Almost every camp has well organized educational courses. Most of the men who have the time are devoting some part of it to organized study of one kind or another, although they work under difficulties of lack of space, quiet and privacy. Other ranks, most of whom are in commands often far removed from their main stations, have less opportunity and less time to spend on study. The greatest enthusiasm seems to come from the non-commissioned officers - requests for material from sergeant-pilots pour in.

The Canadian Legion Educational Services has been made the only official Canadian agency for the dissemination of educational material to prisoners. No other organization may send such material except through the Canadian Legion. As with letters and parcels, there are no postage charges.

The Canadian Legion sends educational material to all allied prisoners, although organizations in other countries share the work, notably the Red Cross (United Kingdom), International Y.M.C.A. and Students' Relief Association. They maintain stocks of books in a depot in Geneva, and the International Red Cross distributes them.

The Canadian Legion sends three types of material. First are university courses, outlines and texts. By special arrangement, examination papers in these courses are marked at the University of London, and Canadian universities and provincial departments of education accept these marks.

Up to the end of 1943, 73% of these courses had been sent. Fees for these courses, ranging from $2 to $10, are paid by the Canadian Legion Educational Services. Participating universities are Acadia, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba, McMaster, Mount Allison, Ottawa University, Queen's University, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario.

Also supplied by the Canadian Legion Educational Services are special reference books sent to libraries or to individuals who have not the educational prerequisites to take a university course but who are interested in special subjects. A total of 5,033 of these have been sent.

The third type of material is the text-book prepared by the Canadian Legion Educational Services itself for students of elementary and secondary school level. Specially printed in accordance with the camp requirements, they include general high school subjects, commercial, technical and agricultural courses. In the last two years 102,031 of these text-books have been sent to Switzerland for distribution to prisoners. More than one-third of these have been sent in answer to individual requests.

The organization of educational courses varies in efficiency from camp to camp. The enthusiasm of the camp leader and the attitude of the camp commandant are important factors, but where facilities have been made available, work goes ahead rapidly. Stalag 383 began an educational program in October, 1942, with an initial enrolment of 600. By June, 1943, 1,200 men (one quarter of the camp) were working in 44 different classes, and 400 men were studying privately. Nearly 300 had sat for examinations.

Marlag and Milag (the sailors' and merchant seamen's camp) is using three classrooms to capacity and preparing men for examinations for second mates, mates and masters.

In Stalag VIIIB (now Stalag 344) one of the larger camps, qualified teachers were covering 63 subjects, holding classes in all sorts of places under a variety of conditions. In January, 1942, the prisoners set up a post-war advice bureau, with 150 technical advisers. This bureau's function is to make contacts with outside organizations of all kinds and with government authorities, to get information on such topics as post-war employment, examinations, emigration and conditions in trade and industry.