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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Wednesday, October 12th, about 40 members being present.

In opening the proceedings, the President, Mr. W. Meier, had the sad duty of reporting the loss through death of yet another member, Mr. John C. Nussle. The deceased had been a staunch supporter of the S.M.S. ever since he joined the Society in 1911, and the members, many of whom had known him personally, rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed.

Two new members, Mr. T. H. Bieri and Mr. H. R. Scherrer, both of whom had previously been members of Swiss Sections, were duly admitted. The latter had been appointed on the administrative staff of the College in place of Mr. Vonesch, who recently returned to Switzerland.

The meeting learnt with regret that Dr. G. P. Gooch, the eminent historian, at the age of 76 found it too strenuous to accept lecturing engagements, particularly so as he lived in the country. Dr. Gooch's outstanding addresses on world events had been a feature at Swiss House and elsewhere in the Colony for the last three decades and many will miss hearing his authoritative views.

Reporting on the activities of the College, the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. E. A. Hueni, stated that enrolments for the winter term showed the usual seasonal decline. It appeared that a majority of students still preferred the summer months for a stay in England, although a course in winter

could be more advantageous in many respects, classes being smaller and the tuition, therefore, somewhat more individual and concentrated. On October 28th, the College will pay a visit to Southampton Docks, combined with a visit to one of the big liners. The students have also been invited to view the H.M.V. factories in four different parties. The College Football team has arranged a number of attractive fixtures and will match its prowess with such teams as the London School of Economics, the National Bank of India, Metropolitan Police (Tottenham Court Road), The Times, etc. Mr. Hueni regretted the departure of Mrs. Landsdell, one of the lady teachers, who had been a popular and most efficient member of the staff. Her place was taken by Miss Rosemary Proctor, B.A., who had but recently returned from Finland, where she had been teaching adult students under the auspices of the British Council.

The President then introduced Miss Proctor to the audience, who gave her a cordial reception. After a brief outline of the Society's aims and activities for the benefit of the lecturer, the Chairman called on Miss Proctor to address the meeting on "*Finland To-Day*."

After a vivid description of the journey to Finland in the spring of 1948, she referred to the country's chequered history as a buffer and shuttlecock between her great neighbours of the North. There followed a graphic account of life and conditions as they exist to-day and the lecturer spoke highly of the Finns' proverbial hospitality, their eagerness to learn and their high standard of education. Miss Proctor went on to describe the country's geography, its industries and its many quaint customs, and the audience learnt a great deal of a sturdy people with a strong sense of independence.

Following her address, Miss Proctor answered numerous questions, which evinced the keen interest with which all present had followed her lecture. The meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to Miss Proctor for a most instructive evening.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, November 9th, when Mr. Gottfried J. Keller, President of the Foreign Press Association and London Correspondent of the Basler Nachrichten and the Agence Télégraphique, will give his "Views on the News." WB.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, November 11th, 1949.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription:— W. Weber, Armand-Roger-Tissot, Charles Fer, J. Manzoni, A. J. Wymann, Louis Chapuis, E. Ulmann, V. Gay, A. F. Clemence.

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