

concrete, but in dry weather these dry up or become infested with insects which cause illness. This causes an exodus to the coastal area. According to local inhabitants a bride is given fine cloth in place of a dowry, so that she can trade it for water during continuous dry spells. The art of using a minimum of water for all needs has been perfected in the interior.

Some relief has been provided by the island authorities who, in cooperation with the Korean Ministry of Agriculture, have constructed two open canals to connect the water-blessed mountain areas with the thirsty lower regions. One modern boon for women who have to carry water jars from wells is the introduction of plastic bottles, which are much lighter. But the need to investigate all ways of making the best use of water remains.

There are already indications from the studies made by measuring isotopes under the IAEA contract that fresh water exists below ground in large quantities which could be reached by well-drilling. In time more precise details will be computed, but the results undoubtedly open up hope for the future.

SIERRA LEONE IS THE 98th MEMBER

Sierra Leone has become the 98th member State of the Agency.

The application for membership of this country was approved by the General Conference in September last year, and on 19 June it was announced that the instrument of acceptance of the Statute had been deposited with the Government of the United States.
