

The Maison Française

In an article published in the *Revue Internationale de l'Enseignement* for September, Professor Fernand Baldensperger gives a very inspiring account of our Maison Française. There could hardly have been a more tactful fashion in which to bid farewell to the American university where his personality and his lectures made so deep an impression, and to the Maison Française itself, in which he had taken so keen an interest, whose soul in fact he had been for two full years. The friendly and thoughtful glance is in perspective from the University of Strasbourg. To those in whose minds there lingers some uncertainty as to the real status of the Maison Française the article will be most enlightening.

Whether by bad luck or by good fortune, the Maison Française had its "coming-out party" close enough to the outbreak of the war to affect its début in a very marked fashion. Nevertheless from five years of abnormal conditions it has emerged fully conscious of its true calling, keenly aware of its real aims and the means whereby to carry them out.

Whoever enters the house, thinks Professor Baldensperger, is at once delighted with the atmosphere of delicate refinement that prevails there. It invites informal gatherings, and it has endeavored to bring together French residents or visitors in New York and their American friends. With the New Year the regular weekly at homes will be renewed and it is hoped that a mutual benefit will be derived from them.

From another point of view the Maison Française might be defined as a bureau of academic information. Catalogues and programmes of studies of French schools and universities can be obtained there, and all the information that may be needed by the American student contemplating a stay in France. Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon this particular activity of the Maison Française in these days of extensive exchanges of students and professors. The arrival of M. J. J. Champenois, delegate of the Ministry of Public Instruction and the Office National des Universités marks a new departure in this direction and bids fair to insure a permanent cooperation between the two countries.

The way in which the library of the Maison Française has been selected is a good illustration of the spirit of the house. None but the most solid papers and reviews have been admitted there. To the lover of poetry it affords a representative collection of modern poets; to the student who believes that Paris is not the whole of France it offers a valuable collection of material; and finally French thought is represented in one of its most typical forms by the works of French critics and social writers. As it stands, this library has never been, and it will never be, meant as a complement or a supplement to libraries of a more professional type, such as those that must necessarily be found in a department of French. It is such as a Frenchman of culture might acquire against the days when intellectual curiosity and leisure shall at last combine.

Another service of the house is its periodical, the *Bulletin de la Maison Française*. This Journal of the France-America Society, though but two years old, has made its place in the academic world. As a link between American Universities and similar French institutions, it has proved useful as well as interesting. And the ambition of the Maison Française is toward even wider and deeper understanding and cooperation between France and the United States.

BLANCHE PRENÉZ.

Gift of the President

APR 17 1920

Columbia University Quarterly



The Conscientious Objector
Commercial Training of Consuls
Social History of the War
Whitman and France
Decline of the Commons
Sound-ranging

Harlan F. Stone
R. C. McCrea
J. T. Shotwell
F. Baldensperger
R. L. Schuyler
H. B. Williams

PUBLISHED BY
THE ALUMNI FEDERATION OF
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, INC.,
FOR THE COLUMBIA UNIVER-
SITY PRESS ♪ VOLUME XXI
NUMBER 4 ♪ OCTOBER, 1919