



AFRICAN GIRL AS MAY QUEEN

THE war has not been allowed to interfere with many of the old English customs, particularly those which affect the happiness of the children. One that is preserved in many villages in the country is the crowning of the May Queen. May is a colourful month in England when the spring flowers are at their very best; it is an ideal time for children's celebrations.

Soon after the outbreak of war, hundreds of thousands of British children were evacuated from the large towns and ports which were likely to be bombed and were sent, while the war was on, to live in the quiet country places to be out of the way of German air raids. Among the children sent to Stanion, a small village in Northamptonshire, were the two daughters of an African seaman in the Merchant Navy. The foster-parents of these two children sent them to attend the village school.

Then came May Day 1944 and, as usual, the children assembled to elect the Queen of the May for the village. This time, one of the two African girls was chosen.

A story like this was too good for the Unit to miss. Permission having been obtained from the school and education authority, a camera unit went to the village to film the ceremony. Everyone in the village from the vicar to the youngest child in the school, and especially the head mistress, co-operated to make the day a success. The children gave an excellent performance, and the result is an extremely pretty little film which we think will have an appeal, not only in Africa, but also in the whole Colonial Empire.

We hope to be able to distribute this film very soon. In this issue we include some photographs taken from the actual film.

