in 1924 in order to take up work in the city of London. In 1930-1 he was Manager of the Bank for International Settlements and is now a partner in the firm of Morgan, Grenfell & Co. For five years (1939-44), with the rank of Major-General, he was in charge of the Civil Administration of Abyssinia, Eritrea and Libya. For some time his headquarters were at Nairobi and he was thus able to make himself well acquainted with conditions in East Africa. The Institute may confidently look to him for wise and expert guidance in the coming years of renewed activity.

Major Sir Humphrey Leggett, D.S.O.

THE death of Sir Humphrey was briefly recorded in our last number. If the Institute in its beginnings owed much in several directions to Lord Lugard, Dr. Oldham, and Hanns Vischer, on its business side it owed most to Sir Humphrey, who was appointed a Trustee and Treasurer in 1926. He won distinction in two fields. He started as a soldier with a commission in the Royal Engineers and was awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry in the South African War. During the First World War he was attached to the Belgian War Office and was knighted for his services. Between the wars he was in East Africa on special duty for three years and acted as a non-official member of the Legislative Council of Kenya. He became deeply interested in African commercial enterprise and for twenty-seven consecutive years was chairman of the East African section of the London Chamber of Commerce. To this office, as *East Africa and Rhodesia* recognizes in its tribute, 'he brought the advantage of an analytical mind, an exceptionally retentive memory, unflagging industry, manifold sources of information, and a wide and influential acquaintanceship'. He exhibited these qualities during his treasurership of the Institute. He was as careful of its finances as if they were his own; he husbanded them assiduously. His exposition of the annual budget was always a pleasure to himself and his hearers. His unflinching tact, his good humour and old-world courtesy, his readiness to help, his talent of appreciation—all this, with his wisdom, made him an ideal colleague.

The Scarborough Commission

THE Report of this Commission to which Lord Hailey made reference in his address (see p. 232) has an interest that is not confined to British academic circles and people. It was appointed by Mr. Anthony Eden when he was Secretary for Foreign Affairs to examine the facilities offered by universities and other educational institutions in Great Britain for the study of Oriental, Slavonic, East European, and African languages and culture, to consider what advantage is being taken of these facilities, and to formulate recommendations for their improvement. The members were concerned not only with the teaching of languages but rather the interpretation to the British people of the whole life of the peoples who speak the languages—nearly five-sevenths of the world's population. How do they live, what is their history, as well as how do they speak, are questions which these studies should attempt to answer. In many respects the result of the Commission's inquiries are not flattering to British readers; the 'traditional exclusiveness which tends to disregard and even to look down upon culture which has little in common with our own' is the chief reason why these studies have not taken the place they should have taken. 'Interest in other peoples, understanding of their history, their achievements and their characteristics, are a part of the foundation on which lasting international friendships can be built. Unless these studies flourish in this country this interest cannot be satisfied and there can be no such understanding.' With such convictions the Commission put forward many proposals including the provision by Government of 195 post-graduate studentships—of which 50 will be in African studies—with a view to training young scholars who may later fill academic posts. The selected