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EDITORIAL

READERS of *Africa* will have learned, from the report in the July number, that the Executive Council of the Institute at its last meeting reluctantly accepted Dr. E. W. Smith's resignation from the Editorship of *Africa*. With the present number the Editorship returns to the Administrative Director, who is being assisted by an editorial board consisting of Dr. Smith himself and the two Consultative Directors.

When, on his return from America in 1944, Dr. Smith offered his services as Editor, Lord Lugard gladly accepted on behalf of the Institute; he forthwith threw himself with characteristic energy into making *Africa* a forum of considered opinion on the social problems of African development. Those who have followed the series of articles on African marriage—a subject in which Dr. Smith is deeply interested—will have appreciated his efforts to secure a balanced expression of views on this, as on other important questions. As was reported in the last number, the problem of African marriage and family life is the subject of a research project which has now entered on its first stage.

During the past three years Dr. Smith has successfully re-established through the pages of *Africa* the close connexion of members with the activities of the Institute, and we know that we can rely on his continued interest and help in maintaining and developing these relations. The results of field researches and scientific studies of practical problems, which have been resumed since the war, are now becoming available, and we shall endeavour, by the selection of articles and by reports in 'Notes and News', to give members of the Institute a balanced picture of current advances in this field.

When *Africa* resumed publication in 1943, the need for providing a comprehensive review of current literature was considered, and a beginning was made, under Dr. Smith's editorship, by the inclusion of abstracts of selected papers appearing in other journals. It is hoped, however, to establish in the near future a systematic service of abstracts of current literature in the fields of African anthropology, sociology, linguistics, and social development. The scope of the Institute's interests and the international circulation of its publications make it particularly well fitted to carry out such a service. The co-operative effort and organization, as well as the finance, required for such a project should not be under-estimated, but every effort will be made to establish this service as soon as possible.

'Africa', the Journal of the International African Institute, is published by the Institute, but except where otherwise stated the writers of the articles are alone responsible for the opinions expressed.