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PREFACE

IN 1927 and 1928, at the invitation of the Church Missionary Society, I delivered a course of lectures on the religion of the Africans. They were called "The Long Lectures," not because of their dimensions, but because the Lectureship was instituted by the late Rev. James Long. The lectures were extensively reported week by week in *East Africa*, and I received many requests for their publication in full. Hence this volume. I have made certain additions and emendations of a minor character, but otherwise the lectures now appear as they were delivered.

Since they were prepared, the S.C.M. has issued the English edition of my friend Professor W. C. Willoughby's book, *The Soul of the Bantu*, in which he deals mainly with ancestor-worship. My readers who wish to follow up that side of the subject cannot do better than study Mr Willoughby's volume.

EDWIN W. SMITH.

20th March 1929.

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