



News of the Y. M. C. A.



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Y. M. C. A. TO TEACH TROOPS.

Classes at Front to be Arranged.

Organization of educational classes and lectures for the members of the American Expeditionary Forces has been undertaken by the Army Young Men's Christian Association with the approval and indorsement of General Pershing. Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes, secretary of Yale University, who is now in Paris, has obtained a few months' leave of absence in order to perfect the preliminary organization. Dr. Stokes has been studying the question of educational opportunities in the army for two months.

The plan of work during the war is based on the conviction that the American soldier will be most efficient as a fighting man if he understands thoroughly the country in which he is living, the cause for which he is fighting, the tremendous issues at stake between autocracy and democracy, and the institutions and ideals of France, England, and other allied nations, as contrasted with those dominant to-day in Germany.

Dr. Stokes believes it to be a matter of vital importance that our troops should be able to understand, and make themselves understood by the French people in whose villages they are billeted and the French soldiers with whom they are fighting. Emphasis will be laid on the teaching of French. The assistance of teachers in French schools and lycees in large towns near camps is counted upon for giving lessons by the direct method, in which no English is used.

Classes in elementary English to soldiers of foreign parentage, in mathematics for men preparing for promotion, examinations, and lectures and classes on other subjects will also be introduced in camps, as the demand arises and can be met. Attendance will be voluntary and classes will generally be held in the Young Men's Christian Association huts in the evenings so as not to interfere with regular military duties.

Lectures will be free, while the question of the payment of a small fee for classes will depend largely on whether or not professional teachers not connected with the army or the Young Men's Christian Association have to be employed. American extension and correspondence courses will also be utilized. Professor Daly, head of the department of geology at Harvard University, and Professor Erskine, of the Department of English at Columbia University, both now in France as Young Men's Christian Association secretaries, will be among the first to assume the new teaching duties.

"Y. M. C. A. WITH NEW RECRUITS."

The aggressive methods of Building Secretary F. J. Knapp of Unit No. 92, is illustrated by the promptness with which his secretarial force got on the ground in case of the arrival of Recruit Detachment No. 2, recently arrived from Camp Upton (Long Island). Upon the arrival of the recruits, they were placed in a recruit camp. Here's where the Y. M. C. A. functions most happily by prompt service. A tent was erected at once as an arm through which unit 92 could function. Stamps, stationery, post-cards were at once supplied. The boys flocked in herds, happy in being furnished the means of home communication. After four or five hours of strenuous work the 92 detachment went back to headquarters loaded with a bag of mail besides unnumbered night letters which were later dispatched. The tent and its service to the New York contingent will continue until men are located permanently. Concerts, stunts and religious services will be held there.

Unit 92 has recently undergone a radical change in its secretarial force. Mr. Anguish, physical director, and Rev. Cunningham, religious secretary, have left for overseas, and Mr. Hildreth, social secretary, has been transferred to Camp Hancock. The new men to take their places are W. D. Sterlitz, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr. J. G. Wilburn, of Atlanta, Ga., and Mr. D. C. Cooper, of Anniston, Ala.

We welcome these men to our unit. Already they are a part of our organization and work.

A MESSAGE.

**THINK VICTORY
SPEAK VICTORY
WORK VICTORY
PRAY VICTORY**

FINE CONCERT AT 271.

This has been a busy week at 271. Through the kindness of Capt. Auchincloss of the Ordnance, Miss Anna Christian, of Minneapolis, gave an interesting talk on the "Homes of Spain." Miss Christian has spent considerable time studying the architecture of Spanish homes, and the beautiful slides illustrating her remarks were made from pictures taken by Miss Christian herself during a protracted stay in Spain.

The league baseball games are in full swing. The "Q. M." nine are in the lead at present, but the other units are working into good form, and formidable competition may be looked for any day. Everybody is taking an active interest and the spirit of rivalry is keen. Basket-ball, too, has its share of attention, but no teams have been organized as yet.

DEMON DIRT DEFEATED AT 96.

The past week has been largely devoted to an orgy of spring house-cleaning. The house was closed for three days. The secretaries were metamorphosed into char-women, mechanics or interior decorators, each according to his lack of gifts. The crafty Demon Dirt, if not pushed into the Rhine was at least driven back into his second line of trenches. At last on Saturday peace was declared, all embargoes were lifted, and our friends were welcomed to a hut resplendent in green paint trimmings, with floors oiled and windows curtained, in humble rivalry of the Hostess House.

In the absence of Chaplain Jaynes, who because of his warm sympathy and support of the Y work we miss exceedingly, the joint regimental service Sunday morning was conducted by Chaplain Gribben of the 3rd Pioneers and Chaplain Harper of the 2nd Pioneers. Chaplain Harper delivered a strong and thought-provoking sermon. At the Y service in the evening one of the secretaries in our own building was the speaker. The attendance at these services was not so large as usual. Besides these meetings and the Sunday afternoon meeting at the division stockade our religious activities for the week include five company Bible classes, which, while small, are full of promise. Another innovation was the use of the intervals between reels of the movie program on Tuesday evening for two very brief and direct appeals to the men to enlist for Christ.

On Monday evening there was a lecture by Mr. Kingsley, giving a most instructive review of current events. Tuesday evening Professor Libby gave a mass lesson in French.

Two-Seven-One appreciates the kindly interest manifested by the Rev. W. E. Jordan, of Philadelphia, who is Dr. Gilmour's assistant at the First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg. Rev. Jordan has been with us recently to deliver a vital message before the Wednesday evening meeting, and he has also been helpful in securing Spartanburg talent for amateur night. Both professional and amateur nights have contributed largely to the programs of late. The Orpheus Four of Los Angeles proved themselves good entertainers, and Mrs. Blotcky, of Spartanburg, made a bigger place for herself in the hearts of all the boys by her splendid management of the best musical program we have had yet at Two-Seven-One. Rousing cheers were a just tribute to the playing of Miss Elsie Stephenson, violinist, of New York, who is a guest of Mrs. Blotcky, and the occasion will not soon be forgotten.