

toutes les races d'A.É.F., les tribunaux coutumiers sont souvent appelés à régler des litiges qui opposent des personnes régies par des coutumes parfois peu connues de leurs assesseurs. C'est pourquoi le Conseil Coutumier a essayé de donner un instrument de travail aux tribunaux indigènes de Brazzaville en leur permettant de se référer à des coutumes écrites en ce qui concerne les principales races du Moyen-Congo. On espère que cette initiative du Conseil Coutumier s'étendra dans les autres territoires de la Fédération et que des filiales seront créées à d'autres centres. Le Conseil Coutumier doit en outre servir d'organisme central consultatif pour les juridictions indigènes. Les cas pour lesquels la coutume n'est pas nette ou ceux dans lesquels il y a opposition de coutumes lui seront soumis.

Un fascicule, édité par le Conseil Coutumier, contient un exposé des coutumes du Moyen-Congo, publié sous la responsabilité des notables africains de Poto-poto et de Bacongo, dont la liste est imprimée.

Les sections du fascicule comprennent des chapitres traitant de la famille: les droits et les devoirs du chef de famille; le mariage; les fiançailles; régime patriarcal, régime matriarcal; la dot; situation des époux; dissolution du mariage. Un chapitre traite des coutumes sangha — sangha, bakouele et djem — celles-ci étant assez différentes des autres du Moyen-Congo. Deux chapitres sont consacrés aux coutumes concernant la naissance et le choix de nom. En conclusion, le Conseil Coutumier formule quelques recommandations concernant le divorce.

Interafrican Soils Conference

THE Interafrican Soils Conference held at Léopoldville in 1954 (see *Africa*, Oct. 1954, p. 272) reviewed the progress made by the permanent organizations founded in 1948 (Bureau Interafricain des sols, Paris; Service pédologique africain, Yangambi, and three regional committees). In approving the work done by these organizations, under the auspices of C.C.T.A., the conference took special note of the results achieved in the fields of study, cartography, soil conservation and utilization. It recommended that details of the methods of soil analysis used by the member countries should be communicated to S.P.A. at Yangambi, and emphasized the importance of studying the composition, origins, and formation of soils, and the bearing of these studies on measures for conserving soil fertility. Considerable discussion took place on the project of preparing a series of maps of soils in different regions, and on the need for a standardization of terminology, nomenclature, and methods of cartography. Reports were presented and discussed on means of conserving soils, maintaining fertility and preventing deterioration. These reports revealed that substantial progress had been made in a number of territories in preventing erosion and sterilization, but the conference agreed that additional measures were necessary, particularly in the direction of educating rural populations and arousing their interest. Overstocking was also one of the problems discussed. The need for greater knowledge of, and better co-ordination of existing information relating to, the different systems of agriculture, was emphasized. A particular point was made of the importance of testing and supplementing laboratory methods, especially as regards fertilizers—both animal and mineral, by a thorough knowledge of the different soils and plants of Africa.

The Killie Campbell Africana Collection

SCHOLARS and students visiting or working in South Africa should miss no opportunity, when in Durban, of seeing Miss Killie Campbell's magnificent collection of Africana. At present kept in the old family house of the Cape Dutch style—220 Marriott Road, Durban (given to the city of Durban by Mr. William Campbell)—it is eventually intended to transfer

the collection to Natal University, and to add a Bantu museum to be specially built in the city.

Miss Campbell has steadily accumulated her possessions for more than twenty-five years. Specializing in the Bantu, their history and customs, her work has primarily been confined to the tribes of the Union, the Rhodesias, and the Protectorates. Recently, however, its scope has been extended to all Bantu tribes south of the Sudan.

The library now contains over 25,000 volumes, ranging from complete collections of the standard anthropological journals to rare first editions of *Africana*. Miss Campbell is particularly proud of her many volumes of old travel books, some of them in Portuguese and French. Even more impressive, perhaps, is the assembly of original manuscripts. There are, for instance, nearly 2,000 of the Colenso papers, together with those of James Stuart in the original Zulu and English; and Alistair Miller's Swaziland papers. Several valuable files of Shepstone's writings are to be seen, and, not least, Father Bryant's last unpublished work in manuscript.

Besides many comprehensive sets of old newspapers (thirty-one volumes of *The Times* of Swaziland, for example) the library contains a large number of remarkable old maps, including some showing the whereabouts of tribes in Natal before Shaka's wars of conquest. There are also quantities of original photographs of tribes and historical places, as well as a set of some 120 water-colours of African tribal dress by the artist Barbara Tyrrell. The collection further comprises Bantu handicrafts, pictures by Bantu artists, lithographs, and other old prints. Miss Campbell has always generously encouraged visits from serious students all over the world, to whom she opens the full facilities of her collection and library.

(Communicated by D. H. READER)

Toponymy and Anthroponymy

THE fifth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences is to be held in April 1955 at Salamanca. The section on 'native languages' will include a paper on 'Un problème d'onomastique africaine: le nom du "père"', by E. Possoz.

University College Hospital, Ibadan

THE Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria, Sir John Macpherson, laid the foundation stone of the future teaching hospital of Nigeria at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, on 18 November 1954. It is hoped that the hospital will be opened in 1956; it will be equipped to provide facilities of a standard comparable with those existing in the most modern teaching hospitals of the United Kingdom. The chief purpose of the hospital is to provide clinical training for medical students who receive their earlier training at the University College, Ibadan; it will also include facilities for research in all departments.

Recordings of African Music

THE African Music Society (Roodepoort, Johannesburg) announces the Osborn Awards for the best recordings of African music for 1953. Two hundred and seventy-five entries were received from all over Africa; the judges recommended 11 awards of 7 guineas each; 9 entries, being highly commended, receive 2 guineas each. This expansion of the original intention to present only a first, second, and third award, and 5 highly commended, was recommended by the judges in view of the large number of entries, the high standard of performance, and the great diversity of musical styles found in Africa. The successful entries included music from French West Africa, Nigeria, Belgian Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, Southern Rhodesia, and Mozambique. Apart from two orchestral items and one tune for 15 drums, the records were songs with drum, xylophone, zither, or lute accompaniment.