

## EAST AFRICAN NOTES: UGANDA

By D. PASTEUR

THERE is unfortunately nothing to report from Uganda since the last notes were written in July, 1964. This is because Ruwenzori has been virtually closed to climbing parties since then and remains so. During the three seasons from June, 1964, to August, 1965, only two parties have managed to get up the mountain, one of them without porters. This situation has arisen because of the political difficulties among the Bakonjo who provide the porters for climbing parties. An extremist movement among the Bakonjo has for some time been pressing for separation from the kingdom of Toro of which the area is a part. This extremist movement has effectively intimidated the porters from going up the mountain so long as its demands are not met, and there seems to be no chance that these porters will change their mind until the situation returns to normal. It is hoped that this may happen before the end of 1965 so that climbing can start again in early 1966. The name of the movement, Rwenzururu, brings into prominence what seems to be the true name of the range used by the Bakonjo people. This name was mentioned by H. M. Stanley in his book *In Darkest Africa* as one of the local names he heard, together with Rwenjura used by the Batoro. Then, one imagines, he made a compromise between the two in the present name of Ruwenzori. 'Rwenzururu' means hill of snow and 'Rwenjura' hill of rain.