# **Eglise suisse**

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freedom! It seems not. Everybody appears to be full of the energy and enthusiasm which usually result from a holiday, even a sunless one. But one feels that the Swiss of London require almost an over-abundance of both to carry them through the location of the second s an over-abundance of both to carry them through the lengthy programme of events-social, patriotic and otherwise—which enfolds itself for them at the beginning of next month and continues to do so until they celebrate their National Fête on the last of August next year1 There are now thirteen Ewiss societies in London, each with its different functions in the life of the Swiss Colony, and each with its many and varied calls upon its members. There are those which attend to the poor and charities, those which concentrate on the social side of life, and others which devote themselves to education, music and sport. But there is one Society whose object is perhaps more elusive than these. This is the London Group of the Nouvelle Societi Helvétique, and it is indeed surprising to find what strange ideas exist about this organisation and the difficulty, there sometimes is in grapping clearly the real meaning of the movement. That the London Group of the N.S.H. arranges lectures, also occasional dinners and concerts, is a fact known to all Swiss of this town. Most of them realise, however, that it does not exist for these alone, though too many seem uncertain for what it really does stand. It is also known that the Group has an excellent library and acts as a kind of "Bureau de renseignement," both to young Swiss coming over to this country and to Britishers going to Switzerland or preparing books or lectures on that country, which is so fall of appeal to them. But although that is helpful work and is one of the definite objects of the London Group, yet it is only a fraction of what it stands for. For what, free, does the London Group stand other than for doing its utmost to maintain feelings of muder-standing and swynptuty between this country and Switzerland? What is it that has had the power to inspire Swiss all over the world to found Groups of the Notwelle Socité Helvétique, so that there are now 120 scattered near and far throughout the four cornes of the earth? Love of one's home country is not a thing peculiar

Since its foundation the N.S.H. has worked to clear away all such misunderstandings and to make them impossible in the future. It has worked par-ticularly hard for the Swiss abroad, and now, through the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger, how wonderfully has it succeeded in bringing home to Switzerland the importance of her sons and daughters oversens ! A few years ago nobody would have believed that a day would ever dawn when the Swiss abroad would have a Parliamentary Group to represent them in Switzerland, to safe-guard their interests and advance their views— such an idea would have been regarded as fan-tastic! Yet now that day has come! This is a tremendous step and to the least imaginative must be full of possibilities. But it now remains for the Swiss abroad to do their part. They have got this unique organisation by means of which they can express their views in the Federal Council with regard to all questions which concern them. It is now up to them to make use of it, for, if it is neglected, one cannot hope that this Parliamen

September 27, 1924.

tary Group will continue to exist indefinitely, indeed, one knows that it could not! The London Group of the N.S.H. discusses at its monthly Council meetings and lectures questions of national importance and matters of interest to all Swiss who live abroad. One cannot hope that members will come to all the meetings arranged, but if they would only come to those at which questions of real moment are going to be debated, so that the benefit of their opinion might be had, what a great thing that would be and what a real step towards the ideal for which the Group is striving! And those London Swiss who are not yet members of the Group, perhaps they will become so now and help us to work for the reali-sation of our motto: *Pro helvetica dignate ac securitate.* 

Sation of Sat. securitate. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LONDON GROUP, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

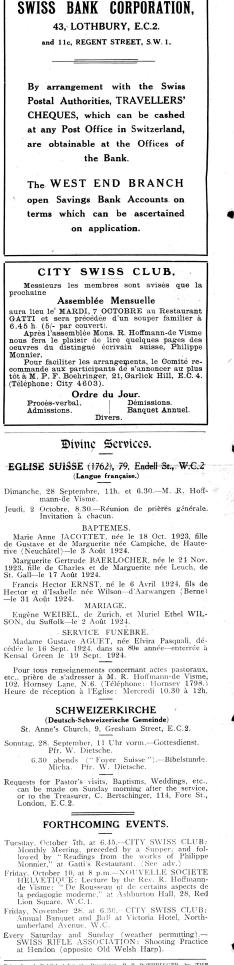
#### POPULAR LECTURES ON SWISS LITERATURE.

Following a suggestion made by members, the Council of the N.S.H. has decided to offer its resources and organisation to the other societies of the Colony for the purpose of introducing and popularising the works of modern Swiss writers. Lectures of this nature have, of course, already been held in the past, but owing to local con-siderations have not attracted a sufficiently large audience to justify the not inconsiderable expense incurred thereby. Little causeries or recitals are to be arranged in the homes of the other societies for the benefit of their respective members; though for the benefit of their respective members; though such conferences could fill a whole evening, it is intended that they should follow, for the present, ordinary routine meetings only occupying an hour or

or so. This scheme is to be inaugurated at the City Swiss Club, when after the usual Souper Familier on Tuesday, October 7th, Monsieur Hoffmann-de Visme will give some readings from the works of Philippe Monnier.



L'incinération a eu lieu au Cimetière de Golders Green, mardi le 23 septembre.



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