

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

Some Facts Concerning its Services.

The Library is circulating approximately 11,000 books a month--an average of 366 a day--to members and subscribers of every nationality. This means that approximately 250 people enter the building each day to exchange books, not counting those who come merely to read newspapers and magazines, and to do reference work.

The out of town service at present takes approximately one third of the entire time of one member of the staff. Over 2000 books were sent out of Paris during the last twelve months. An average of three books a week are sent to each out of town member who is taking advantage of this special service.

Through the medium of the Service des Prêts d'Imprimés of the Ministry of Public Instruction, the Library is now supplying books to professors and students in thirty four schools and universities in France and the French colonies in Africa.

The Reference Department receives each day approximately fifty questions, some of which can be answered at once others requiring many hours research work--such as, for instance "Will you prepare a bibliography of French and English books on Trade Unions, Cooperative Societies and Labor Progress?" This inquiry came from the Director of one of the municipal schools of Paris.

The Department of International Affairs is supplying its correspondents in the United States with periodical lists of current European government publications, and is sending some fifty of these publications a week to ten of the larger libraries.

The French Department answers reference questions for American correspondents interested in French subjects involving research work in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Archives Nationales, etc., and compiles for the A.L.A. "Booklist" selected and annotated lists of the best French publications of the year.

The Library is cooperating with the A.L.A. "Committee on Books for Europe" in the distribution of books and periodicals for European university libraries. An allotment of \$4,750 was made by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial for the purchase of such books for France.