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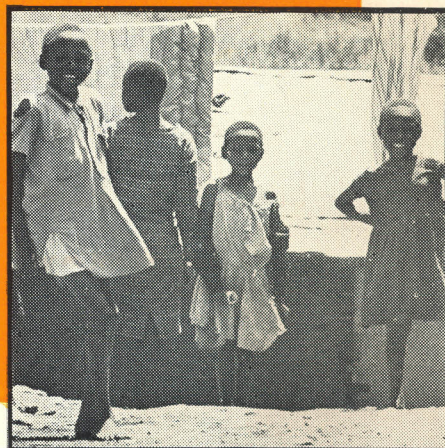
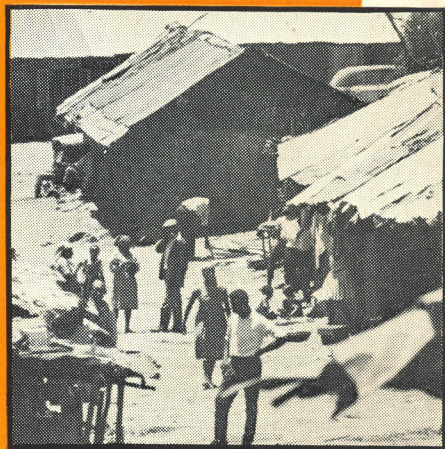
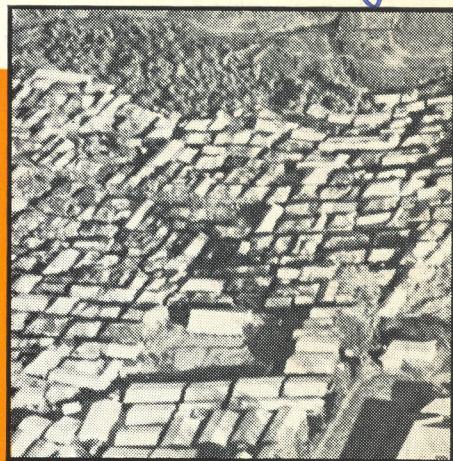
# Squatters in perspective

by DAVID EHERTON

Prof. B. A. Ogot

Peter Mwaura  
interviews the  
Deputy Vice-  
Chancellor

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# THE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

is published by the University of Nairobi. It is intended to serve as a link between our various departments and between the university and the people of Kenya. We further hope that our many friends overseas through the Bulletin may find it more easy to keep track of our development plans and our aspirations.

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# Squatters in perspective

by David Etherton

DAVID EHERTON, a Research Fellow in the university's Housing Research Unit, argues that the answer to the problem of Uncontrolled Urban Settlements lies in the Government assisting the "progressive" development of such settlements rather than trying to abolish them. Mr. Etherton is currently engaged on the Mathare Valley Survey and Analysis.

Uncontrolled Urban Settlements is a term that slipped into use in rather a glib way that may soon raise it to initial letter status. It describes the way in which people themselves are making up the deficit between the supply and demand in housing in newly urbanising countries. It refers to shanty-towns, squatting and other clandestine developments which take place independently of the authorities whose job it is to control local building and planning.

Such a definition might suggest that "controlled" cities exist as a preferable and clearly understood alternative and also perhaps that the lack of control is new and limited to developing countries. It might further mislead us into thinking that "control" of city development automatically results in a good environment and vice-versa. None of these assumptions appears to be true.

A description of Ur in Mesopotamia (c. 3,000 BC) based on archaeological evidence could apply in almost any city in history as regards the location and quality of prestigious buildings compared with that of housing for the poor.

"Houses were jumbled together, forming an irregular mass broken at intervals by open spaces in front of a temple or government building. Streets were narrow, winding and unpaved and lacked adequate drainage. Houses towards the city's fringes are small, flimsily constructed, often one-room hovels into which whole families crowd."

"The Pre-Industrial City" — Gideon Sjoberg

The earliest cities were few in number and small in size and served mainly as pedestals for political and spiritual figureheads.

Urbanisation describes the process by which a previously rural and scattered population is drawn towards urban centres. Before 1850 no country could have been described as urbanised, but the effects of the first Industrial Revolution resulted in an unprecedented increase of urban population and the most appalling housing and working conditions which have blighted the development of European cities ever since.

In highly industrialised countries the process of urbanisation has now begun to reverse with middle-income families seeking the privacy and more leisurely pace of suburban life at a distance from their workplace.

In Europe and America this trend has effectively trapped the poor in overcrowded conditions in the run-down city centres, where rents are pushed to an upper limit bearing no relation to the quality of the environment.

Today in less industrialised countries the rate of urbanisation and urban growth is accelerating at a pace which outstrips all previous

# Controls of a sort

Aspects of urban settlement control:

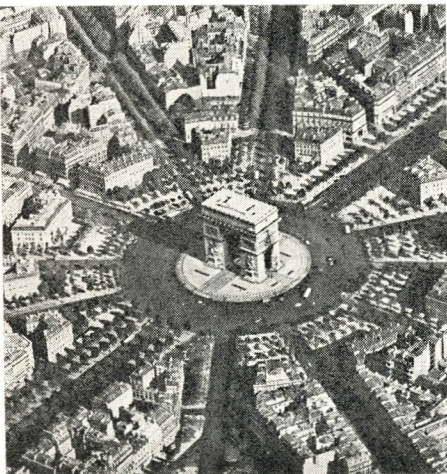
1. Paris boulevards (1853): Napoleon III forestalled the threat of political agitation from the urban poor by cutting out radiating patterns of wide straight roads from the existing maze of streets and houses. Haussmann was given free hand to perform this urban surgery which demolished 50 per cent of the existing housing.
2. Manhattan, New York: The "wedding cake" profile of the skyscraper is the result of a regulation to allow daylight into offices and streets — an example of an isolated control which was powerless against the pressures of central city development.
3. London suburb: By-laws condoned rather than controlled high-density urban housing. The minimum planning and building standards which they set were slavishly transformed into minimum by-law housing by speculative builders. However, the standard of services and sanitation gave the country a reputation for good plumbing and practically eliminated endemic diseases from urban areas.

examples. Here the city is no longer an exclusive residential neighbourhood for the cultural and political elite; it is now the poor who determine a great part of the city's physical growth.

Although it is true that people come to cities in search of work which does not exist when they first arrive, it should be stressed that the greatest increase in urban population is due not to migration from the rural areas but to the natural increase of an existing population.

It is estimated that a quarter of Nairobi's population lives in unauthorised housing, and this excludes a much higher proportion living in public housing which has become critically overcrowded and inadequately serviced. Within the limits of the old 1962 city boundary, three-quarters of the population lives in less than a quarter of the area. For a city of Nairobi's size, an uncontrolled settlement population of 25 per cent is fairly modest compared with say, Latin American cities. In Venezuela, 65 per cent of the total population is concentrated in urban squatting areas and in 1961 the "ranchos" of Caracas accommodated one-third of the city's population. Ankara's "gececondu" account for half the population of 1.5 millions. These are isolated examples from statistics which fix the average population of Uncontrolled Urban Settlement in newly industrialising cities at about one-third.

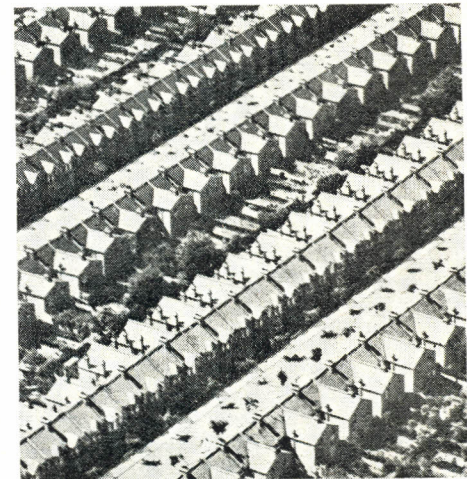
The nature of uncontrolled settlement has been most clearly defined by Prof. John Turner of the Joint Centre for Urban Studies at MIT. His hypotheses are based on work with a number of Latin American housing agencies and on international information collected



Paris



New York



London suburbs

by the United Nations Centre for Housing Building and Planning.

Turner places all Uncontrolled Urban Settlement somewhere on a scale between "degenerating" and "progressive" development.

"Progressive" settlements are common throughout Latin America and are typified by a gradual development from the most rudimentary shelter, which stakes the squatter's claim to a piece of land, through stages which can be financed as the owner's place in society becomes more secure, until finally he achieves a more permanent house.

In the early stages, such development may bear no relation to officially demanded standards, and here it should be remembered that most building regulations and planning standards were drawn up for fully urbanised and industrial countries with relatively high per capita incomes. These standards often demand the services of such professionals as lawyers, engineers and architects whose fees are usually far beyond the reach of those who most need them.

At the other end of the scale is the kind of disorderly and overcrowded settlement which shows signs of deterioration. Often these occur in central areas on potentially valuable land and the inhabitants are more likely to be tenants than owners.

It is argued that Uncontrolled Urban Settlement at both ends of the scale has a positive role to play in bringing about the social changes which accompany urbanisation.

In the case of "progressive" or self-improving settlements an opportunity is offered to consolidate the status already achieved by the new city-dweller who, although earning a regular income, is still unable to afford the cost of an officially approved house. (In the African Region only 5 per cent of the population is able to afford a house costing more than the equivalent of K. Sh. 20,000).

The positive aspect of uncontrolled settlement can also be seen at the lower end of the scale where it provides a bridgehead for the economically un-

established. In times of crisis survival depends more on food and the acquisition of skills than on elaborate protection from the elements.

Much has been said about the threat of unchecked slums to society. The assumption made recently in a Nairobi newspaper that such areas will "breed unrest at every level, directed at undermining the settled basis of government" is not borne out by international experience, nor indeed by the passive way in which shanty-dwellers have endured the recent demolitions in Nairobi. It is more likely that the political attitudes of the "bridgeheader" are overshadowed by his concern for day-to-day problems.

A solution to the problem rests largely in a proper assessment of the stage of development reached in existing uncontrolled settlement. At some point the very poor must be able to leave the bridgehead settlement and begin to improve their condition. Instability is most likely to occur when attempts at self improvement are thwarted by the authorities.

Mathare Valley may appear to delimit the whole problem for Nairobi, and it is true that the area accommodates 40 per cent of the population living in Uncontrolled Settlements at densities ranging from 110 to 1,250 persons per hectare. However, a look at the whole of Central Province in relation to Nairobi gives a better perspective. The population density of the former Kikuyu Reserve (from 2-8 persons per hectare in an area of 4,680 sq. km) is slightly higher than that of the large areas of privileged housing in Upper Nairobi.

Dagoretti, a part of the former Reserve, with a population of 45,000, has been included within the municipal boundary since 1962. The area retains many of the physical characteristics of the province as a whole, scattered mud-and-wattle huts among a patchwork of subsistence plots, but it is now developing as a series of dormitory satellites for Nairobi



Photograph by Baldev Singh Thethy

Mathare Valley from the air. The cluster of huts (top) is one of nine separate villages which have grown up in Mathare Valley since 1962. Since September, 1969, the total population of Mathare has increased from 19,000 to 51,000 due to speculative tenement housing built by local companies. The photograph shows housing built by two such companies. The population of the area shown is now 16,000. In such conditions "progressive improvement" of individual rooms by each householder is almost impossible, but general improvements to the environment, including the provision of essential services, will allow Mathare Valley to fulfil its function as a transitional housing area.

and since Independence it has been exempted from any form of building and planning control.

Most of these satellites have developed as a result of speculative housebuilding similar to the Mathare Valley "company" housing which added 7,000 room/units to the existing squatter settlement between September 1969 and September 1970.

Provided that planning guidance is available, Dagoretti has a greater propensity for "progressive" development than the most overcrowded parts of Mathare Valley, but immediate environmental improvements, including the supply of essential services, are imperative in all areas of Uncontrolled Settlement in Nairobi.

The Housing Research and Development Unit in Nairobi was started in 1967 on a recommendation from the United Nations. Based at the University with a staff of architects, economists, sociologists and supporting staff, with teaching obligations towards the Department of Architecture, Design and Development, the unit acts as an advisory body to the Government and other authorities on housing and urbanisation problems. One of the unit's major activities is research on the problem of uncontrolled urban settlement. In this sector a considerable part of the unit's efforts has been directed towards problem identification, data collection and analysis, mainly focussing on the Mathare Valley area in Nairobi. The director of the unit is Mr. J. Skakke.

If the opportunities for industrial employment are still not available when there is no more agricultural land to subdivide for subsistence farming, this will presumably be the moment at which Uncontrolled Urban Settlement will reach its peak.

There is ample evidence to suggest that in the absence of official urban employment, uncontrolled settlements can and do generate their own self-supporting transitional economy, making use of every available type of second-hand material.

In this situation the demand for shelter has to be met not by low-cost-housing, but by no-cost housing.

If the problem is tackled as one of providing minimum modern houses within the existing regula-

tions, it is all but insoluble. The Kenya Development Plan 1970-74 estimates that 5,880 new housing units will be needed every year to provide for the increase in the existing population. This would mean building two houses per hour in every working day each year. This is not an impossible task, although it would almost certainly call for centralised control of land and technical resources. But this calculation (which is based on census figures) completely ignores the 25 per cent of the population living in uncontrolled settlement plus the overcrowding of authorised housing. Bearing in mind the low priority which the poorest urban dweller gives to shelter in deploying his financial resources, it follows that any housing provided for him must be virtually free. As the state of existing

public housing areas shows, there are serious disadvantages in providing inflexible housing which people cannot afford.

The conclusion which this article supports is that the control of urban settlement depends on Government servicing of local resources. The resources consist of very small savings and limited skills and a tremendous wealth of energy and initiative. This initiative is shown by the way in which uncontrolled settlements are organised. More than anything else self-help is entrepreneurship and it is this that needs encouragement together with planning advice and the phased integration of essential services which the government agencies can supply.



# Historical Ethiopia

*'ENCOMPASSED ON all sides by the enemies of their religion', the English historian Gibbon wrote, 'The Aethiopians slept near a thousand years, forgetful of the world by whom they were forgotten.'*

He was wrong. The world's oldest kingdom was already the heart of a great civilization and faith when America was a savage, undiscovered Continent and Britain was divided by tribalism and oppression; when Vikings worshipped idols and the German Huns scoured central Europe with the terror of genocide.

There were laws and literature; ideals and philosophy.

During the decline of the Roman Empire, disintegrating in its own flesh pits, the city of Axum with its stark, slender granite monoliths, so old their secrets had already faded into the past, was the seat of King Zoscales of whom a Greek merchant said: "He is miserly in his ways and always striving for more, but otherwise upright and acquainted with Greek literature."

When Europe plunged into the long centuries of its Middle Ages and the agonies of superstition and ignorance, the Kings and Emperors of Ethiopia, a nation by then already 2,500 years old, were consolidating their proud heritage of learning and culture.

In 1434 Emperor Zara Yacob compiled the *Feta Negast* — Law of Kings — a constitution which was to survive until 1930.

Sixty years later, emissaries of the Pope, come to convert the Christian heathens to the ways of Roman pomp, were sent scuttling and inspired the Emperor's grandiloquent, *Confessions of Claudius*, a defence of the Ethiopian church.

Soon the world no longer wanted to forget this mysterious land in the heart of Africa. For three hundred years explorers and evangelists; mercenaries and armies, tried to coerce Ethiopia to their cause.

In 1936 the Fascist dictator Mussolini sent his armies strutting through the country. Five long, lonely years of exile followed for Emperor Haile Selassie, Lion of Judah, before he was restored to his throne in 1941.

Three thousand years of history which began 225 monarchs before when Menelik I, son of Sheba and Solomon, assumed the monarchy in 975 BC remained intact.

Today Ethiopia, more conscious than ever of its heritage, is one of Africa's foremost nations and a powerful voice for peace in the Council chambers of the world.

Its capital, Addis Ababa, is the headquarters of the Organisation for African Unity, enshrining the ideals of faith and liberty graven on the soul of Ethiopian history for 3,000 years.

Ethiopia is a land as large as it is mysterious: 22 million people thrive among Ethiopia's 400,000 square miles of soaring mountains, plunging valleys, dappled plains and arid deserts. Lift aside its fascinating cloak of history. Fly through time aboard the jet age comfort of an Ethiopian Airlines jet. Every day from Nairobi. To magic. To ageless Ethiopia.



**ETHIOPIAN  
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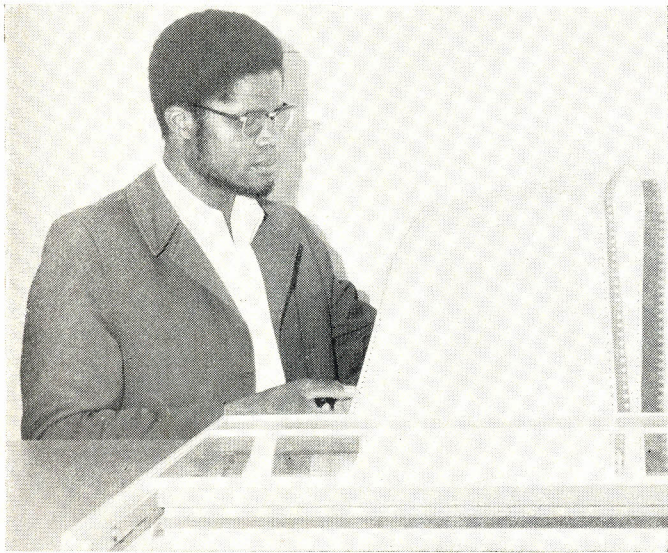
# Training Kenyans for the Computer Age

An important role in the "computer revolution" in Kenya is being undertaken at the university, where the Computer Centre is making it possible for graduates from different faculties to be fully conversant with computers by the time they leave the university. In charge of the centre is Mr. BOB SCOTT, who describes here the work of the centre. Mr. Scott who holds a Master's degree in Computer Science as well as a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Statistics, previously trained graduates in Britain in computers.

The Computing Centre at the University of Nairobi was established at the beginning of 1969, when its first staff member took up his appointment. The centre is administratively a department in the Faculty of Engineering but acts as a service department to all faculties and the administration of the university. Until July 1970 all computer processing at the university was carried out on the computer at the Kenya Treasury or at one of the computer bureaux in Nairobi. At the end of July 1970 the computer system was installed and since then all processing has been done on the campus. The computer is housed in the ground floor of the new Engineering Wing. Since February this year the lights of the computer room have been a common sight along College Road.

The computer is an ICL 1902 A series processor with various input and output units to handle information. There is a punched card reader which inputs 80-column cards at 600 in a minute, a paper tape reader that inputs 1000 characters a second, a paper tape punch that outputs paper tape at 100 characters a second, a lineprinter that prints a line of 120 characters at 300 lines a minute.

The backing storage is made up of four magnetic tape decks. The latest addition is a graph plotter output unit that can produce graphs and perspective drawings. This is the first such unit in East Africa. In the future the system should be enhanced to include disc storage and remote typewriter and visual display units in different parts of the campus.



Mr. George Owuor, recently appointed programmer at the Computer Centre.

The centre is run by Bob Scott, who is a senior lecturer, assisted by Mrs. Eveline Caldwell, lecturer, and George Owuor, who is the computer programmer. There should be a computer manager taking up his appointment in the near future. The other staff are concerned with the operating of the computer and the punching of cards and paper tape for the initial input of information to the computer. At the moment there are three computer operators, and six punching staff.

The punching staff are severely overloaded with work at the moment and it is hoped that their plight will be alleviated when new office accommodation is found. It may be necessary to have as many as 16 punching staff next year.

The centre runs several courses in different faculties of the university. The largest load is the course that is run for each of the four departments in Engineering. Each of the second-year students is taught to use the computer for his own engineering work by writing programmes in the technical computer language called Fortran. It is expected that most of these students in their final-year projects will

make use of the computer for their complex calculations.

A similar course is run in the Mathematics Department in conjunction with a course in numerical analysis. The final-year students are able to take a course in the basic machine code programming for the university computer. Other students from Architecture and Land Development are taught to write their own programmes.

At the moment the Faculty of Commerce only have time for their final-year students to be given an introduction to computing and systems analysis. Other students from Sociology and Economics, post-graduates and staff undertaking their own research are assisted with the use of many of the standard programmes that have already been written for the computer. These library programmes, as they are called, can be used with little knowledge of the computer.

It is the policy of the Computing Centre to encourage departments that request computing courses



The computer tape decks, where information is recorded on tape for storage. In the foreground is Mr. David Mukuriah, a computer operator.



Mr. Bob Scott, Senior Lecturer in charge of the Computer Centre, with Mrs. Agnes Miano, supervisor of the card punching operators.

to take them over with their own staff where possible. In the next academic year the Faculty of Engineering will be taking its own second-year courses, as will the Department of Mathematics. This will allow the staff of the Computing Centre to introduce new courses for second-year students in Commerce, Science and for those studying Meteorology. Advanced courses in programming and new techniques will continue to be given where needed.

It is clear that the prime role of the Computing Centre is in the field of education. It will probably surprise most people that in East Africa there are already over 30 computers installed or on order. It is obviously very important that people from Kenya

should be trained in their use. Other courses are run as evening courses in conjunction with the Institute of Adult Studies. Over 500 people have attended these courses in the first year and a half.

Another important use of the computer in a university is for the processing of research information. As already mentioned there are a considerable number of library programmes. The most frequently used are for statistical analysis. The largest number of users come from the Institute for Development Studies where Joe Ashcroft and Don Shephard have been doing valuable work which would otherwise have fallen upon the shoulders of the Computing Centre staff.

Mrs. Caldwell is undertaking the development of computer programmes to produce distribution maps on the graph plotter. Bob Scott is developing a comprehensive computer education policy for Kenya and a University Student Information System (USIS). There are a number of government organisations that use the computer at the university because of its speed as a scientific machine. It is different from the Treasury computer which, by contrast, is primarily concerned with large-scale data processing.

A large organisation such as a university has its administrative problems arising from the ever growing volume of information that has to be handled. The administrative departments are beginning to make use of the computer for various tasks. The university payroll and accounts should be processed on the computer in 1971. The administration of students is well underway. This was started in September 1970 and will enable the university to have a record of all of its students from its first year.

The teaching course of the different computing subjects will continue to expand, and the use of the machine by the university administration will assist it considerably. Scientific research by government research organisations and staff can now be undertaken on a scale not previously possible. However there is a problem that arises. If the level of research is to be raised by the use of the library programmes that have been developed then the staff and students undertaking such work need to be equipped to understand the techniques that are employed by these programmes. This problem can be overcome only by the assimilation of the statistical methods and techniques of experimental design. This should be the responsibility of persons highly qualified in statistics and methods of operations research.

The Computing Centre has been able to embark on the first stage of computer education in Kenya. It is now possible for graduates from different faculties to leave the university and be able to use the computer without further training.

# New faculty building for Architecture

The Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development is among the few inter-regional links left since the dissolution of the University of East Africa.

The faculty continues to serve the regional needs of East Africa in the area of training architects and, in order to achieve this satisfactorily, there is a need to expand the available facilities.

In order to overcome this problem, the Government of Denmark and Government of Kenya are to provide a sizeable amount of money in order to put up a building which will house the faculty on the other side of Uhuru Highway, near the Halls of Residence. Denmark will provide £215,000 while Kenya will provide £100,000.

According to Mr. Anders Grum, a representative of Poul Kjaergaard and Partners, a Danish firm of architects and planners who have designed the building. The designers took into account that teaching needs are rapidly changing, and therefore, the teaching building is planned as a multi-purpose academic building. Within its size of about 7,000 sq. metres of permanent main structure, it will be possible to change all partitioning to meet a variety of needs — from small single offices to large seminar rooms. This design is such that it could suit changes not only from one course to another, but also changes in teaching methods within the same subject.

Construction of the building is scheduled to start on May 1 and will take 14 months to complete.

# UNIVERSITY OF THE AIR

## JOHN A. NKINYANGI looks at new trends and developments in the Faculty of Education

Before long, extra-mural degree work will be a regular feature of educational life in Kenya. The programme has been worked out jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Faculty of Education, and Prof. F.C.A. Cammaerts, the Dean of the faculty, contends that all that now remains to be sorted out is the "question of priorities".

The project, which will be in co-operation with the Institute of Adult Studies, Kikuyu, will be a boost to the existing form of adult education offered by the university. The Faculty of Education will first start off with the training of adult educators from next September.

The system may be the start of an "open University of the air", offering a higher education to a greater number than has ever been possible and costing less student. Citing the example of the Open University in Britain, Prof. Cammaerts says in a recent issue of the "University Platform": "... in its first year of work it (the Open University) has found over 40,000 students ready to study by correspondence, by listening to radio programmes, viewing television broadcasts and meeting for occasional short residential courses."

The cost per student at the British Open University is about £200 a year. It is estimated that this will go down as the programme develops. The cost of educating a university student in Kenya has been quoted at £500 per year and over.

The change towards the "open university" sort of education may not come as rapidly and as radically in Kenya as in the developed countries. However, the introduction of degree work by correspondence is certainly a step in this direction.

When the Faculty of Education moves to its new premises in the Kenya Education Centre there will be ample space for a number of radio and television studios and research offices for the application of visual aids to teaching methodology and languages. Unesco, the UNDP and the Kenya Government have already donated generous equipment towards the scheme. The faculty has had talks with VoK officials and technicians on the installation of the equipment and how best two bodies can co-operate in using the media for education and development.

Prof. Cammaerts, who is also a member of the Regional Council of Education in Africa, says that the Schools Broadcasting Section of the Voice of Kenya is highly developed and has earned a great reputation for the Kenya Government in the continent.

Educational research is going on all the time in the faculty and some members of the staff have published some of their findings.

Together with the Kenya Institute of Education, the Faculty is also conducting research into the development of teacher education and ways of building up teaching material. Special emphasis is being put on the teaching of science subjects, especially mathematics, and languages.

There has been a vast increase in undergraduate enrolments at the university. It is hoped that more than 50 per cent in the Arts Faculty will go into teaching. Expansion in the field of producing science teachers, however, is likely to be more difficult because "the amount of work an undergraduate has to do makes great demands on his time and thus makes it more difficult for him to take up the education option", says Prof. Cammaerts.

# Research into Kenya's timbers

Senior Lecturer P.A. CAMPBELL  
writes about a project of the  
Department of Civil Engineering

Work on developing East African timbers has been carried out in the Department of Civil Engineering since 1964. The initial stimulus came from the obvious deficiencies in technology for local exotic plantation species. Since then various surveys have shown that in Kenya there will be a surplus of sawtimber amounting to between two and three times the projected demand from 1975 onwards. In quantity this amounts to about 500,000 cubic metres in 1975 rising to some 800,000 cubic metres in 1990. These figures are approximate and allow for exports.

The main species grown are *Cupressus lusitana*, *Pinus patula*, and *P. radiata*. Cypress has been on the market for some ten years but will be replaced by the pines as the major species in the next decade.

The main potential area of expansion of timber usage is in the building industry which currently takes some 80-90 per cent of all sawn timber produced in Kenya.

It has been the object of the Department of Civil Engineering to provide the technology for local timber usage and so far three timber symposiums have been held, with a fourth due at the end of March. These have been attended by representatives of most of the Government departments concerned such as Forest, Housing, Works etc. from the East African countries and some from outside this area. The timber industry and other private sector concerns have also attended. The fourth East African Timber Symposium will deal mainly with the £40,000 Nairobi City Council prototype timber housing project which is nearing completion and which has provided valuable lessons.

In the department development work has been done by final-year civil engineering students on:

Structural joints in cypress strength of local poles polywood quality, standard trusses and pole buildings, fire towers, power poles and several other specialist areas. The information so gained has been published in occasional papers and symposium papers. Much of this, together with some research on timber stresses, was published in book form as notes for a course run for local architects and engineers in Nairobi. This course will be repeated in Dar es Salaam in May and the Tanzania Forest Department will be publishing this book under the title of "Timber for Building in Tanzania".

Research work has included the development of working stresses for E.A. timbers and performance specifications for E.A. timber (a paper on the latter has been requested by F.A.O. for the World Consultation on the Use of Wood in Housing, Vancouver, July 1971). Further work is being done on the strength of pines and the development of structural methods.

A problem which others in the university may have encountered is finding publishing outlets. There is only one international specialist journal on timber engineering research and development and articles in this tend to be mainly North American. One article has been published by the E.A.A.F.R.O. Journal which is concerned more with silviculture than engineering.

As the object of publication is to give information and receive criticism, publication in journals covering a very wide field is scarcely worth the effort. Overseas journals tend to be more interested in fundamental research and not parochial problems. Consequently there is an incentive to engage in pure rather than applied research in developing countries whereas the priority should be reversed.

## THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. OGOT, IS INTERVIEWED BY PETER MWAURA



# A historian who secured respect for African history

Prof. Bethwell Ogot, sketched by  
Mr. F. Msangi, Lecturer in the Fine  
Arts Department.

Every so often Bethwell A. Ogot and his author wife, Grace, go into hiding in lonely cottages along the Coast or up-country, away from telephones and distraction. In the quiet seclusion of this Never-Never Land the 41-year-old professor, one of the busiest academics on the campus, catches up with his reading while his wife writes.

The work-weary professor finds this vanishing trick refreshing and productive. As an educator, philosopher, author, editor, administrator, professor of history, director of the Institute of African Studies and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (not to mention many other extra-mural positions) he has too many irons in the fire.

An affable, ebullient personage, Ogot is at once the most hard to catch and the most approachable. Students find him folksy, free-and-easy. There are no

formalities for getting into Room A 209 on the second floor of the Administration Block; and the somewhat forbidding atmosphere of the spacious office lined with Africana and plush long tables, disappears the moment the bespectacled, slightly bald professor looks up.

Educated at Ambira School, Maseno Secondary School, Makerere University College (1950-53), Scotland's St. Andrews University (1955-59), and University of London (1960-61), Prof. Ogot has had a varied career as an academic. In St. Andrews he studied history and philosophy, and later mathematics (he taught mathematics at Alliance High School for some years and often today amuses himself by studying mathematical problems).

Before going to the School of Oriental and African Languages, London University, in 1960, he was a

Tutorial Fellow in Makerere; later he returned to Makerere in 1962 as lecturer in history until 1964. He came to Nairobi University College in 1964 as Senior lecturer and chairman of the History Department. In 1968-69 he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

The son of a chief in the Gem Location, Central Nyanza, Prof. Ogot has barnstormed into stardom in academic circles and public life. He has been a member of more than 20 learned societies and other professional bodies, and has represented the university in several international conferences related to university policies, finance and co-operation. He is founder and chairman of the East African Publishing House. Author of several books and articles, his name is a household word among the literary circles.

One of his most enterprising books is "A History of the Southern Luo Peoples, 1500-1900, Vol. 1," which was a pioneer, Ph.D.-winning historical work based almost entirely on oral tradition. His other famous book is "A Place to Feel at Home," which he wrote with F. B. Welbourn. Last year it was given prominence when the general manager of the National Housing Corporation, Mr. S.G. Ayany, successfully sued Prof. Ogot in a libel case arising from the publication of the book. Prof. Ogot also planned, edited and wrote the linking passages in "Tom Mboya — Challenge of Nationhood".

At the moment he is in the process of writing "A History of Nairobi, The African Voice in Kenya" (with J. Lonsdale), a series of six books of texts on proto-nationalist movements in East and Central Africa (with Prof. T. O. Ranger), as well as editing a collection of essays on "War and Society in Africa."

He also edits the 'East Africa Journal,' a pragmatic, hard-hitting quality magazine that is the only one of its kind in East Africa (a recent number carried an article by a Mr. Gary Wasserman which described the University of Nairobi as "a lightning rod for criticism or analysis of the political system").

Prof. Ogot is pre-eminent as an educator. Teaching is his first love. A few years ago he became our education system's most outspoken (and cheered)

critic. He criticised everything from the low salaries paid to teachers, textbooks which "created a feeling of inferiority and a sense of helplessness among pupils" to horse-riding in the former Duke of York School, now Lenana School ("I'm not opposed to horse-riding, but when we deny education to children should we buy horses for a few schoolboys?").

He called for a rejection of the Western policy of gradualism, the British-inherited system of educating a "class of gentlemen" and advocated radical reforms and a more revolutionary attitude to the whole problem.

Prof. Ogot still feels "the whole system of education needs a major review". He is now less inclined to engage in public controversy; he likes to work quietly on certain problems rather than engage in polemics.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor — since November 26 last year — Prof. Ogot has now to assist or deputise for the Vice-Chancellor on all academic matters. In a way his new position merely institutionalises many of the functions in which he was already heavily involved. Apart from being concerned with research, degree matters, academic conferences, staff development, admissions, examinations and chairing the Deans Committee and "the very important" Students Welfare Committee, he is also in charge of academic staff housing ("a very ugly thing") and is the chairman of the disciplinary committee for the majority middle grade non-union staff.

Best known as an African historian, Prof. Ogot was appointed the first Kenyan to the Chair of History in July 1967. He pioneered and championed the movement of the early 60s that changed the traditional view of writing and teaching African history from the standpoint of Europe and Europeans. He made African history, seen from the African perspective, a respectable discipline that is now part of the curriculum of many universities in and outside Africa.

His colleagues in the History Department consider him the best historian in this part of the world. He has generated interest in research and his work has



been an inspiration to many. He is founder member and present president of the Historical Association of Kenya and an honorary fellow of the Ghana Historical Society and the British Institute of History and Archaeology in East Africa. He was also recently appointed by UNESCO to the International Scientific Committee that is to plan and produce a 10-volume General History of Africa.

As a lecturer he is unforgettable. He speaks in measured, almost staccato tones and delivers his lectures in a chatty, hearty, often diverting manner. His penchant to cut through problems, his clarity of mind, make him stand out. No student of history can say Prof. Ogot likes his lectures cold, pure, and very dead. He conforms to the Emersonian saying that the man who can make hard things easy is the educator.

Neither does Prof. Ogot regard his teacher's chair a throne. He believes "we are all students, lecturers are only older students". The best way of being a good teacher, he says, is getting to know the students as human beings and understanding their problems. He rues the fact that the way of life in this university makes it difficult for students and staff to meet socially and informally.

He considers most of the university students "mature people". Many are married. One or two of them are older than he is. One student taught him as a small boy many years ago and entered the university as a mature age student. Prof. Ogot believes if we decide to treat students as grown-ups then we should "go the whole hog". If they make mistakes, it is their mistakes. If they choose the wrong leaders, they alone are responsible. But they are not only worthy of consultation but should be consulted on all issues affecting their welfare.

Students have never before been so well represented in the decision-making bodies of this university. His only criticism is that the students — consider for example the crisis early this year — do not make full use of the existing machinery for consultation before heading pell-mell for their red gowns.

He hopes to extend the concept of student welfare to academic affairs. For instance, he feels there is no reason why a way should not be devised for disciplining members of staff who do not turn up for lectures or come late or ill prepared (lectures are compulsory for students). In the past it used to be assumed that anybody with a degree could teach. But Prof. Ogot believes students are the best judges in this matter.

He deprecates the distance and aloofness that exists between the academics and non-academics, a dichotomy he regards as unhealthy and diabetic. The academics do not have a monopoly of knowledge and Prof. Ogot would like to see senior government officials involved in university seminars, research and discussion groups, and university theorists doing a stint with government ministries, say for a year or so, without necessarily resigning from their jobs.

Aware of the importance of better public relations, Prof. Ogot feels the university should have more Open House days which, if properly planned and organised, could have a great impact in enlightening the public on the activities of the university.

Prof. Ogot wakes up at 6 o'clock every morning and his light green Mercedes is usually to be seen in a deserted parking lot outside the Administration Block up to 6 o'clock in the evening. At home he rejoins his wife, a former nurse and social worker who runs a children's boutique in Lozi Lane, Kimathi Street. He plays with his four children in the evening ("that's the only time I have got") and then he stays up until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning working.

At first he used to get around socially quite a lot. But because of the pressure of work, he has cut down on parties. But the dashing Professor still enjoys going to nightclubs. During these jiving sessions he fights shy of those nocturnal hypochondriacs and other lacklustre grizzlers who discourse on the state of the world.

A vigorous, goodly figure, Prof. Ogot is surely, in the popular parlance, "what is happening".

# LL.B. required for Kenya's future lawyers



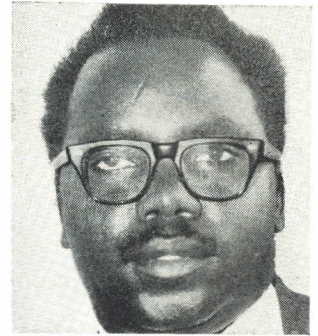
Acting Dean of the Law Faculty, Mrs. Rogers.

Although deriving its law from England, Kenya is not afraid to break away from inherited legal traditions. One such break was the Government's decision to centralise legal education at the university and to insist on the academic qualification of Bachelor of Laws for all future practising lawyers.

As a result a Faculty of Law was established at Nairobi University last year. The faculty has at the moment 39 students in the First Year and 17 (those who had previously been studying at the Kenya School of Law) taking the Second Year course.

Previously the training of Kenya lawyers had to be done either overseas, at University College, Dar es Salaam (where a number of the present Faculty staff took their first degree) or at the School of Law which, as a section of the Attorney-General's Chambers, was established in 1963 to offer a professional legal education.

Although one of the newest faculties at the university, Law is one of the oldest departments, tracing its beginnings back to the Royal Technical College.



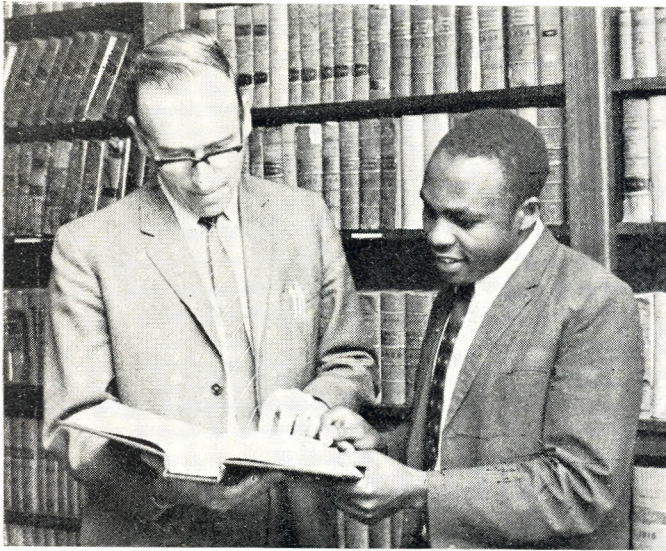
Acting Head of the Department of Law and Jurisprudence, Mr. Munoru.

There, in 1956, as a department of the Faculty of Commerce, it provided courses to students taking the examinations of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

The Law Faculty comprises two departments: Law and Jurisprudence (Acting Head: Mr. C.G.S. Munoru) and Commercial Law (Head of Department: Prof. D.J. Hill). The acting Dean is Mrs. Margaret Rogers. (see Staff News, page 24).

The faculty provides a three-year LL.B. course not only for those seeking to enter the legal profession as advocates, but also for students intending to take up posts in government, commerce or industry. By agreement with the Council of Legal Education, this degree, if taken in certain subjects, entitles a graduate to admission to the Kenya Bar on completion of a year's pupillage with an advocate and a further ten-month course of professional studies at the Kenya School of Law.

In addition to the degree course, the faculty provides service teaching to various other faculties of the university.



The acting Principal of the Kenya School of Law, Mr. Tudor Jackson, with Mr. Alfred Wetini, the School Librarian.

In an interview with the University Bulletin, the acting head of the Department of Law and Jurisprudence, Mr. Munoru, said the faculty had got off to a good start. A major problem was to build up quickly a comprehensive library, because "the success of a law school is first in its library, and then in its staff."

Mr. Munoru referred to the difficulties all law

faculties experience in finding suitable staff, because of the scarcity of available people with both academic qualifications and experience. He said that the faculty had been fortunate in being able to recruit a good selection of young East African lawyers. He agreed that the fact that most were recruited straight from university was a disadvantage, but it was a factor that time would correct.

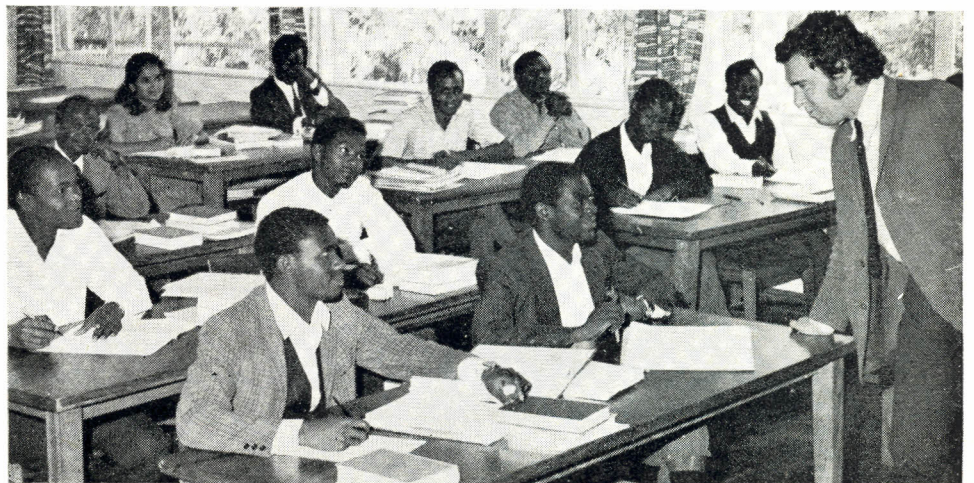
He said the system of teaching was based mainly on lectures — as in England — but that, because some of the staff had been exposed to American legal teaching, the case study system was also used. (In the case study system students learn their law through the study and discussion of cases).

Mr. Munoru said that he was happy that, with the reorganisation of legal education in Kenya, "we will now have only one class of lawyers".

Mr. Munoru, who is a graduate of Dar es Salaam and the Columbia Law School, is an advocate of the Kenya High Court. He has served as a State Counsel and conducted a private practice for several years, although he finds now he has little time for this.

At the faculty he teaches, among other subjects, Industrial Law, and last year he was a member of the board of inquiry into the Kenya Meat Commission.

(Continued on page 21)



Final-year students of the School of Law listening to a lecture by Mr. Harvey Treloar. The students share accommodation at the school with students of the Law Faculty.

# Finding out how language is used and taught in Eastern Africa

*A three-year survey of language use and language teaching in five countries of eastern Africa ends this year. Mr. T.P. GORMAN a lecturer in the Department of Literature who, has been closely associated with this research project, describes here how it was carried out and outlines the main results of the survey in Kenya.*



A survey into aspects of language use and language teaching in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Ethiopia, begun in 1968 in Uganda, will conclude this year in Zambia.

The survey involved the support of many institutions. Like the West African Languages Survey the inquiry is supported by the Ford Foundation but policy control of the East African Survey is vested in a council made up principally of two representatives of the universities of each of the five countries.

The representatives of the then University College Nairobi were Professor Bethwell Ogot and myself. Dar es Salaam was represented by Mr. M. Abdulaziz, now head of the Department of Linguistics and African Languages at Nairobi, and Mr. R. Wingfield who was succeeded by Mr. G. Mhina. Prof. Ali Mazrui, P. Zirimu and L. Billows represented Makerere University College. The two Field Directors of the survey, Prof. C. Prator and D. Bowen, were seconded from the University of California, Los Angeles.

The University of East Africa played an active role in the survey administering the funds for research grants. The Centre for Applied Linguistics recruited an Advisory Committee which included a number of distinguished specialists in linguistics and language teaching.

In each country a three-man team headed by a scholar of international standing worked for a year to 15 months; and these teams were supported by local scholars who contributed their own research findings, which had in many cases been gathered over a number of years.

In Kenya the team was led by Prof. Wilfred Whiteley, Head of the Department of Africa and Professor of Bantu languages at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. The other members of the team were Dr. Parkin, also of London University, and Mrs. B. Neale of the University of Texas. In 1968 and 1969 they staffed the Language Survey Research Unit in the Faculty of Arts.

In addition to the team, seven linguists or language teachers in Kenya contributed to the Kenya study, which I will describe later.

The work of the teams has however been only one aspect of the Survey. The Survey Council has

provided local scholars and teachers with financial support for the study of language problems or issues in Eastern Africa. Over 82 research and development projects were supported by the council after being critically evaluated. The aid offered was in the form of technical advice and of financial support when this was required. In this way local scholars were involved in the preparation of the country studies.

The survey also mounted a scholarship programme which provided financial support to citizens of the five countries involved for postgraduate training in language and linguistics. Three Kenyan students received scholarships to study in America or British universities and two received support to do postgraduate degrees in linguistics at Dar es Salaam and in the newly established department of Linguistics and African Languages at Nairobi.

Support has also been given to universities in East Africa to assist in the development of local programmes for the study of language and linguistics. A grant was made to assist the development of such programmes at Makerere and Nairobi (In Nairobi Prof. Whiteley was appointed chairman of the committee of the Faculty of Arts that made proposals that led to the establishment of the department of Linguistics and African Languages). Other developmental programmes are planned at Haile Selassie I University and at the University of Zambia.

It is now possible therefore for East African students to obtain undergraduate and postgraduate training in the scientific study of language in East Africa and it is no longer necessary for them to go abroad for basic specialisation.

Naturally these developments were not the result of the survey but they have been assisted by the participation of the scholars involved in the survey.

Support was also given to local language groups or associations when this was requested and in each country a conference of those concerned with linguistics and language teaching was supported. A con-

ference on the study and teaching of languages in Kenya was held at University College, Nairobi in December 1969, organised by the Kenya Language Association and the Kenya Association of Teachers of French and was attended by 232 participants including over 60 teachers of Swahili from all parts of the country and by a number of participants from other parts of Africa and Europe.

Two regional conferences have been held, the first at Dar es Salaam in December 1968 and the second at the Kabete campus of the University of Nairobi in June 1970.

As a result of the increasing co-operation between scholars and teachers from the different countries in Eastern Africa, the Language Association of Eastern Africa has been formed and registered. The members of the executive council, who are all citizens of the five countries involved in Eastern Africa, have appointed D. Elderkin and T. Gorman of the University of Nairobi as executive secretary and editor of the association's journal respectively.

The first two issues of the Journal have been published. The Journal will enable those concerned with issues related to language in Eastern Africa to maintain contact with each other and with scholars and teachers outside the region. It will publish articles on language use, language teaching and language description with particular reference to Eastern Africa; as well as papers on oral literature and on contemporary writing in the region.

The association has also sponsored the publication of papers from the first Regional Conference under the title "Language in Education in Eastern Africa" published in May 1970 by Oxford University Press.

The association has detailed plans for continuing and developing the work of the Survey Council which dissolved itself in June 1970 after passing on its residual responsibilities for scholarship candidates and continuing research projects to the Language Association of Eastern Africa.

Each country study was planned to cover aspects of the linguistic situation in a particular country in terms of three categories. These were:

"Language demography": What languages are spoken, where, by whom; what is the dialect structure of these languages; how are they related to each other (if they are) and which ones can be considered mutually intelligible; what are the characteristic phonological and structural patterns of the more important languages or language groups, etc.

"Language Use": Who uses what language(s) for what purpose(s), and with what competence and frequency; what are the trends of language expansion and contraction; how do population movements affect language use; what is the linguistic situation in multi-lingual areas, particularly in towns, border areas, in selected rural areas etc.

"Language teaching": How are languages learned; which are taught formally, by what curricula, with what methods, using what textbooks, tested by what examinations.

The results of the Kenya Survey which have now been submitted for publication comprise a volume of 16 chapters, seven of which were contributed by local scholars working with the language survey team.

The first section deals with the distribution and classification of the local languages of Kenya and with the availability of materials in these languages, many of which still have no standard orthography and most of which have no adequate grammar or dictionary.

The use of different varieties of Swahili is discussed by Prof. Whiteley in Chapter 1. In considering the question he points out that there are at least three main factors to be taken into account in any

attempt to estimate the extent to which Swahili is 'known' by Kenyans.

The difficulty of deciding what constitutes "knowing" Swahili.

The variation in the competence that people claim in the language from area to area. This may be associated with variations in linguistic homogeneity across the country, or with differential access to education. There are also differences between the generation and between the sexes.

The fact that the language may be "known" by different purposes, e.g. trade, casual encounters, football matches etc.

From the sample surveys carried out in various parts of the country, Prof. Whiteley concluded that fewer non-Bantu speakers claim a high degree of competence in Swahili than Bantu speakers: that more people claim to speak Swahili in towns than in the country; and that more people in lower income jobs claim a competence in the language than do those in 'white collar' jobs. These broad conclusions are illustrated in detail with reference to specific groups within particular areas. Chapter 1 also contains an original language map of Kenya.

In chapter 2 the Asian languages used in Kenya are discussed and in Chapter 3 the Luyia experiment in which an attempt was made to devise a common orthography and grammar for the 16 closely related dialects spoken in the western part of the country is described by Mr. P. Itebete. The experiment provides an illustration of certain major problems faced by educators in the country as a whole with respect to the use of local languages as media of literature. The chapter deals with the basic question as to whether "language engineering" of this kind should be undertaken or not, and with the linguistic problems relating to the selection of the basis for the orthography and grammar and the establishment of a

standard lexicon. The misunderstandings that can arise in the process are also considered.

Finally in Part 1 there is a chapter on the comparative study of the Bantu languages by Dr. J. Sharman, which gives an indication of some of the possible areas of co-operation between linguists and historians and other scholars in other fields in the study of the history of Kenya and of Eastern Africa generally.

Part II of the volume is devoted to a number of detailed studies of language use in particular communities or groups. Most of the chapters in this section deal wholly or in part with Nairobi as a focal point of urban development and migration. In the studies by Dr. Parkin and Dr. J. Bujra the persistence of Swahili as an important medium of communication in the city is documented. In the rural areas the situation is more complex.

Prof. Whiteley reports on visits to six provinces and on subsequent detailed surveys carried out with the aid of students from the university who were employed during the vacation and who interviewed everyone over 15 years in each household within a specific radius of their home.

There were wide divergencies in the degree of multilingualism reported within different groups. For example only a small proportion of the speakers of Luo reported competence in two or more languages whereas Luyia speakers frequently reported competence in three languages or more.

Luo speakers also characteristically reported a low level of competence in Swahili as compared with Luyia speakers. In this section also, I report on the first stage of research project into patterns of language use among schoolchildren in the eight major language groups and their parents. The project was carried out over three years and involved the participation of over 3500 children.

Section 3 deals with language and education. It begins with a historical survey in which I trace the development and implementation of language policy in Kenya with particular reference to education. Mr. Hemphi, former head of the language section at the

Kenya Institute of Education, writes on language teaching at the primary level and the volume concludes with my report of a research project into levels of language attainment in English and Swahili of secondary school children and an examination of some significant language teaching problems at secondary and post-secondary levels in Kenya.

The volume concludes with a comprehensive bibliography of works on the languages of Kenya.

Prof. Ogot, the director of the Institute of African Studies, which is co-sponsoring the volume, has written a foreword to the book.

The contributors have tried with differing degrees of success to write in terms that can be understood by "laymen", and to relate their work to practical issues and problems.

## LEGAL EDUCATION

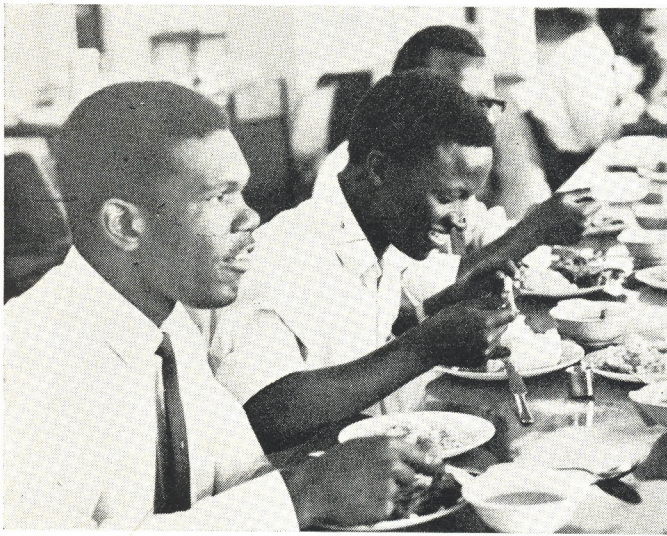
(Continued from page 17)

The setting up of the Faculty of Law has meant a change in the role of the School of Law. There, the basic legal education courses are being phased out, and the school is now catering for law graduates from Dar es Salaam who are preparing for the professional examinations of the Council of Legal Education.

By April 1973, when the first graduates from the Nairobi Law Faculty arrive at the school for further professional training, the school will be fully post-graduate.

The acting principal of the Law School is Mr. Tudor Jackson, a Yorkshireman who has been a lecturer at the School since 1965. Mr. Jackson said that since its inception the School had been turning out an increasing number of trained lawyers. The first advocate was qualified in 1968. In the following year ten qualified and last year there were about 20.

Co-operation between the faculty and the school includes the provision at the school (which was formerly the Maia Carberry Nursina Home) of living accommodation for 36 university students and also lecture room facilities.



Student accommodation is a prominent feature of the current university building programme. On the main campus two additional halls of residence, capable of housing 600 students are going up while for medical students the first two blocks of a new hostel were opened in July last year.

Situated near the Kenyatta National Hospital, the hostel is within walking distance of the new Medical School.

Each block of the new hostel has 70 single bedrooms, and when the other two are completed — probably in September — 280 medical students will be accommodated there. Most first-year students, however, will continue to live in the student residential areas on Protectorate and State House Roads.

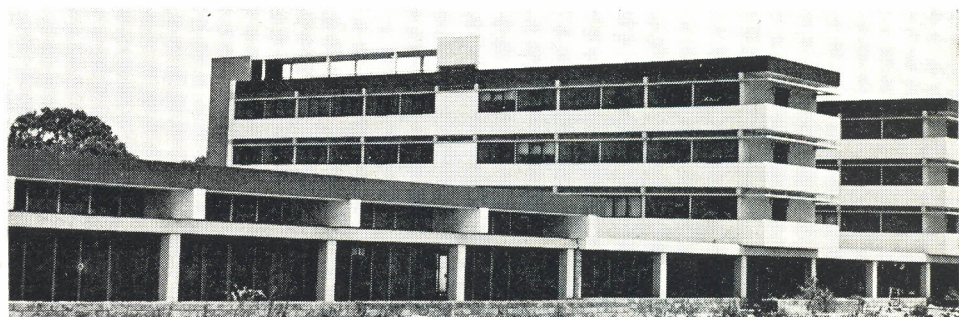
## NEW HOSTEL FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS



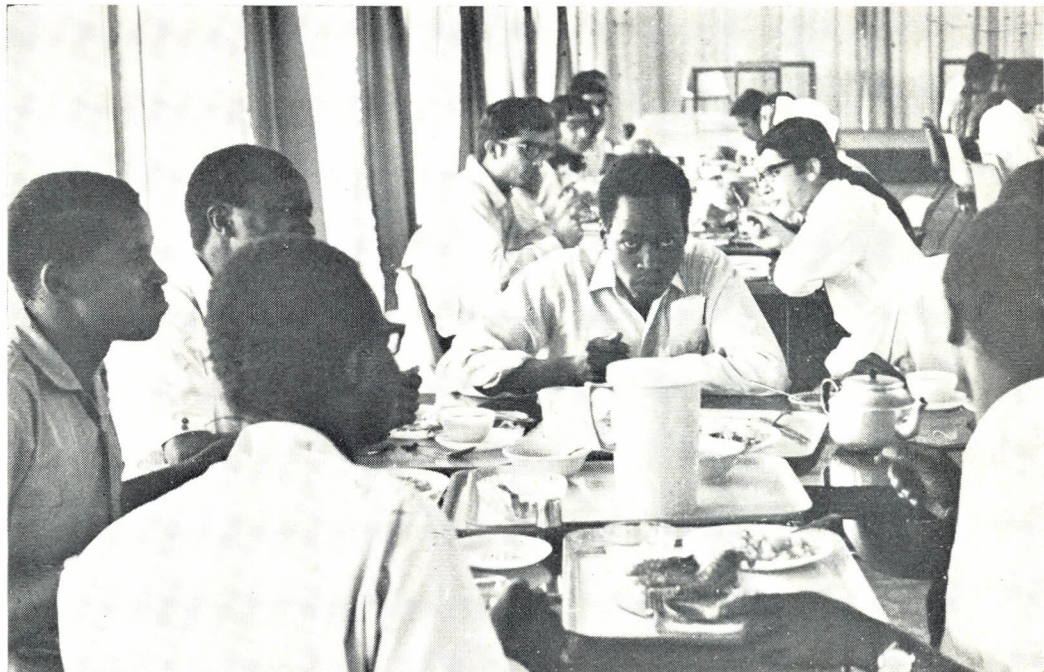
report by  
**MAGAGA ALOT**

pictures by  
**MATHEW ICHARIA**

There is no lack of cheerful faces among the staff in the modern hostel kitchen (above), nor in the spacious dining room where the students take their meals. On the left of the Kitchen line-up is Mrs. Grace Ndungu, the hostel cateress. Right: the two completed blocks of the hostel. Another two blocks are expected to be finished this year.







In the hostel dining room.

At the moment 110 medical students are housed at the hostel. Unlike the situation on the main campus where students share rooms — at times two, three or even four in a room — students at the medical hostel are all in single rooms, and rooms that are big enough only for one occupant. There would seem to be no possibility, even in an accommodation crisis, of any adjustments to these rooms into double occupancy, as happened in the case of Halls 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the men's campus.

At the hostel the medical students enjoy ample recreational facilities. They have a TV set and in their dining room, which they use occasionally for dances, they have a large stereo-radiogram. For them also there is 10 o'clock tea, which students on the main campus miss. Medical students on Ngong Road have little cause for complaint.

I asked one student, Peter Njagi, what he felt about the place. "Not bad," he replied, "just a bit lonely for us. Many feel isolated from the mainstream of the student body. Life is very busy most of

the time here, and we miss the bustle of social interaction on the main campus."

Another student complained about the fixed wooden beds. "Not very comfortable," was his opinion. My feeling, however, is that medical students should take this in good part — as a medical feedback. I have seen doctors on occasion prescribe hard beds for patients who complained of backache.

Miss Mary Wanjau, the hostel matron, told me that initial problems resulting from the students moving into the hostel before all work had been completed, were now being ironed out. She observed politely that her duties would be easier if the hostel had a telephone. At present she has to walk about 200 yards to a building contractor's office each time she wants to make a phone call, and calls include placing orders for foodstuffs or light bulbs.

She gets on well with the students, she assured me, because "I always solicit the opinion of their representatives before I introduce any major innovations".

# STAFF NEWS

## Some recent appointments promotions & resignations

### MR. M. NDORIA Deputy Registrar

A top administrative post which has been vacant for several years was filled last November when **Mr. Murigo Ndoria**, a Senior Assistant Registrar, assumed the duties of Deputy Registrar.

Mr. Ndoria, who has now moved into offices formerly occupied by the Personnel Department in the administrative block, is a former schoolteacher who joined the university as an Assistant Registrar in 1965. Two years later he was promoted to Senior Assistant Registrar, responsible for the Establishment Section, which deals with staff recruitment, terms of service, etc. In June 1969 he replaced Mr. M. Griffith as head of the Academic Section for almost a year.

Mr. Ndoria, who is 45, married with a family, comes from Nyeri. His teaching career included four years at Shimo-la-Tewa School at the Coast. Later he went to Makerere where he took a B.A. and a Diploma in Education. He was geography master at Kagumo Secondary School when he retired from the profession to join the university.



The Deputy Registrar,  
Mr. Ndoria.

On his new post as Deputy Registrar, Mr. Ndoria points out that he has been in the job for a few months only and that the exact terms of reference of the appointment are still being worked out.

### MRS. M. ROGERS Acting Dean, Faculty of Law

Ever since men allowed women to appear in court in wig and gown the legal profession has featured a succession of prominent women advocates. Such a one is **Mrs. Margaret Rogers**, acting Dean of the Faculty of Law, who has the

distinction of having conducted successful defences in 85 murder cases.

Mrs. Rogers, who has more than eight years' experience teaching law in East Africa, is leaving Nairobi next month to take up a new post at the School of Oriental and African Languages. Her job, which carries senior lecturer rank, will take her to different universities to teach African law.

A Scotswoman, Mrs. Rogers's first choice of career was the civil service, and she was secretary to the Minister of Aviation in London

in 1948. It was her Minister who suggested that she should study law. The result was an LL.B. for Mrs. Rogers from London University.

Unfortunately she had not eaten enough dinners as a student member of the Middle Temple to qualify to the Bar of that august body before she went off to South Africa with her husband, who was managing director of a pharmaceutical company.

Determined to practise law, Mrs. Rogers had first to take a further degree before being called to the Johannesburg Bar in 1956. She practised there until leaving South Africa in 1962, and it was during

this time that she successfully defended in 85 murder cases.

Coming to Kenya with her husband she lectured first to journalism students taking the International Press Institute course in Nairobi then joined the Department of Law in 1964 as a part-time lecturer. Three years later she was head of the department. Before becoming acting Dean of the Faculty of Law on its creation last year she was for a time Dean of Commerce.

Looking back on her teaching of law in Kenya, Mrs. Rogers finds her most rewarding experience in the standards and attitudes of the students, who, she says, have always been receptive yet capable of being critical and analytical.

The students will miss her particularly when she goes back to Britain with her husband and four children, as for several years she has been the Academic Board and Senate representative on student committees and so closely involved in their welfare.

As a woman lawyer Mrs. Rogers has no illusions about the advantages women enjoy in the profession. She is no seeker for equality; she is quite content to settle for the privileges.

#### **Dr. BRUCE WOODGER** Senior Lecturer, Pathology

Two recent appointments in the Department of Human Pathology are those of **Dr. Bruce Woodger**, who has joined as Senior Lecturer



Dr. Kungu

in Chemical Pathology, and **Dr. Alfred Kungu**, who is promoted to Senior Lecturer in Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology.

Dr. Woodger, a 45-year-old Scot, is probably the only chemical pathologist in Kenya. He has come here after many years' service as a consultant pathologist at Hairmyres Hospital, near Glasgow, to teach what he describes to the layman as the biochemistry of disease — an aspect of pathology which operated previously in Nairobi only at technician level.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr Woodger and the staff and students of his department carry out a diagnostic service for hospitals, an activity which has been going on for some time. The import-



Dr. Woodger



Mrs. Muinde

ance of this service can be gauged by the increase in the number of tests carried out: from 59,000 in 1969 to 75,000 last year.

Dr. Woodger finds his work here interesting — "more rewarding than at home". He believes one of the major tasks facing the pathologist here is to determine the protein and cholesterol pattern of the "normal" person in Kenya. Because of widespread poverty and disease — and protein content may only be an expression of nourishment (or

lack of it) or an expression of disease — effective research must first be preceded by the knowledge of what is the chemical make-up of the normal healthy Kenyan.

Dr. Woodger is hoping that during the long vacation students will be able to collect blood samples from various parts of Kenya to further this research.

A Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, Dr Woodger is a participant in the Glasgow-Nairobi "link" — which has provided a co-

operative exchange of medical men between the two centres for several years. In Scotland he met many East African doctors, including Dr. Kungu, who twice visited Glasgow to study and take his examinations for membership of the College of Pathology.

**Dr. Alfred Kungu**, a Kenyan, was promoted Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pathology last December. He is a graduate of Makerere (M.B., Ch.B., 1962), and after working as Medical Officer in Fort Hall District Hospital he joined the Medical Research Laboratory in Nairobi as Registrar in Pathology. In 1968 he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship which took him to Glasgow, where he successfully took the first part of his Royal College of Pathology examinations.

Later he joined Nairobi University College as a lecturer in pathology and the following year returned to Scotland where he qualified as a member of the Royal College of Pathologists.

Dr. Kungu is married, with two children. On the second visit to Glasgow he took his family with him and his second daughter was born there.

#### **MRS. NUSA MUINDE** **Lecturer, Education**

There can be few schoolteachers — or university lecturers for that matter — who have never experienced a nagging doubt at examination time about the validity of their test papers or the justice of their marks.

A researcher in this important educational field is Mrs. Nusa Muinde, who was last year appointed a Lecturer in the Faculty of Education. Mrs. Muinde, who comes from Yugoslavia, is married to a Kenyan economist, who is at present on a U.N. Fellowship with the Demographic Centre in Cairo.

She met her husband as a student at Ljubljana University, where she graduated in Clinical Psychology in 1968 and came back with him to Kenya in 1969. Before joining the staff of the university, she was at a school in Nairobi for mentally handicapped children, and was also a part-time lecturer in clinical psychology to medical students.

Mrs. Muinde, who is 28 and has a three-year-old son, hopes eventually to take a Ph.D. She had the offer of an Unesco Fellowship to do so in the United States, but decided instead to undertake a visit to five African countries to evaluate school examination standards and marking methods. She goes first to Zambia (during the Easter vacation) and will, during the rest of the year, pay visits to Nigeria, the U.A.R., Malawi and Uganda.

In Kenya itself she hopes to carry out research at both primary and secondary school level into the systems of tests and marking.

#### **MISS JOAN TYRELL** **Planning Officer**

The university loses its Planning Officer next month with the departure from Kenya of **Miss Joan**

**Tyrell**, who has held the post since November 1968.

Before joining the then university college, Miss Tyrell served for eight years with the Kenya Government, latterly as chief finance officer in charge of development finance at the Treasury. She holds a degree from Cambridge in Modern Languages and Economics (but emphatically denies being an economist).

Miss Tyrell was no stranger to Africa when she first arrived in Kenya in 1960; already she had eight years' service in the Statistical Department of the Nigerian Federal Government. Between switching from the West Coast to East Africa she spent two years in Montreal: a gap in service in Africa which Miss Tyrell describes succinctly as "a mistake".

As university Planning Officer, Miss Tyrell has been closely associated with the Development Plan 1970-73, which was published last year. She has also been involved in the planning of new faculties and institutions that have been established recently.

Miss Tyrell has definite views on what "planning" means. "I regard my job as an implementation job," she says, "as I don't believe only in putting things on paper. I prefer to see things happen".

Miss Tyrell is returning to her home at Epsom, England.

#### **MR. FINN POULSEN** **Resident Architect**

The university's first Resident Archi-

tect, **Mr. Finn Poulsen**, is returning to Denmark after completing two years' service with university. His successor is a British architect, **Mr. B. D. Waldock**, who was formerly a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development.

Mr. Poulsen, 34, married with children, graduated from the Royal Academy in Copenhagen in 1965 and has since specialised in university planning, working for both the government and the private sector before coming to Kenya.

He is now taking up a post connected with the planning of a new university in Denmark.

Of his term as Resident Architect he said that the fact that the office had been established was an achievement in itself. Now the university staff knew where or whom to consult on new buildings, building improvements and so on. The same could be said for outside consultants and the public in general.

Mr. Poulsen considered that the university's Master Plan, which is guiding the physical development of the University of Nairobi for the next few years, had been followed very successfully so far.

To people who ask why the university should continue to expand in Nairobi, Mr. Poulsen has this to say: "There is so much money invested in the central campus, at Choromo and in the halls of residence and kitchens, etc., that it is unbelievable that we can scrap this and

start afresh. Moreover, I see nothing wrong with having the university in the city.'

And he added: "But whatever happens we will have used up the land indicated in the Master Plan by 1980 with the present growth rate in the student population of 22 per cent a year. This indicates that the university must look for relief somewhere, either by establishing a new university or building colleges under the University of Nairobi elsewhere.

"It is essential that all parties concerned should start thinking about how to accommodate students when there is no more space, and it must be remembered that it takes approximately five years to find the money, design, construct and move into a new academic building."

#### **MR. G. OWUOR**

**Programmer, Computer Centre.**

A programmer has now been appointed to the Computer Centre. He is **Mr. George Owuor**, who previously worked for the Kenya Treasury. He will take over all programming at the centre, which has had to be done until now by the head of the centre, Senior Lecturer Bob Scott.

Mr. Owuor, a 29-year-old Kenyan, studied electronics at Ljubljana University in Yugoslavia during 1962-65. He then went to Cologne, in Western Germany, where he became interested in computing. After his studies at a programming college, he worked as an operator

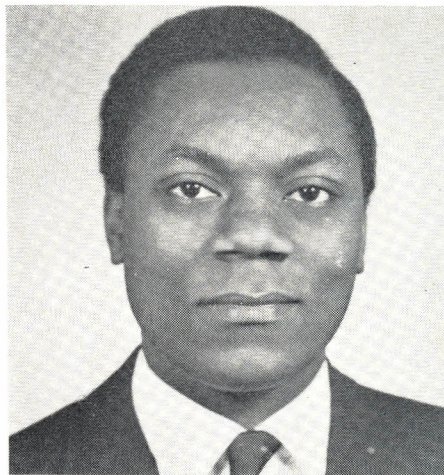
with a computer company before returning to Kenya in 1969.

#### **DR. S. A. OLENDE**

**Senior Research Fellow, I.D.S.**

**Dr. Shem Arungu Olende**, aged 30, who has been appointed a Senior Research Fellow with the Institute for Development Studies, has been a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering since 1968.

With a Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering, mathematics and



Dr. Arungu Olende

economics, and a keen interest in sociology, human and cultural research problems, Dr. Olende will be bringing to IDS an interdisciplinary approach to research projects. He feels very strongly that the kind of problems that we have to deal with are human and by their very nature interdisciplinary.

Born in Kusa, near Kisumu, Dr. Arungu Olende was educated at Kisii Secondary School, Makerere University College, University Col-

lege, Nairobi, University of Western Ontario (Canada), and the Imperial College of Science and Technology (University of London) where he studied for his Ph.D. A year after joining the University of Nairobi as lecturer he received a Rockefeller fellowship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, U.S.A. where he developed his interest in engineering economics.

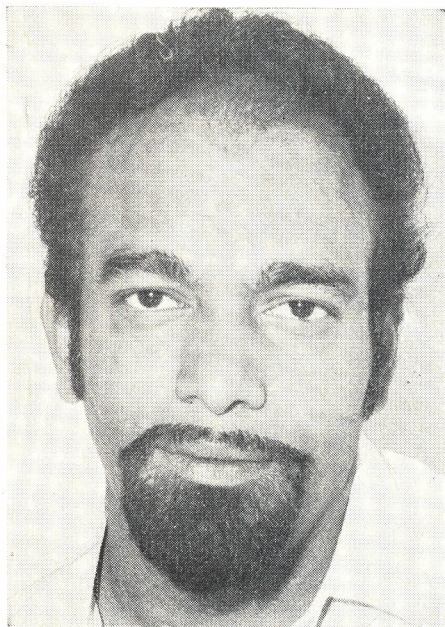
#### **MR. V. DA COSTA**

**Junior Research Fellow, Geography**

**Mr. Victor da Costa** has been promoted to the position of Junior Research Fellow. A Kenya citizen of Goan origin, Mr. Da Costa, who holds a B.Sc. degree in chemistry and biology, joined the university in 1968 as a special assistant with the Geography Department to work on the Kano Plain as a soil scientist.

He has nearly completed his soil mapping and land use survey of the Kano Plain, which includes a report to the Irrigation Board on the feasibility of the Kano Project. He is going to make use of his research, a practical and scientific investigation for the planning of agricultural crops, for writing his thesis for a Ph.D. degree with Makerere University which he hopes to complete by the end of this year.

Mr. Da Costa was born in Moshi, Tanzania, about 38 years ago, but he migrated to Goa with his mother when his father died during World War II. He received his university education in Bombay where he worked as a chemist for



Mr. Da Costa

a year after graduation. Then he returned to Tanzania to work as a palaeontologist with an oil company that was doing oil exploration in Tanzania.

In 1959 he came to Kenya and joined the Ministry of Agriculture and worked as a lecturer in soil science and agricultural biology at Embu Institute of Agriculture and later as a soil surveyor with the National Agricultural Laboratories. During his employment with the Ministry he worked on various agricultural projects appraising land for crop husbandry, ranging from the ill-fated tobacco project at Shimba Hills to the rice project at the Ahero Pilot Scheme.

He is married with three children.

# What's going on in the departments

## DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY

With the inauguration of the University of Nairobi, the former Department of Veterinary Physiology changed its name to the Department of Animal Physiology, and became responsible for teaching agricultural students as well as veterinary students.

There have been rapid changes in staff of the department. Mr. P. E. Svendsen was recruited from Denmark specifically to assist in the teaching of animal physiology to agricultural students. Mr. Svendsen previously worked in Denmark and the U.S., and is an authority on the physiology of digestion in ruminant animals.

Dr. O. B. Reite was appointed as a Visiting Reader to the department from Norway for a period of two years. His work is mainly concerned with the study of the evolution of the mast cell, and he hopes to make use of some of the species available in this country in a further understanding of his research subject.

Mr. C. K. Maitai has been appointed to teach pharmacology to second-year veterinary students. He also assists in the teaching of toxicology and therapeutics to clinical students and has enrolled for a Ph.D. He is studying some of the constituents of plants native to East Africa.

Later this year, Mr. C. B. Katongole will return from Cambridge, where he is completing his Ph.D. degree. His field of study has been the reproductive physiology of animals.

Mr. P. G. Hiley, who is here on a "study and serve" scheme, has started his work for an M.Sc.

# What's going on in the departments

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degree. He is studying comparative evaporative heat loss mechanism of animals.

In November 1970, the Wellcome Trust made a grant of £6,820 to the department to enable it to develop its research programme in environmental physiology.

## DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

The clinical academic staff of the Department of Medicine is mainly concerned with undergraduate teaching and clinical care of patients in the wards and outpatient departments of the Kenyatta National Hospital and with postgraduate instruction to junior hospital staff. The members of this department are currently engaged also in a wide spectrum of research activity relevant to important health problems in Kenya.

In the field of heart disease, Prof. W. F. Fulton and members of the department are exploring two main topics. First, in association with the Department of Surgery, a study is being made of operable heart conditions. Secondly, the form of heart muscle disease of obscure origin which is prevalent in Kenya is the subject of a widely based study.

Dr. H. D. Ojiambo, recently returned from a sojourn to McGill University, is pursuing an experimental research project on pathophysiological processes relevant to heart muscle disease. On the clinical side, Dr. Rees is studying patients in the Nairobi area with cardiomyopathy.

In the area of kidney disease, the nephrotic syndrome is being intensively studied with respect to

aetiology and the possible association with malaria (Drs. Barr, Rees, Cordy).

Dr. A. F. Bagshawe continues her investigations of liver disease and idiopathic splenomegaly in the Kenyan population with new and improved techniques.

Special laboratory studies of cancer cells from experimental animals as well as from patients with tumours, including Burkitt's lymphoma, are being carried out by Dr. P. B. McCulloch in conjunction with Wellcome and W.H.O. research groups.

An extensive haematological research study is well underway. This includes investigations of coagulation and fibrinolytic systems in certain diseases commonly seen in Kenya and studies of haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell anaemia and rarer forms) found in the Western Kenyan population (Drs. Kendall and Barr).

Dr. Rees is also carrying out trials of new drugs in the treatment of schistosomiasis and other tropical parasitic diseases encountered in Kenya, one trial having been made in conjunction with the Division of Insect Borne Diseases.

In the sphere of endocrinology, Drs. Darragh and Hutchison are involved in investigations of thyroid disease and diabetes.

During the current session several vacation research projects have been carried out by medical students under the guidance of members of staff.

Dr. A. R. Verhagen has completed a survey of gonorrhoea in Kenya and is engaged in leprosy surveys in other parts of the country.



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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Sociology Department is sponsoring a series of evening seminars at which third-year Honours students present the findings of their research. Topics range over a variety of subjects, including attitudes to family planning in settlement schemes, land consolidation and racial integration in Nairobi secondary schools. The students are Messrs. S. M. Wachira, E. K. Mburugu, J. K. Alela, V. K. Mwenje B. K. Njeru, Miss R. Sofat, Miss M. Patel and Miss P. Walji.

Prof. R. A. Kurtz is currently conducting a study in the area of medical sociology. For this study first and fourth-year medical students, and first and final-year social work students in three English cities (Bristol, London, and Manchester) have been asked to respond to a questionnaire which focuses on perceptions of the sick role and people who have several physical-social conditions. These are an alcoholic, a person with stomach cancer, a drug addict, a person with a heart ailment, a homosexual, a mentally subnormal person, a mentally ill person, a person with pneumonia, an unmarried pregnant girl and a person with venereal disease.

Mr. J. Cramer continues to make progress on two aspects of his research: measuring birth and death rates for regions of Kenya using vital registration data and in close co-operation with the Registrar General's Office, and preparing computer programmes for demographic analysis, which will become part of the Computing Centre's growing library of general purpose programmes.

## DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Mrs. D. de Quadros is presently writing her Ph.D. thesis in the Department. Her topic is "Caste and Club: A Study of Goan Politics in Nairobi."

One of a number of research projects at present in progress in the Department of Chemistry had its origin in a report by Drs. G.M. Mogera and Nderito of the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology concerning the toxic nature of a flour prepared from the nuts of "*Encephalartos hildebrandtii*."

Seeds and stems of this species of the "Cycadaee" family, treated to remove water-soluble toxins, provide a source of edible starch, which has been used as an emergency starch supply by man in East Africa during food shortage and when famine conditions prevail. Prior to detoxication with water the flour is poisonous. When added to the basal diet of rats, cattle and goats, it was found to produce tumours of the liver, kidney and lungs.

The identity of the toxic and carcinogenic factor had not been established but, cycasin, a glucoside of methylazoxymethanol, had previously been isolated from "*Cycas circinalis*", a species of another genus of the Cycadaee family, and the methylazoxymethanol moiety has subsequently been shown to be capable of inducing tumours of the liver, kidney, lungs and intestines.

An analogue of cycasin — a primaveroside — was isolated and characterised from "*Encephalartos hildebrandtii*" in the department. It differs from cycasin

# What's going on in the departments

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in the nature of the sugar moiety, primaverose replacing glucose, the carcinogenic methylazoxymethanol residue being common to both.

Our interest in toxic plants indigenous to Kenya coupled with the finding by Dr. Plowright (E.A.V.R.O.) and Drs. Linsell and Peers of the Nairobi Regional Centre of the International Agency for Research on Cancer of a focus of rumenal cancer in cattle grazing the slopes of a somewhat remote valley on the south-western slopes of the Mau Escarpment, led to an association with the agency.

Some 40 plants, one more of which are implicated in the outbreak of rumenal cancer, are in the process of botanical authentication by Dr. Greenway of the East African Herbarium. An extensive screening of these plants for carcinogenic activity by animal feeding tests will be put into operation in the near future and chemical screening of the plants for known active carcinogenic agents such as nitosamines is at present being undertaken by the Department.

This problem, of the possible presence of carcinogenic substances in foodstuffs, used by both domestic animals and humans, is being widely investigated throughout the world at the present time. It may have considerable bearing upon the known geographical and social class distributions of certain types of cancers which are causing considerable concern in the medical world.

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

After four years' successful running of a student research project which built original research into the training of specialist student historians, the department of History has agreed that it is now the moment to

incorporate this element within a wider scheme named the Kenya History Project.

It is intended that this will eventually cover all the major regions of Kenya, accumulating for each a solid body of pre-colonial and modern history. Initially, five schemes will have priority: the Rift Valley, the Coast with its hinterland, Western Kenya, Central Province and the Nairobi area. Faculty members with specialist interests will be closely associated across disciplines with prehistory, linguistics and anthropology. However, within the department, the 3.1.1. students and those 3.2.2. who choose the dissertation as an option will from this year be selecting their dissertation subject in accordance with departmental priorities in the Kenya Project. In their field work they will in future be researching alongside the history faculty, who will be combining supervision with related work of their own.

It has also been decided that, as far as is reasonable, postgraduate students from overseas universities who desire to undertake historical research in Kenya will be advised to pursue this interest within the Kenya project priorities of that particular time. In this way their own research work in Kenya will be of immediate and relevant application to this country, and it is hoped that it may prove possible to associate them too with some ancillary supervision of the dissertation students working in the same area.

Finally with Unesco's continuing interest in at least the Rift Valley section of the project, a preliminary monograph will be published shortly with their co-operation, while the department will produce its own series of both local histories and oral texts within the wider framework.



The Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, His Excellency Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, at the ceremony inaugurating the university last December, when he was installed as Chancellor. With him is the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J. N. Karanja.