

cultures. The procedure of modern native courts and the constitution of the Tribal Authority under the British Administration are briefly indicated. Land, we are told, may not be sold. Its ownership is vested ultimately in the chief. Mr. Hall also describes briefly the main productive activities, which are well illustrated by several pages of photographs.

Mr. Hall's brochure is yet another proof of the tremendous vitality of West African cultures under culture contact and the detailed publication of his field-work will be awaited with impatience. (*Communicated by* DR. M. FORTES.)

### *Economic Conditions in the Cameroons*

IN recent years a number of persons have visited Nigeria to study local conditions. In some instances there has been an overlapping of work. In case any one is contemplating research work in West Africa and is casting about for an area and/or a subject that has not been the subject of research, the following may be of interest.

Attention is drawn to an economic condition which has not been adequately studied and which is rapidly disappearing, so that in a few years the possibility of investigating it will have gone for ever. I am referring to the transition from a purely local barter economy to a money economy and especially to the development of local markets.

I have recently done a tour of over two years in the British Mandated Territory of the Cameroons at Bamenda, which is as large as the Principality of Wales and contains about 250,000 persons composed of some twenty-three tribes. If this area is bisected by a line running east and west it may roughly be said that north of it there are no native markets, no trade, and no money in circulation. A direct tax of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per annum is imposed upon each adult male only, and, as the area becomes more and more closely administered, so more and more men are unable to evade tax payments, with the result that money is beginning to circulate. Thus, in the last eighteen months, with Government's approval, £2,500 in nickel pennies, half-pennies, and tenths of a penny were put into circulation. Markets are beginning to appear, yet it is still not unusual for a native, after catching a couple of his fowls, to remark that he is going to buy a shilling. (*Communicated by* DR. M. D. W. JEFFREYS.)

### *School of Oriental and African Studies.*

THIS is the new title of the School of Oriental Studies in London. The University of London has thus shown the value it places on African Studies in London. A short time ago the continued existence of part of the African Department of the School was threatened owing to the expiration of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, by means of which the work had been