

American Library Association

Library War Service

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington.

March 5, 1920.

March 3, 1920.

My dear Miss Rider:

My dear Miss Rider: I am interested and glad to know that a movement is on foot to increase the output of Braille books for the use of the blind, and if anything I can say in favor of the movement will further it, I shall be most happy to have helped. Under usual circumstances, such a movement as this would have a strong appeal, since braille printing can never have a large enough audience to make it commercially profitable, and yet those who are dependent upon it are in a peculiar sense excluded from contact with the life of their times as well as from the interest and culture of the past through any other means than embossed literature; but I now have a special and added interest in the subject. A number of soldiers were blinded in this war. I have been in contact with many of them; they were alert, strong, and ambitious, and of course have all learned to read braille. They will have to depend upon the American Library Association and its friends to help them overcome their handicap.

Cordially yours,

Newton D. Baker  
Secretary of War.

Miss Gertrude T. Rider,  
American Library Association,  
Library of Congress, Washington.