

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

# Louvain Gets First Books From CARE

By Shirley Barshay

**L**AST WEEK a thousand dollars' worth of new books arrived at the library of the University of Louvain in Belgium. In about five million dollars' worth more arrive, the Louvain Library will have regained its pre-war status.

Add to that the cost of rebuilding thousands of demolished schools and restoring and restocking countless libraries and museums, and you have some notion of the enormous task of educational and cultural reconstruction facing much of the world today.

The Louvain contribution was the first to be made under the new CARE book program, according to an announcement yesterday by Paul C. French, CARE'S executive director.

"We feel that the book program is a logical extension of CARE service," French said. "Just as the CARE food and textile program indicates a willingness on the part of the American people to share those aids in personal rehabilitation, so the book program is a symbol of aid in community rehabilitation."

A professional committee, headed by Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, has selected 1200 titles of the latest outstanding scientific and technical books. These books will at least provide some connecting link with the vast and varied program in the United States in the last decade.

The whole program has been developed in cooperation with UNESCO, the Library of Congress, the American Library Association, medical and scientific associations and governmental authorities overseas. The advisory committee on voluntary foreign aid of the State Department has approved the project.

### Many Countries Listed

**T**HE AIM is to help fill the needs of as many universities, libraries, medical centers and scientific institutions in as many countries as possible. So far, the list of countries to be served includes Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the American, British and French zones of Germany and Berlin, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

With the assistance of UNESCO and the ministries of education in the various countries, CARE'S mission chiefs abroad have determined the areas of information which will be of the most immediate and practical value to the reconstruction effort. The major categories cover health and welfare, medicine, dentistry, applied science, nursing, agricultural and veterinary science, English language instruction and teacher training.

The almost rudimentary book needs are pointed up in letters received by CARE missions. From the Training School for Kindergarten Teachers in Frankfurt on Main came this request:

"Our building was occupied for more than five years by the Wehrmacht, and a proportion of our book stock was lost, which we have never been able to replace. We urgently need books on psychology, sociology, chemistry and physics, English instruction man-



Some of the bomb damage at the University of Vienna, which lost 150,000 books during the war

uals and grammars, maternal and child welfare."

The Sankt Georgen College, also in Frankfurt, wrote: "The Sankt Georgen libraries were entirely destroyed by air raids. In addition, we lost many reference works which our professors attempted to store in hiding places, but which were found and confiscated by the Gestapo.

"Our book budget is now inconsequential because of the expense of rebuilding our ruined dormitories and lecture halls. We cannot even afford the most urgently needed scientific publications or second-hand books."

### Purchased in Bulk

**F**ROM priority listings of each country's institutions in greatest need, and from the institutions' own priority requests, CARE makes it possible for Americans to contribute to this fundamental area of rehabilitation.

The physical operation of the book program is similar to that of CARE'S food and textile package program, except that books will be sent to institutions rather than to individuals. Bulk purchases of books are made directly from the publishers.

Delivery of the books abroad is guaranteed at the publishers' list price, with no extra charge for transportation or distribu-

tion. The discounts allowed CARE by publishers and ECA subsidies for bulk shipping make this possible.

CARE hopes that the majority of the contributions will be undesignated, but donors of \$10 or more may specify the country, type of institution and category or categories of books.

So far, CARE is the only organization providing this broad service. Of course, some help has already been sent from this country. For example, the Rockefeller Foundation gave to the University of Heidelberg a complete set of technical journals—the only one in Germany. And there is a constant pilgrimage of students and professional people from all over Germany to use the journals.

The directness of the CARE book program has already appealed to students in this country. Catholic University here is using a traveling poster exhibit describing the program, and students are making contributions. Library of Congress employees, who have been sending CARE food and textile parcels for more than a year, have already made one collection for the book program.

General Marshall, along with many other prominent individuals, has indorsed the program by saying that he hoped it "will receive the widespread support it deserves."