

The American Library Association Is Not Demobilizing



MAILING ROOM OF A. L. A.

Active as Ever in Good Work of Distributing Books to Soldiers and Sailors.

The representative of the American Library Association, at its European headquarters, 10 rue de l'Elysée, informs the HERALD that the statement that the association was planning to discontinue its war service is without foundation. On the contrary, he says, the plans for getting good books into the hands of the soldiers and sailors, both at home and in Europe, are being extended and strengthened every day. This is particularly true of the work overseas, which will continue and be developed as long as the boys are over here.

The money which came to the American Library Association as its share

of the seven-in-one drive in November, is being expended largely for the educational and reference books called for by the plans of co-operation with the Division School Officers. The selection and distribution of the books to be used in the educational work of the A.E.F. has been placed by G.H.Q.G.-5 in the hands of the A.L.A., which will co-operate in every way possible with the army educational programme. The A.L.A. has appointed from its own membership an army librarian for each army, to give such service to the divisional librarians as they may need.

The educational books provided by the A.L.A. cover about 1,000 titles, which will be supplemented as the need arises. There have been distributed in February 120 sets of 400 volumes each, and the demand is increasing. The A.P.O. has given the privilege for library service

The recreational reading has been supplied largely through the personal donations of the American public, to whom a strong plea has been sent recently for an increased supply of such material.

It is important, therefore, that public enthusiasm and interest in the work should not be quenched by a misconception of the situation. Books wear out quickly when used and the books are in constant use.

The A.L.A. is not demobilizing. Any member of the A.E.F. may send to headquarters for two books, to be kept a month, and renewed for the same period without charge, the only obligation being to "return the book promptly and give the other fellow a chance."

Instead of having 3,500,000 books to give away the A.L.A. is using every effort to get 1,500,000 more books over here as soon as possible to supply the increasing demands.