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EDITORIAL

The hope of the Society has always been to encourage the study of indigenous African music so that it would not cease to function as a social asset in a changing world.

Over the years there have been many attempts to record and study African folk music with limited objectives in view such as the adaptation of local styles of music for religious purposes, the setting of African songs in a western manner for their sales value in the popular market, or even as a means of acquiring merit in the intellectual world of universities. None of these purposes are adequate in themselves. A wider aim is needed to draw together all those persons and institutions which are already making a contribution to the study of African arts and to achieve a common end by participation in a scheme which will put first things first in the African musical world.

As Samuel Taylor Coleridge remarked "Hope without an object cannot live". It is therefore for this reason that the Society has put forward its Text Book proposition, to restate its faith in the future of African musical genius and re-define a practical channel of activity which will have extensive beneficial results if brought to a conclusion. Within a few months, we hope, the foundation of this scheme will be firmly established.

Hope not only springs eternal but has its firm objective, the recognition of distinctive African musicality in the educational field throughout Africa.

EDITOR.

It will be noticed that this edition of the Journal is dated 1966/1967. This has been done as there has been a certain amount of confusion in the past. The Journal was originally thought of as a report on the previous year's musical activities, and was dated accordingly. However, members feel that the date should reflect the time of going to press which has always been during the first few months of the calendar year.