

# TO TEACH THE ALIENS

IN FORT HENRY—Y. M. C. A.  
TAKES OVER WORK.

H. M. Peach, Alton, Ill., Appointed—  
Library to Be Improved and Plays  
To Be Put On.

The Young Men's Christian Association has taken over social, educational and religious work at Fort Henry for the Germans and Austrians who are prisoners-of-war there. On Thursday afternoon F. S. Sheppard, secretary, Toronto, arrived in the city with H. M. Peach, Alton, Illinois, who will look after the work here. Mr. Peach is a late graduate of an Alton university, and has some knowledge of the German language. He will establish his headquarters at the Fort, and will spend all of his time there. On Thursday afternoon the two men made a visit and went over the ground with Major P. G. C. Campbell. It was found that the library is a splendid one, and every assistance will be given to the prisoners in supplying them with suitable reading matter. It is likely that a long table will be put into the library for writing purposes.

Practically every prisoner at Fort Henry has some knowledge of the English language. In a great many cases, however, their command is very poor. One man has been doing some translation for Major Campbell, and his wording is very elementary. Mr. Peach will endeavor to make the men learn to read and write English as fluently as time will permit. This will be done by holding classes and in the selection of books that he will recommend for their reading.

There is a miniature theatre at the Fort, and the men have from time to time been holding plays of different kinds there. This work will be put on a systematic basis, as the production of such plays will be of good mental benefit to the prisoners.

In religious work no extensive plans have yet been made. It is very unlikely that Mr. Peach will be able to touch this branch for some little time.

Owing to the fact that Mr. Peach is an American, there should be no trouble between himself and the prisoners. He will have to consistently evade the war issues, but his personality should gain a place for him in their lives and in a very short time should become very valuable to them.

This is the first time that Y. M. C. A. representatives have tried to do their work in alien enemy camps. Through an international agreement American workers are doing the same in Germany and in Canada, the same number in each country. There has been no definite plan worked out as everything is experimental, but Mr. Peach seems to be quite capable of handling such a difficult proposition.