

Letter box

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, June 10th. Mr. J. J. Boos presided.

Three new members were elected. It is an encouraging factor that the Society is able, if not to increase its numbers at least to maintain its membership on a level keel.

The agenda consisted mostly of routine matters. The President was, however, pleased to announce that the Society's efforts to make arrangements for a First of August celebration this year have borne fruit. In conjunction with the City Swiss Club and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique it has been possible to hire Kingsway Hall for this function and further particulars will be made known to the Colony through the Swiss Observer and the various Swiss Societies.

The monthly meetings having been held regularly during the whole of last year, it was decided not to hold meetings during July and August, as used to be the custom in pre-war years. The usual Club facilities will, nevertheless, be available on the second Wednesday in July and August for any members who wish to take their friends to Swiss House for a game of cards, table-tennis or darts, or for the exchange of postage stamps. Full details of the next meeting, which will be held during the second week of September, when the winter programme will commence, will be given in due time. *WB.*

AUGUST THE FIRST 1942.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

A committee of delegates from the S.M.S., the C.S.C. and the N.S.H., formed to co-operate in the arrangements for the celebration of our National Day, has decided that this function shall be held on Saturday afternoon, August the First, at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

Full details of the Celebration will be published in our July issue, but it may be stated now that this function is intended to be a solemn demonstration of our loyalty and deep thankfulness for the preservation of our country.

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LETTER BOX.

A. S. — It is not the practise of the Swiss press to publish full names of the accused in criminal proceedings and this is probably the reason why particulars of the eleven men and one woman charged with espionage, etc., were withheld. The names of the ringleaders were already public property: Leonhardt, from Basle, was formerly a major in the Swiss army; for years he had been hiding somewhere across the frontier whence he directed and financed the secret doings of a few accomplices. Franz Burri (from Lucerne?) has published already before the war a dubious news-sheet gratuitously as far as the recipients were concerned; when things became uncomfortable for him he moved his editorial offices to Vienna. It is said that he acquired Austrian nationality of which he was soon deprived when his Nazi intrigues were discovered. He is now working probably with another of the accused, Benno Schaeppi, who is engaged in one of the German propaganda services. Schaeppi, a former journalist, was sentenced early in 1941 to four years penal servitude for deserting from the Swiss army and entering foreign military service.

W. E. G. — Delighted to hear that you have discovered an unenlightened member of our Colony who has never heard of the S.O. and many thanks for promptly "nabbing" him.

E. G. and **G. H. S.** — We have rectified our mailing list accordingly and regret the inconvenience caused by the similarity in names.

J. S. — We do not think we would help you if we gave you the name of a Swiss repairer in London. They are all in the same boat as spares or new parts have to come from Switzerland and they are at present unobtainable.

If your watch only goes when kept in a certain position it certainly exhibits a rare peculiarity but the editor has a fountain pen which suffers from the same impediment with the result that his signature has become illegible even to his best friends.

J. O. — We do not issue separate receipts for subscriptions received; as in the meantime the S.O. has been received by you, you will have gathered that your remittance had come to hand.

THE NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will appear on July 24th. We regret that the usual list of Swiss Stock Exchange prices and some other articles have had to be omitted from the present issue.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, 7th July, at 6 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. (See Advert.)

Saturday, 18th July, at 2.15 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. followed by Mr. G. Keller's "Comments on present situation."

Sunday, 2nd August, at 11 o'clock a.m. — Combined Fête National Service in French and German — at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

Sunday, 2nd August, at 12 o'clock a.m. — High Mass and Sermon in the three national languages — at the Church of St. Peter and St. Edward, 43, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

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