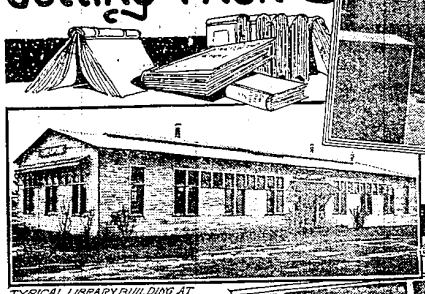
# Soldiers Want Books--And Are Getting Them--



TYPICAL LIBRARY BUILDING AT CAMP DIX

READING ROOM IN CAMP SHERMAN LIBRARY

INTERIOR OF LIBRARY BUILDING AT CAMP LEWIS

TO BRIGHTEN the dull hours of American soldiers and sailors, whether they be at training camps, on warcraft, on transports or back of the trenches in France, the American Library Association War Service has turned loose a stream of books which is destined to become one of the most powerful factors in winning the fight for liberty. Already the efforts of the association have been crowned by signal success and this, in spite of the fact that as late as the end of last summer it had nothing but a concrete plan and a determination to put that idea into operation.

Since the association set for itself the task of putting into the hands of the soldiers and sailors the books it felt they needed and would appreciate it has, by an intensive campaign carried on last autumn, raised a million and a half dollars; has procured, through donation and by purchase, more than half a million books which it has assorted and sent out; with the $320,000 donated by the Carnegie corporation for the purpose, has erected camp library buildings in 34 camps and has others in the course of construction; has opened a dispatch station at one of the points of embarkation from which books are being shipped to France and has got together a corps of workers to carry out its plans on a gigantic scale.

The headquarters of the American Library Association War Service are at the library of congress. Dr. Herbert Putnam, librarian of congress, is the director. Assistants to the director are Carl H. Milam, librarian of the public library of Birmingham, Ala., and Joseph L. Wheeler, librarian of the public library of Youngstown, O. George B. Utley of Chicago, secretary of the American Library association, is executive secretary of the war service. William A. Slade, head of the periodical division of the library of congress, and F. L. Windsor, director of the library school of the University of Illinois, are also on the headquarters staff.

### Keep Down Expense.

It has been the determination of Doctor Putnam and his associates in the war work to keep overhead expenses down to a minimum. Much of the most important work of the service is being done by volunteers and experts drawn from libraries all over the country who are working only for the salaries they receive from their regular occupations. The standard salary of the camp librarians is $100 a month, and by obtaining board at the Y. M. C. A. or at the camp mess the cost of subsistence is held to a low figure.

To the war service the most gratifying result of its work so far is the tremendous demand for books, a demand so great and so wide in its range as to prove conclusively to the association that it has a definite field of endeavor and one which is bringing untold happiness to thousands of men. At all the camp libraries a system of book requests has been installed and it is giving accurate information on what the men want to read.

To the great surprise of the older army officers the draft men are calling continuously for serious books. Fiction naturally leads, but not by so wide a margin as one who gave but casual thought to the matter might surmise. For example, a day's record at the camp library at Camp Meade, Md., the following subjects were represented:

French history, mechanics and strategy in war, self-propelled vehicles, hand grenades, field entrenchments, bridges, chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, hydraulics, electricity, medieval history, calculus, civil engineering, geography, American history, surveying, materials of construction, general history, masonry, concrete.

Burton E. Stevenson, the author, who is camp librarian at Camp Sherman, O., says that the three requests that came to him were, first, for a book on the valuation of public utilities; second, for a book on conservation of national resources, and, third, for a Roumanian dictionary. He supplied the first two and later furnished the Roumanian dictionary.

A young soldier walked into Mr. Stevenson's office and asked for a book on motors. Mr. Stevenson found one which looked highly technical. The young soldier turned over the leaves and handed it back.

"Shucks," he said, "I drew the pictures for this book. I want something more advanced."

Mr. Stevenson promptly sent for a more advanced book.

### Public Libraries Help.

A system of borrowing books from public libraries all over the country has proven a great aid to the camp librarians and they have been making the most of this privilege. All the libraries are doing their bit toward making the leisure hours of the soldiers happy by lending the camps what they need.

The camp librarians have found out that an extremely high percentage of the soldiers want to study. Most of them are ambitious to rise and are taking advantage of the opportunities offered them by the American Library association to read serious books. Because of the demand for serious literature, the association has determined to spend most of the money it has for serious books and to look to the public to donate fiction and light literature. In the near future it will launch an intensive campaign for gift books. Judging from the freedom with which the public has given books so far the association has no misgivings as to the outcome of its campaign.

The reason the campaign has not been made before is that the association wanted to perfect its organization and arrange for the prompt handling of the great flood of books it is expecting. So far the standard of books donated has been high. Few persons have shown an inclination to rid their library shelves of useless volumes at the expense of the soldiers and sailors. On the contrary, the best books have been given. Occasionally undesirable books are sent it, but they are promptly thrown away by the librarian. In fact, those who might be inclined to send such books may as well save the energy it would take to dispatch them. They will never reach the soldiers.

Before its camp library buildings were completed the association distributed its books through the chaplains of the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Red Cross and other organizations, which gladly volunteered to handle them. These organizations are still assisting in camp distribution by receiving books at their stations. The A. L. A. has established its own automobile delivery system at all the camps where its libraries have been completed, and daily deliveries are made to all of these "branches" and stations.

The men are allowed to take books out of the library and keep them from a week to two weeks. There is no penalty attached to overtime retention of a book. In fact, penalties are not necessary, for the men appreciate the books so thoroughly that they are assisting the camp librarians in every possible manner.

### Sending Books to France.

With its system of camp libraries well organized, the American Library Association War Service is gradually developing its overseas service. By establishing a dispatch station it has begun a systematic distribution of books to soldiers and sailors on overseas duty. From the dispatch office books are being sent to naval vessels of all classes and are being placed aboard army transports for the soldiers back of the trenches.

The Y. M. C. A. has arranged to put on transports book cases holding about 125 volumes each. Books for these cases are being supplied by the A. L. A. which later will supply the cases also. These collections will be used as circulating libraries on the voyage and will be emptied at the port of debarkation in France, returning to America to be refilled. The work of distributing the books in France will be done by the chaplains, the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Red Cross and the Y. W. C. A. The A. L. A. will not attempt to set up libraries in France.

Dr. M. L. Raney, librarian of Johns Hopkins university, has gone to France as representative of the A. L. A. His main responsibility will be to make certain that the books arriving in France get into the hands of the men.

The A. L. A. War Service wishes also to arrange with the war department to aid in the flow of books to France by having every soldier that goes across carry a book with him, a book that he and his companions will read on the way over and then hand to the Y. M. C. A. representatives upon his arrival, to be sent to other soldiers.

## Cheap Liquid Sugar

The sugar shortage has encouraged Louisiana planters to broaden the use of pure cane sirup, which is made from cane juice, without taking out any of its sugar. This juice is boiled to a point just below that required to crystallize it into sugar, and can be used not only for griddle cakes and candy making, but it is recommended by the planters as a sweetening for coffee and tea. It is practically sugar in a liquid form, and on a basis of eight cents a pound retail for granulated sugar will yield economies of 40 to 50 per cent, at a price of four and one-half to five cents a pound for sirup.

## GREAT OYSTERS ON THE NILE

### Discovery Made by Engineers Is at Present Chiefly of Interest to the Scientist.

Government engineers constructing a bridge from Dairut to Gheirieh, which is farther for the erection of the piers, came across the remains of an old habitat on which were found a large number of oysters of gigantic species. Some of them have most perfect mother-of-pearl. They belong to what is called the Aetheria Nilotica, and traces of this species are found all over Egypt, but above the present level of the Nile. Their existence in such places has greatly helped scientists in determining previous courses of the river.

The Nile oyster has some interesting comrades in the Nile crab and the lanistes, a sort of snail, which differs from the ordinary snail in that it has its spiral wound in the reverse direction. It remains to be seen whether this oyster is of an edible nature. This discovery of pearl-bearing oysters is interesting in view of the experiments of the Roumanian government in the Red sea.

### Fine Paint Made From Tar.

The Revue de Chimie Industrielle states that a brilliant black paint which does well and is far superior to mineral varnish may be made by mixing equal parts of coal tar with benzine or benzol. So coal thinly with a hard brush, it penetrates the wood, which it preserves from decay.

# What Well Dressed Women Will Wear

There Is a Vogue for Aprons.

There is, or at least there appears to be, a vogue for aprons of the sorts that cover the dress or are substituted for it. Styles in aprons are shown in almost as much profusion as styles in frocks and some persons insist—especially some masculine persons—that women look their best in these work-a-day garments. At any rate they have a chance to look very well in them since there are so many designs in them made up in attractive colors and with easy, semifitted lines.

The fortunes of war have brought it about that many women must do a great part of their own housework and they are making a virtue of necessity. The good-looking apron, or "service dress," or house frock helps some. It is the insignia of a service to be proud of and adds a cheery element to humdrum tasks.

Ginghams and percales, in an array of good colors are used for making the new aprons and nearly always a combination of two materials enhances the colors in the plaid or striped apron. A great deal of attention is given to attractive combinations of plaid or striped material with plain patterns and plain chambray made up with accessories of prettily flowered cretonne. They make up spring house frocks that do not suffer by comparison with any other sort of dress.

The apron shown above is of plaid gingham and plain chambray. It is one of the models with long sleeves. There are not so many of these, for the three-quarter sleeve has the preference in utility styles both in aprons and frocks.

For an Early Easter.

There is an early Easter this year and the annual, welcome guest of new spring millinery is on. Nothing states its perennial interest—we discover the new styles with as much joy as if they were a gold mine each season. This zest is merited by the new hats; they are in reality as fine from every standpoint as any within the memory of the oldest milliner. There is variety without end in them—the shapes emphasize becomingness. There are many kinds of trimming and beautiful workmanship is the rule. Which all leads to the conclusion that the American woman has earned a reputation for being well dressed because she is discriminating.

The paramount hat, or the paramount fabric of which hats are made, is crepe georgette. It is used with braids and with other fabrics, or without them, for covering shapes. All colors look their best in its rich and dainty texture. At the center of the picture a hat is shown covered with it and having a ruche of it about the crown. Large, glazed cherries in red, jade and blue find the beige color of the crepe the best of backgrounds. There is a cape to match made of tucked bodices about the shoulders and a ruche about the neck and a cluster of cherries brightens this also.

A dashing hat of black satin having a border of straw braid on the brim color in light French gray is trimmed with two long gray quills that harmonize exactly with the spotted shape. There are many brilliant, glossy small hats for her who lives in the North and may have to wear her Easter hat in defen of a spring that is behind Easter in arriving. No two hats were ever more unlike than this saucy model and the demure hat of crepe above it.

At the left of the picture there is a very pretty hat with a crown of corded silk and a braid brim faced with silk. Three small and very green apples, in some sort of composition, make its very simple and durable trimming. It is a very graceful model and the same adjective is deserved by all three hats.

Julia Bottomley

To drive a tank, handle the guns, and sweep over the enemy trenches, takes strong nerves, good rich blood, a good stomach, liver and kidneys. When the time comes, the man with red blood in his veins "is up and at it." He has iron nerves for hardships—an interest in his work grips him. That's the way you feel when you have taken a blood and nerve tonic, made up of Blood root, Golden Seal root, Stone root, Cherry bark, and rolled into a sugar-coated tablet and sold in sixty-cent vials by almost all druggists for past fifty years as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This tonic, in liquid or tablet form, is just what you need this spring to give you vim, vigor and vitality. At the fag end of a hard winter, no wonder you feel "run-down," blue, out of sorts. Try this "Medical Discovery" of Dr. Pierce's. Don't wait! To-day is the day to begin! A little "pep," and you laugh and live.

The best means to oil the machinery of the body, put tone into the liver, kidneys and circulatory system, is to first practice a good house-cleaning. I know of nothing better as a laxative than a vegetable pill made up of May-apple, leaves of aloe and jalap. This is commonly sold by all druggists as Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, and should be taken at least once a week to clear the twenty-five feet of intestines. You will thus clean the system—expel the poisons and keep *well*. *Now* is the time to clean house. Give yourself a spring house cleaning.—Adv.


### Strategy.

Officer—Conscientious objections? Rubbish. If you were to come home and find your wife fighting a burglar, wouldn't you interfere?

"No, sir! I'd leave the burglar to his fate."—Life.


# FRECKLES

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There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as the prescription ohine—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots.

Simply get an ounce of ohine—double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little of it night and morning and you should soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion.

Be sure to ask for the double strength ohine, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.—Adv.


It is estimated that 1,000,000 horse power could be obtained from Scotland's waterfalls.

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