



In the library. M. M. Audrey gives help in English Literature to a Fifth Form student.

followed until the ten o'clock Break. Then came a final choir practice . . . and an hour later, standing with outward composure before the Festival of Arts' Judges, our thirty-seven choristers sang with a precision and beauty heretofore only dreamed of by the Conductress. They received the highest award.

The twelve chosen to participate in the final competition of the Drama Section of the Festival of Arts were scheduled to present Act 3, Scene 1 of "A Midsummer's-Night's Dream" at two P. M. in the African Club. If one of our gifted Lay Apostles had not "lent a hand" with the making of that vital bit of property — the Ass's head — we could not have entered. But lend she did, and her help together with the skil-

ful performance of the cast, procured victory. The rafters rocked with the response of the audience, most of whom were, of course, our own students. The beautiful trophy was carried back in triumph with song all the way.

Four P. M. . . . and hidden among the letters drawn forth from P. O. Box 36 — a pink slip — from YABA! That meant that the results of our West African School Certificate Examinations were waiting for us. We rushed to call for the parcel; flustered hands seized it and we dashed back to school. Is it possible? It is! It's true! 100% Pass!

It is good to have the heart so high at least once during school life. We needed to give thanks and we poured into Chapel.

THE Y. C. S. IN NIGERIA

By Mary T. Kellum

It was Holy Thursday in Ogoja. Students with serious, intent faces had formed a procession along the main road of the Holy Child compound. The brilliant scarlet of the flame-of-the-forest trees fashioned a canopy overhead under the hot African sky. A girl, bent beneath the weight of a heavy cross, headed the procession which slowly made its way out of the compound to a

place in the road where it was joined by similar processions from other Catholic secondary schools. Then, altogether, the students walked to the Cathedral while hundreds of people from the surrounding villages watched them with mounting curiosity.

This scene was being repeated in many parts of Nigeria during the morning. It was the result of a

Planning the Y. C. S. meeting in Uyo. M. M. Anita, the monitor, with Mary Colette Anwah, national organiser (right of M. M. Anita), and Elizabeth Akpan and Catherine Azodo, heads of the Movement in the Cornelia Connelly Secondary School.



directive sent out by the YCS national organiser, Mary Colette Anwah, and it aroused considerable interest in the meaning of Holy Week, even among the pagans.

The Young Christian Student Movement (YCS) was introduced into Nigeria several years ago. It is an international organisation founded by Father (now Cardinal) Cardijn in Belgium as a sister movement of his world famous YCW (Young Christian Workers).

"Its purpose," Mary Colette explained to me when I saw her at a meeting in Uyo, "is to train Catholic leaders in secondary schools and colleges. Then, when they leave school to take jobs, they carry on in the YCW. In Nigeria at present we have more than two hundred schools that have sections of the YCS. Our aim is simple: to endeavour to bring the principles of the Gospel into every sphere of student life. If a girl with leadership qualities has been aiming in the wrong direction, the YCS tries to make it the right one — and there has been a decided change in many of the girls. The same holds true of the boys."

Programmes are sent out each year with a general theme and topic for each meeting held during the three terms. The theme for the current year was: *Towards Human Dignity*. Such topics were given as, "Guidance on Careers" — "After-School Apostolate" — and "The Basis of Human Relations: Christian Love and Respect for Others."

"Each member," said Mary Colette, "is to examine his or her

own attitude to fellow-students, to members of other tribes, and to pray for a change of heart in those areas where human dignity is not respected."

Mary Colette Anwah herself is an outstanding example of a young African Catholic leader. She was born in Onitsha and did her Secondary and Higher School (Arts) studies in Cornelia Connelly Secondary School, Uyo. While she was in Fifth Form there, the YCS was introduced to the school and she joined it immediately. After completing her studies in Uyo, she taught for a year in the Holy Child Secondary School, Abakaliki, and became the YCS monitor there.

In 1963, the Nigerian Bishops had invited Miss Freda Mahony from London to help organise the movement. Three years later, when she had to return to England, Mary Colette took her place as national organiser of the YCS at the Catholic Secretariat, Lagos. It meant postponing her studies at Ibadan University for a year. "But it was more than worth it," she says. Being organiser, she has had to travel from one end of the country to the other — covering more than 15,000 miles in a few months. Besides opening new YCS sections, she has arranged seminars, planned team meetings to outline programmes, and settled any particular problems that have come up.

If the YCS members are able to carry out their ideals of bearing witness to Christ in their lives and of being dedicated to the service of others, they should act as a mighty leaven in the Nigeria of the future.

