

French Class Is Collaborating With Biology Seminar

The *Maladie De Famine*, a collection of studies on the influence of famine on the human organism, published in French is being translated by the advanced French class. The translation will be used next semester by Dr. L. J. Lyons in Seminar for Biology Majors.

"The idea of this work was born as early as November 1941, among

the Jewish physicians who were themselves prisoners in the Warsaw ghetto. It was at a time when starvation was imposed by the Germans as the first phase of their plan of wholesale extermination of the Jews. The research was done under the most unusual circumstances. In fact, the twenty-two Jewish physicians who participated in this project performed their work in the Warsaw ghetto in the trying days of 1942, where they were at the same time victims and observers.

A number of studies were not finished or disappeared with the death of the writers. The physicians who undertook this study and directed the research, their collaborators and assistants, have perished in the ruins of the ghetto. Dr. Emil Apfelbaum, one of the original initiators of the project and chief editor of the volume, survived the extermination and died after the liberation on January 12, 1946.

The volume contains six contributions on various aspects of starvation with studies on the pathology of starvation, clinical research on hunger among children, and its influence on blood circulation, in addition to a historical note describing the beginning of the proj-

ect and some biographical material. A scientific research study, the volume is written in an objective way, without any unwarranted reference to the conditions under which it was performed. Because of this almost superhuman quality, the volume stands out as a powerful indictment of the Germans whose evil genius made this terrible experience possible."

The spirit of helpfulness exhibited by the French Class is to be

commended. To translate and re-write a work in English for others to read is extremely difficult. In reality, in this task second-year students are doing third-year work. Not only will this book be of value in our own science department but it will be useful to others because so frequently several years elapse before a translation is made of works published in another language.