

The atomic bomb

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Wednesday, October 10th. A numerous gathering was assembled when the Chairman, Mr. J. J. Boos, opened the proceedings.

Two new members, Mr. O. Boehringer and Miss H. Horber, were duly elected. The Chairman bade a special welcome to Mr. Boehringer, jun., whose father is an Honorary Member and staunch supporter of the S.M.S.

According to a circular from the Kaufm. Zentralblatt, five free issues are offered to any likely candidates for membership during the *Werbe-Aktion* of the S.K.V., which aims at an increase of 5,000 members by the end of the year. The Hon. Secretary will gladly forward any names submitted to the appropriate quarters.

The Chairman was pleased to impart the news just received from the Chargé d'Affaires, Dr. Escher, that the Swiss Legation had been notified by the foreign office of the authorities' agreement to the reopening of the S.M.S. College. He said the Society could now go ahead with its plans and called on Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Educational Commission appointed by the Council, who briefly reported on the deliberations of that body at a recent meeting. The chief difficulties in the way of an early reopening are structural alterations to be effected at Swiss House, the engagement of suitable teachers and board residence for the students. The latter problem will by no means be the easiest to solve, but it is hoped that preparations will be sufficiently advanced for the College to open its portals by the early spring.

Mr. Boos then referred to the "Auslandschweizer Stipendien-Fonds." He stated that 78 young Swiss from many different countries had been educated free of charge during the past year, the bursaries having been granted from funds provided by "*Pro Juventute*." Any Swiss desirous of sending his son or daughter to Switzerland for their higher education, be it commercial, technical or otherwise, should apply to him for further particulars.

Following the official part of the Meeting, Mr. A. J. Staehelin, delegate for the U.K. of OSEC, delivered

an extremely interesting lecture on the Constitution and Working of the Office Suisse l'Expansion Commerciale (O.S.E.C.). Mr. Staehelin, who has been in this country but for a short time, was given an enthusiastic welcome by the members after having been formally introduced by the Chairman.

The lecture was of such topical and general interest that we hope the Editor of the *Swiss Observer* will find space to publish it in extenso in one of the next issues. We will therefore refrain from giving particulars and comments at this stage. Suffice it to say that all present followed Mr. Staehelin's exposé with rapt attention and judging by the numerous questions put to him following his address, he certainly had aroused a keen and lively appreciation of the organisation he represents.

A cordial vote of thanks to his namesake was proposed by Mr. A. C. Staehelin, wishing him every success in his important and difficult mission and assuring him of the Society's co-operation in his endeavours. This was heartily endorsed by all present with prolonged acclamation.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, November 14th, and will be followed by a "Jass" Drive. Refreshments will be provided by the Ladies' Group.

WB.

THE ATOMIC BOMB.

Prometheus, dreadful was the punishment
The gods on you inflicted in their ire
When you outwitted them and stole their fire.
You gave to man a precious element
To serve him and to be his instrument
From early cradle to the funeral pyre,
Yet he, for ever striving, would aspire
To further conquest and accomplishment.

The last of nature's secrets he's laid bare:
The mighty atom, that mysterious source
Of boundless energy and hidden force,
Will it bring happiness or dark despair?
Beware, ye that forbidden knowledge seek,
Of the revenge the angry gods will wreak.

J.J.F.S.

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Confederation	3½%	1932	101.25	102.40
Confederation	4%	1931	102.—	102.30
Swiss Bank	505	529
Crédit Suisse	541	575
Industrie Aluminium	1690	1720
Brown Boveri	735	771
Chade ABC	900	1075
Chade D	162	202
Industrie Chimique	4900	5425
Fischer	920	985
Nestlés	925	1018
Oerlikon	494	571
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