



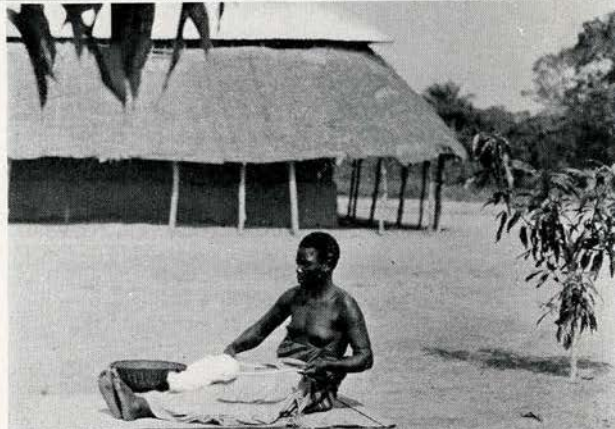
Kong Tam, kumrabai (counselor) of Yoni,
Sierra Leone

Tihua throwing a
casting net

Bundu Sokos (chief women) and "devils" at the
resthouse, Yoni



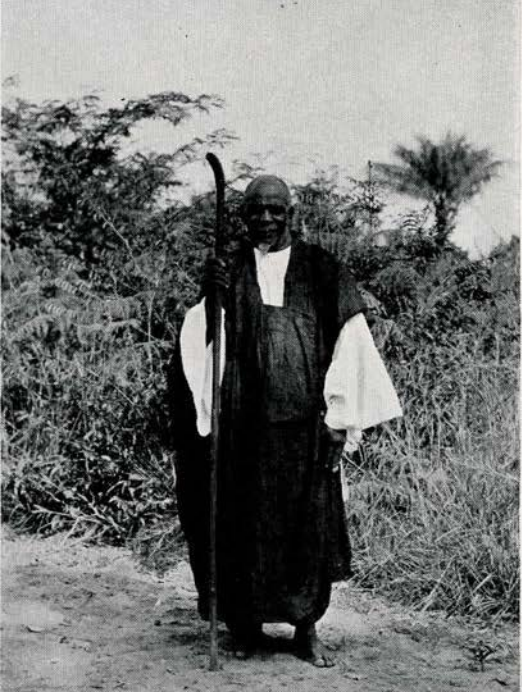
Kema Jila cleaning and "ginning" cotton



Kema Jila carding cotton with native carder

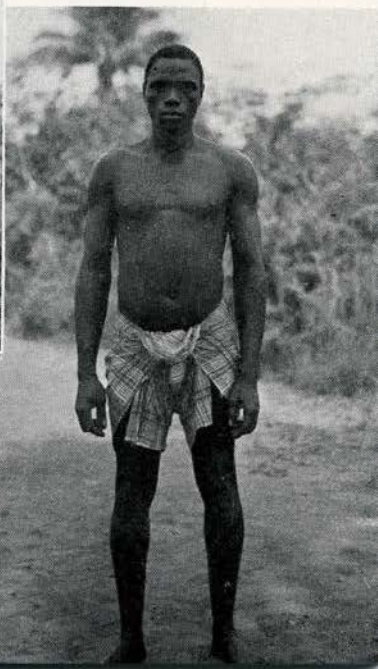
PLATE IV

Dance following funeral ceremonies



Women weeding cassava patch

Belmo Fai who was sentenced to prison for possession of "bad medicine"



sinister expression. A slender horn or spear rising from the forehead in line with the eye and nostril, may stand for the weapon with which the Man-in-the-Moon executed his terrible punishment upon the man who laughed.

The mask in the United States National Museum, has neither spine nor the feathers which radiate from the upper half of the Hooper Bay carving. That these masks relate to the Man-in-the-Moon is further suggested by the outline of their discs which is not a true oval but D-shaped and, like a moon-masquette which Nelson obtained from the Eskimo of the lower Koskokwin, they show the half-moon phase.

H. N. W.

THE AFRICAN EXPEDITION

Mr. Henry U. Hall, who is conducting investigations for the Museum among primitive tribes in Sierra Leone, Africa, writes the following from Yoni. He has also sent us many interesting photographs of the people and their daily life of which a few are contained in the preceding pages.

Yoni, January 3, 1937.

Dear Mr. Jayne:

On reaching Bonthe a month ago, I found that there were some interesting, if rather sketchy records in the District Commissioner's office. It took me the best part of a fortnight to go over these and make notes on their contents. I have made arrangements, with the D.C.'s permission, with an intelligent Negro clerk in his office to type for me a number of letters bearing on the native risings of 1898, and have these copies ready for me against my return to Bonthe.

On consulting with the D.C., I was able to arrange for the following programme: He sent me on here in a Government launch, after sending for the Chief to come and see me in Bonthe and recommending me to his good offices, assuring him that I had nothing to do with the collection of taxes or any other Government activity. From here we shall go by hammock or on foot across the island to Tisana at its western end, stopping wherever the prospects for successful investigations are good. I expect our first stopping-place after Yoni will be either at Bonge or Mange (Bong-gay, Man-gay) about four hours' walking over sand, with a river to cross. On reaching Tisana, and perhaps staying there awhile,

I am to send to the D.C., who will send a launch for me to fetch me back to the neighborhood of Bonthe. From there we go to Sembahun by launch, from Sembahun to Moyamba by lorry, and from Moyamba to Shenge, again by lorry. Shenge is on the mainland, and in a different district, so I shall have to see the District Commissioner at Moyamba to let him know what I want to do. Cox at Bonthe has been very helpful and given me every facility for carrying on.

Sherbro Island is, one might almost say, the last stronghold of unmixed Sherbro; at least they are here in such preponderant numbers as to have avoided Mendi-ization to any important degree. The neighborhood of Shenge, I believe, is the next best place for a similar reason. The Chief at Yoni, who is also the Paramount Chief of Sitia District, which comprises the greater part of the island, is a very intelligent person and does all he can to help me. He has found me a good interpreter, who himself knows a good deal about old customs, and a couple of old men who are also competent in this respect, and willing to talk. So I have been able to do a good deal of work in the last two weeks, and believe I can profitably stay here for probably another month.

I have begun also to make a collection of material objects, including two masks and a costume which have been in use here in the Bundu "bush," and thoroughly authenticated from that point of view. Also a complete spinning and weaving outfit, operated in my presence. But it is a poor country and the people are not rich in material goods.

I am sending some photographs shortly. They were taken in Bonthe, which is a good deal more civilized than Yoni. Both there and here we have had the use of the Government resthouse. The mosquito-proof tent is a refuge from mosquitoes from sunset until we crawl under the cot nets at bedtime.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: H. U. Hall.