

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
American Library in Paris
Solicits Funds

IN ORDER THAT THE American Library in Paris, Inc., may fulfill the demands made upon it by the war and meet its budget, a campaign to raise funds for the Library is being carried on in more than 30 cities and towns of the United States. Distinguished civic leaders, publishers and librarians form the groups of sponsors for local United States chapters of the Library. These groups are appealing for \$25,000 to keep the Library operating for the next three years, and hope for an additional \$25,000 for emergency reserve.

War conditions have caused a drastic curtailment in the Library's funds, while at the same time the need for its service has tremendously increased. Dorothy Reeder, director of the Library, reported on April 1st:

"Some 23,900 books and magazines have been distributed since the outbreak of hostilities, but requests continue to pour in. Approximately 4,000 volumes have been sent direct to canteens and hospitals and 19,000 by mail to individual soldiers. Fifty-five circulating libraries of 100 books and 50 magazines each have been compiled and distributed." The Comtesse Aldebert de Chambrun, first vice-president of the Library, states: "We are literally swamped with requests from students, professors and ordinary amateurs of specialized reading, English classics and thrillers. Those who watch over civilian safety are inclined toward reading, many have more leisure hours now than ever before. English soldiers are learning French and the French want to learn English. . . . We have too little space, too many demands and not enough funds to insure permanency."

Incorporated 20 years ago to take over a collection of American and English books sent to Europe by the ALA for the use of overseas forces, the American Library in Paris, with its 100,000 volumes, has served journalists, scholars, writers, diplomats, hospitals, and the public all over Europe. Recently it has aided the ALA in administering a grant of \$60,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation to distribute American books and periodicals to European libraries. The grant was made last year and is spread over a three-year period. Since October, 1939, over \$6,000 worth of books and periodicals have

been sent to libraries in Denmark, Eire, England, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, although the successive invasions of these and other countries have impeded or prevented many shipments.

The campaign to raise funds for the American Library in Paris is being directed from the United States Chapters Center in quarters donated by the New York Public Library at 137 West 25th Street, New York. Assisting the Chapters Center are the Comtesse de Chambrun and Edward Alleyne Sumner, representing the American Library's board of trustees, and an advisory committee headed by Nicholas Murray Butler and including as members J. Periam Danton, Milton J. Ferguson, H. M. Lydenberg, Carl H. Milam, Ralph Munn and Charles C. Williamson. Mr. Danton represents the advisory committee at the Center, where Joseph B. Rounds is executive assistant.

WNBA to Elect Officers at May Meeting

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION will hold its last monthly meeting for the summer on Tuesday evening, May 28th, at the Hotel Pennsylvania at 8:15. The meetings will be resumed in September. The annual report will be read and there will be an election of officers. The guest speakers will be Alice Bretz, author of "I Begin Again" (*Whittlesey House*), and Ruth and Helen Hoffman, authors of "Our Arabian Nights" (*Carrick and Evans*).

ABT and BCT Consolidate

MORE THAN SEVENTY BOOKMEN, the largest number to gather at a Field Day in years, heard President Irving Hopkins announce at the Field Day held at the Rye Country Club on May 17th, that the Associated Book Travelers and the Brotherhood of Commercial Travelers had voted to become one organization, to be known as the Brotherhood of Associated Book Travelers. The new organization is planning to promote more actively the purposes of each of the old groups.

Golf, the major sport of the day, produced an unusually large number of excellent scores, the best of which was W. E. Larned's (*Whittlesey House*) 82. At the same time, Tom Doran of Baker & Taylor achieved a new high, 161!