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NGANGA NKISSI—THE WITCH DOCTOR: STANLEYVILLE

Probably no single force has done more to keep the people of Central Africa steeped in ignorance and superstition than has the witch doctor. Usually more quick-witted and intelligent than the other villagers, "Nganga Nkissi," fantastically dressed, and smeared and bedaubed with paint and blood, claims to have direct communication with "Ndoki," the Great Evil Spirit. Since the people live in constant fear of evil spirits, one who can control them is naturally a person of importance.



NGOUNA, CHIEF OF THE RIVER-TUAREGS: BUREM, FRENCH SUDAN

The most striking feature of a Tuareg tribesman's costume is the veil, which is worn across the lower part of the face. It was probably adopted originally in order to protect the lungs from the dust and sand of the desert, but there is also a legend to explain the custom (see page 656).