

Curriculum Centers

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THE CURRICULUM Center is one of the most interesting features of Military Government's attempt to reorient German education. It might be described as a research center; a professional laboratory, providing a specialized library and a study hall for prospective writers and research students.

The Curriculum Center is related closely to the American Information Library in that it includes a steadily growing collection of books and magazines available to Germans, with the hope of opening to them a new picture of the world outside. But the Curriculum Center is under the direct supervision of the Education and Religious Affairs Division, and all of its material pertains to the profession of education. It seeks to attract persons whose concern is education in the widest meaning—not only teachers, but those hoping to become teachers, and also parents and laymen interested in the schools.

Of the nine centers in the American Zone, two are in Wuerttemberg-Baden—at Stuttgart and Karlsruhe, and still another is contemplated for Heidelberg.

Each Center in Wuerttemberg-Baden is headed by a successful teacher with

library experience—an ideal combination.

The Stuttgart Center has gradually expanded its program, and unusually good relationships have been cultivated with German teachers, the Ministry of Culture and the German public.

ITS LIBRARY of books, magazines and related materials consists of more than 2,500 volumes, including strictly professional books in such fields as psychology, teaching methods and educational philosophy; various modern textbooks, yearbooks and other publications of professional organizations; professional magazines and papers, pictures and exhibits of childrens' school work, pupil newspapers and magazines, charts and other exhibits.

These are mostly American materials which reflect the democratic character of education in the United States. These give the Germans a vivid impression of the development, growth and progress of American schools.

Much of these materials deal with problems and trends as well as the strong differences of viewpoint found in American education today. German teachers and students thus can see that the US schools do not constitute a dictatorial and centralized

"Old Look" Garments Please German Buyers

A German textile buyer, who went to London to look into an offer of 200,000 women's "old look" utility garments, telegraphed the German press that "old look" pertained only to the fashion designers' current style description.

"The goods are brand new and in excellent condition," the buyer, Oswin Pucklitsch, wired, indicating that he would recommend immediate purchase to the Ruhr district's Coal Mining Management on his return to Essen.

system, but enjoy the opportunity of complex development and organic growth.

Those who study in the Curriculum Centers will understand that one cannot speak of the American school or of the American opinion of education, but that the great unifying principle of democracy underlies each different concept.

They will see that the word "democracy" means something very real to American school people and that it is a vital principle in school life rather than a mere catchword.

Other American books discuss the specific and scientific problems of method, testing, grouping of students, preparation of units of work, techniques of reading and problems of guidance.

The Curriculum Centers also feature a growing collection of books, magazines, and other materials from England, Switzerland and France, and German professional magazines.

THE WUERTEMBERG-Baden Curriculum Centers would like to have more photographs and exhibits from actual school life; pictures of American landscapes and buildings; exhibits of children's art; copies of all textbooks published in other parts of Germany. Also, they hope to obtain additional copies of certain professional books which have proved very useful and popular, to loan out in "package libraries" to groups of

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A committee of German teachers is shown using reference material at the Stuttgart Curriculum Center, to plan its instruction in social sciences.

(Signal Corps photo)