

made of the numerous lay and religious medical aid organizations and the services set up by the large commercial firms. The total of these services is equal in importance to three fifths of the official medical service.

The health services of the big companies which include 80 doctors, 20 pharmacists and 50 health inspectors, have been specifically set up for their employees. Progress which has been made, particularly in the Katanga province, is all to the honor of these companies. But their activity does not stop here. They also treat the native population which lives within the range of their activity as well as combatting to a certain extent the endemics and epidemics.

First aid work is widespread and varied.

Free native medical aid, which is rendered by the national and foreign missions, is in operation throughout the Congo. These organizations, subsidized by the government and operating on a regular basis, include a minimum of 80 Catholic and 35 Protestant mission posts. A number of centers supervised by medical missionaries, both national and foreign, should also be added to the list.

The Congo Medical Foundation of Louvain, with a large staff of five doctors, is operating in several districts.

The Congo Red Cross, with several doctors, is expanding its activity daily in the province of Stanleyville. Rural dispensaries in the provinces of Stanleyville and Costermansville are steadily increasing their areas of activity.

The protection against infant mortality, which is subsi-

dized by the government, and which offers consultations on pre-natal care and infant feeding, is being put to more and more use by the native population.

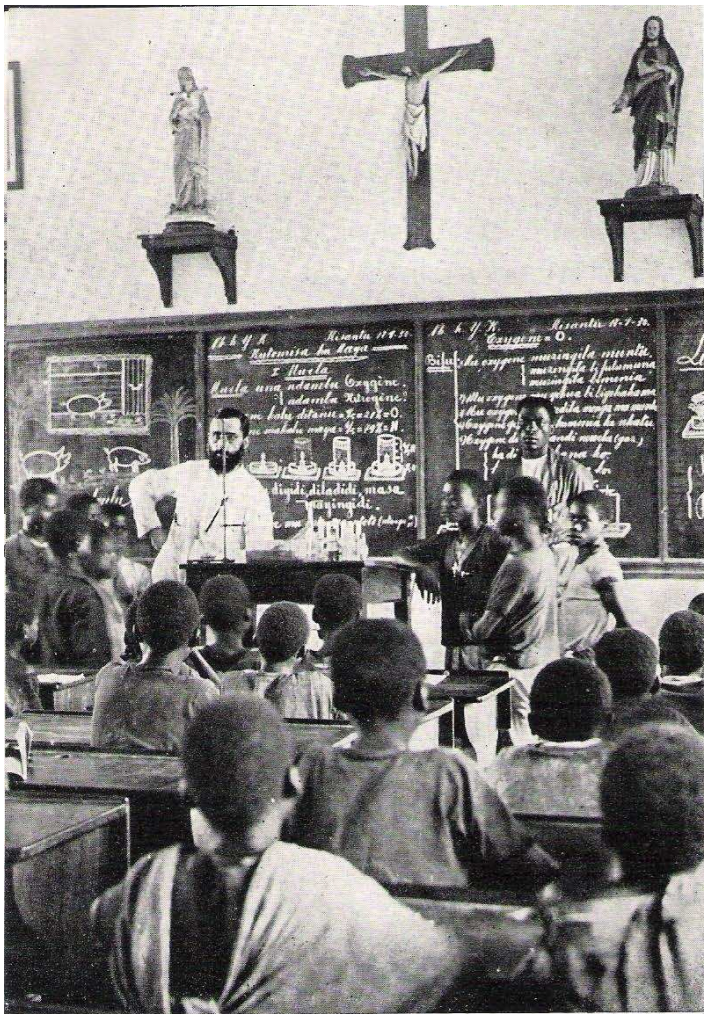
At the 1926 Colonial Congress, King Albert particularly emphasized the responsibility which the colonial government assumed with respect to the health of the native population. As a result of his speech, the Parliament voted a national donation of two million dollars to which sum the Department of Colonies added three million dollars, thus creating a special fund for native medical care.

The Foréami—as the foundation was called—program for the first five years includes complete medical care in the rural areas of determined regions for all existing epidemics or endemics. This consists of a census and examination of the entire population, diagnosis of every disease, and particularly trypanosis, yaws, leprosy, syphilis, tuberculosis, dysentery, and their treatment until cured. The Foundation undertakes also to fight against prenatal death and infant mortality and to put into effect every measure designed to improve the hygienic conditions in villages which affect the health of the natives.

Foréami has strikingly reduced sleeping sickness and yaws, developed numerous social services, increased the health of the villages and created a favorable demographic situation, births exceeding deaths by 20 to 1000. Foréami treats a yearly average of 265,000 colored people and examines another million.

A patch of savanna in central Congo





School for native boys at Kisantu.

Catholic Missions

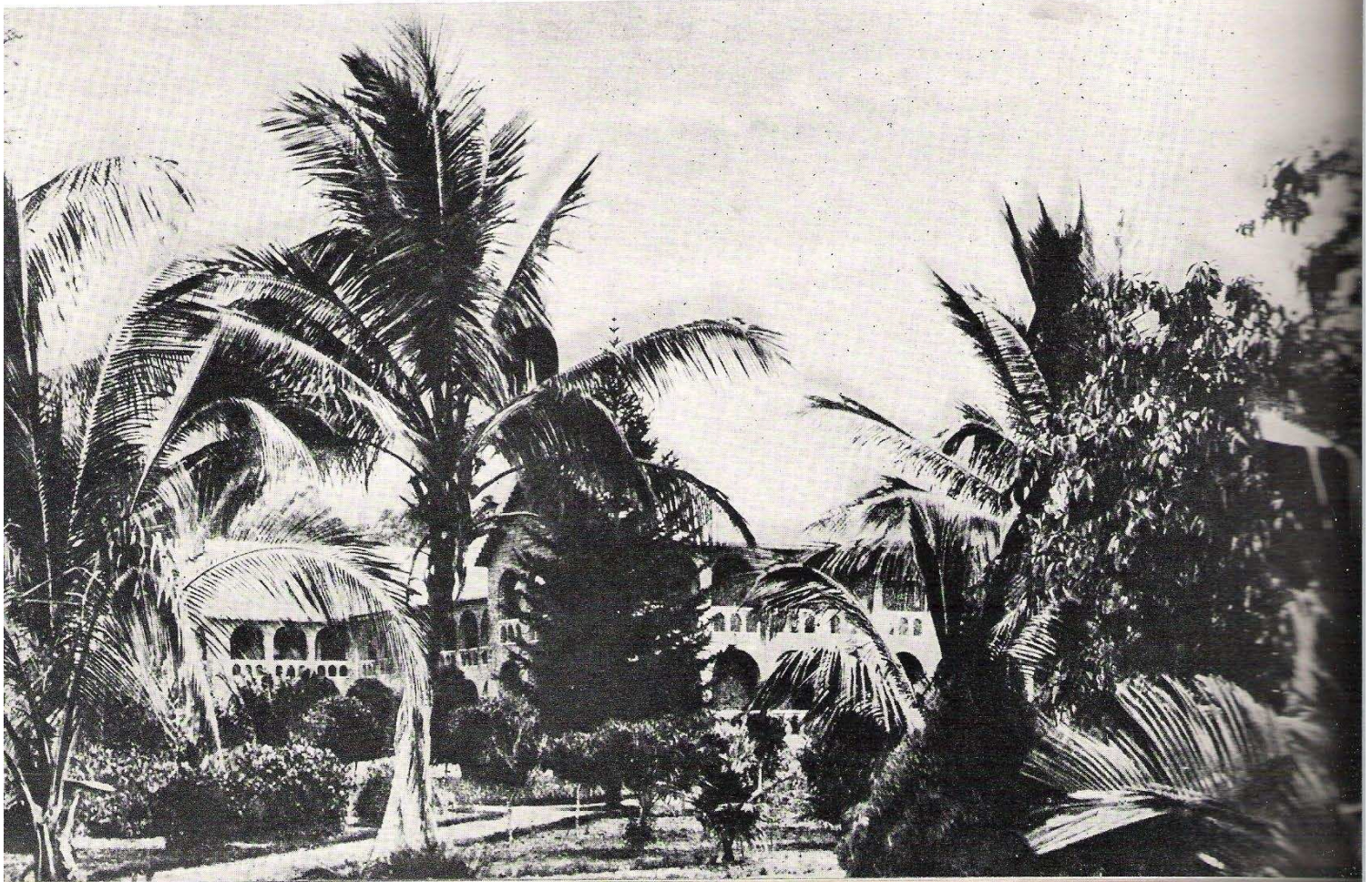
Missionary work in the Belgian Congo dates back only to fifty years. The success achieved is all the more praiseworthy, for in that half century the number of Catholic natives grew from year to year until they numbered, in 1939, 2,127,986.

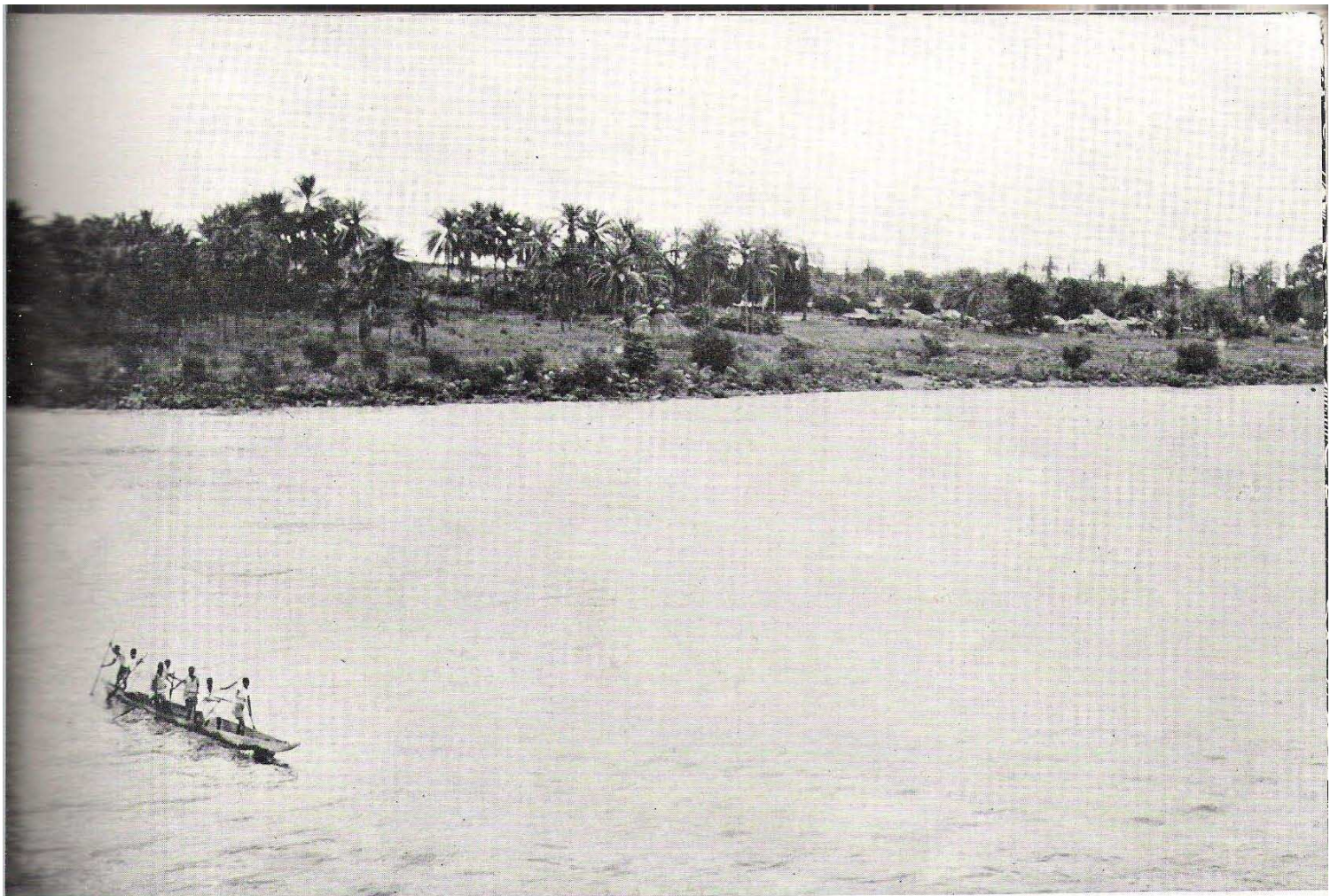
In 1886, an "African Seminary" was founded in Louvain to recruit missionaries for the Congo, but in 1862, a seminary had been founded at Scheut, near Brussels, with that object.

The first missionaries to go to the Belgian Congo were the White Fathers, arriving there in 1888. They were quickly followed by the Scheut Fathers and by the Jesuits. Their task was not an easy one, for they had to undergo cruel hardships; in 1920, for instance, a large number of missionaries died of sleeping sickness.

The principal reason for their success is not only their spirit of self-sacrifice but their understanding of the vital problems of civilization. That is why they tackled the education and the medical problems at the same time as the religious one. The result is that, although the white Cath-

The Jesuits' mission at Kisantu.





On the Congo river, the Tshumbiri mission's canoe comes out for the mail.

olic missionaries in the Belgian Congo number only 1,731, belonging to 21 congregations, there are 18,068 Catholic Schools, 516 Catholic hospitals, 120 leproseries and 128 maternity clinics.

Nearly every religious congregation in Belgium is represented in the Belgian Congo and they give their whole-hearted support to the colonial evangelization. The Belgian Government and the Congo authorities are fully cognizant of the importance of the missionaries' work and give them full help.

In the last few years, the Jesuits have also organized schools for the white children, and the war has not stopped progress in that direction: the College of Costermansville, built since the war started, has recently been opened.

A few figures will illustrate better than words the enormous task accomplished by the Catholic missionaries.

There are altogether 359 missions, 624 churches and 17,183 chapels together with 19 printing shops operated by the missions and which publish 25 periodicals.

Besides the 1,731 missionaries, there are 1,456 white sisters. There are also 81 native priests and 189 novices plus 1,480 seminarists. Moreover, 175 native sisters and 68 novices prove their devotion daily.

The Catholic hospitals and clinics give, yearly, 11 million consultations and the leproseries tend to 11,100 patients.

The wood engraving on the two following pages is by the English artist J. Buckland Wright.

Medical inspection of natives at Kangu.





