

(THIRD INTERDISCIPLINARY FAMILY SEMINAR HELD JOINTLY WITH HOME SCIENCE DEPARTMENT)

FROM March 9-11, a seminar on aspects of Family Welfare and Planning took place at the Institute of African Studies, the third in a series of interdisciplinary family research seminars. It was held in conjunction with the Home Science Department. Seventeen papers were presented on a variety of topics by members of several departments and Institutes of the University of Ghana and of the Department of Social Welfare, Accra.

The papers dealt with a number of themes including family welfare and planning programmes; factors affecting family size and birth control, the care, health and nutritional status of children in the several kinds of domestic and institutional settings; women's roles in the home and at work; and the effects of conjugal family organisation and break down upon members welfare.

An important theme which constantly received attention was that of the woman's triple roles as mother, worker and wife and the burdens imposed upon her by simultaneous child-bearing and child-care and the task of earning a major part of the family living. The strains imposed by these multiple duties made it imperative to examine her possible sources of moral and material support in carrying out the important task of caring for the emotional and physical needs of the younger generation. At least two papers revealed situations in which adequate help from husbands and fathers was not forthcoming, while several papers explored the actual and potential roles played by Institutions such as Orphanages, Day Care Centres, the School Welfare Services and Nutrition Education Programmes in the task of assisting mother or assuming their responsibilities in part or fully. One paper raised the important question of the extent to which fostering of children by non-parental kin is common in Accra.

These discussions of child-care were complemented by those concerning family limitation the situations in which parents see fit to limit family size. The cases of clerks teachers and nurses in Accra were discussed in some details and put into a wider historical framework by the discussion on birth control movements and women power.

Important questions were raised with regard both to future research in these areas and to the organization of relevant and adequate welfare programmes and services.

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COMMUNICATION

SEMINAR ON THE BRONG PEOPLE

An interdisciplinary seminar on the Brong people of central Ghana has been held at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon at the week-end, March 16—18.

The seminar, aimed at reaching conclusions on the bases for distinguishing the Brong from the other Akan sub-groups, and discussed the following papers:

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| Prof. M. Posnansky: | Archaeological aspects of the Brong Ahafo Region |
| Mr. E. K. Agorsa: | The pre-history of the Begho area. |
| Dr. Kwame Arhin: | Asante Security Posts in the Northwest. |
| Mr. K. A. Britwum: | Kwadwo Adinkra of Gyaman: A study of the relations between the Brong Kingdom of Gyaman and Asante. 1800—1818 |
| Dr. Florence Dolphyne: | Brong (Bono) Dialects. |
| Mr. K. O. Odoom: | Islam in the Brong Region |
| Dr. Kwame Daaku: | Politics among the Eastern Brong. |
| Mr. Kwasi Boateng: | Economic Geography of the Brong area. |
| Nana Kwakye Ameyaw:
(Takyimanhene) | The origin and extent of the Bono-Manso Kingdom. |

The archaeologist, Prof. Posnansky and E. K. Agorsa of the department of Archaeology, Legon, reviewed current archaeological work and findings at the famous ancient trading centre of Begho in north-western Ashanti, now the Brong Ahafo Region

Three historical papers, (Arhin, Agyeman and Daaku) examined aspects of Ashanti's relations with her conquered territories in the northwest and northeast and the light these relations throw on the political definition of 'Brong'. An interview by Arhin with Nana Kwakye Ameyaw, the present Takyimanthene, dealt with the origin and extent of the Bono-Manso Kingdom its defeat by Ashanti, and the fortunes of Techiman, her successor-state: The chief thought modern 'Brong' is derived from 'Bono' the first arrivals in the area, who established the Bono-Manso state.

Mr. K. Boateng of the Department of Geography, Legon, outlined the traditional and modern economies of the Brong-Ahafo Region. Mr Odoom of the Institute of African Studies spoke of the coming of Islam with the establishment of the Mande trading-post at Begho. Dr. F. Dolphyne of the Department of Linguistics, Legon, spoke of differences within the Brong dialect cluster and between Brong and the other Akan dialect clusters.

It is hoped that the papers read and discussed will form the basis of an interdisciplinary publication on the Brong peoples.

Kwame Arhin,

19th March, 1973.