



## 'Mother Teresa of Africa'

side under the able direction of Reverend Mother Mary Fidelis, the first Superior of the Mission.

In 1937 Mother Mary Osmund and Mother Teresa Xavier were sent to begin their long and fruitful partnership at Ifuho; and there, while the former laid the foundations of the Training College, the latter undertook the task of Novice Mistress to the first Handmaids of the Holy Child. In the war years a community of six, with Reverend Mother Mary Osmund as Superior, swarmed from these overcrowded quarters to the present convent. Long before this, the teachers-in-training, as well as the novices, were established in buildings, handsome, convenient, and frequently enlarged, and the old mud school had been replaced by spacious and airy rooms in solid cement. Lastly, the lovely Ifuho chapel was built.

Material growth was paralleled by spiritual and intellectual expansion. Ifuho today is a separate entity, with its own convent, college and schools. Noviceship and Training College have become twin power houses from which convents and schools radiate into the Bush.

For many years at the centre of all the activity cheerful, whimsical, humorous, tireless, never put out, never forgetting a face nor the history behind it — that was Mother Teresa!

In 1953, she was sent to Calabar as Superior. Her work did not change, merely increased. She was put in charge of the Holy Child Mission towards the end of 1958, and now in January, 1959, she has returned to Ifuho as Reverend Mother Vicar. *Ad Multos Annos!*

M. M. JOACHIM

It is fitting that Reverend Mother Teresa Xavier should have succeeded Reverend Mother Mary Osmund as Mother Vicar of the Holy Child Mission in West Africa, since she has been her faithful friend and collaborator for twenty-five years.

"Mother Teresa of Africa", as she has been affectionately dubbed, was the earlier in the field. She arrived in Calabar in February, 1932, proceeding almost immediately to Anua in the heart of the Ibibio Bush. She had, therefore, her full share of the toil and privations of the early years when our numbers were so few and our missionary technique and policy as yet experimental. In this first sphere of labour she had as fellow-workers Mother M. Edith, the pioneer in our bush school work, and Mother Mary Vianney (England) the first in the medical or — to speak more accurately — the dispensary work.

When Mother Teresa Xavier went to Calabar in 1934 she continued the bush school work along with Mother Mary Laurentia, our first American pioneer in the field, who is now Reverend Mother General. For some time they worked side by