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## VISIT OF THE "ZUERCHER STADTPRAESIDENT" Dr. EMIL LANDOLT.

As mentioned in our last issue, Dr. Emil Landolt, accompanied by his wife, have been the guests in this country of the British Council.

We are indebted to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group) for having given us an opportunity to meet these distinguished visitors previous to their departure.

Rather hurriedly, the Committee informed their members that a little informal dinner would take place at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Monday, March 12th. The unavoidably short notice, was, no doubt, responsible for the small attendance of about fifty members and guests.

The gathering, however, was a most successful one; whilst obviously our compatriots of the canton of Zurich were in predominance there were other "Kantonsbürger" represented and even a Vaudois came along to hear some unadulterated "Züridütsch" spoken, but I am somewhat doubtful as to whether he was able to take it "all in".

Previous to a really excellent dinner, a reception was held, during which the Swiss Minister, who was accompanied by Madame de Torrenté, introduced the visitors to the principal guests.

The table, beautifully decorated with flowers, at which the company seated itself was in the shape of a horse shoe, which was in itself a happy omen for a successful evening. After the usual toasts, Dr. H. W. Egli, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, extended a hearty welcome to Dr. and Mrs. Landolt, he mentioned, that besides being "Stadtpräsident" of Zurich, Dr. Landolt was for many years closely connected with the N.S.H., having been President of the Zurich section. In his address of welcome, he referred to the approaching 600th anniversary celebration of Zurich's entry into the Confederation, during which the Mayor would, no doubt, play an important rôle.

He also greeted very cordially, Dr. and Mme. Bernath, 1st Counsellor of Legation, who represented the Swiss Minister — the latter being unable to remain for dinner, owing to another engagement, — Mr. G. H. Shreeve, Director General of the British Council, Miss E. McLeod, Director of the North West Europe section of the British Council, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Dr. Bernath, associated himself with the President, in welcoming the chief magistrate of the town of Zurich and his charming wife. In his address, he expressed the wish, that such official visits would become more frequent, and that the principal towns of Switzerland would in future, as a matter of course, include in their annual budgets a definite sum for either sending their first magistrates abroad or receiving and entertaining similar delegations at home. He concluded his address by saying: "I can assure Dr. & Mrs. Landolt that the Legation, as well as the whole Swiss Colony in Great Britain, are delighted and proud to have this official *tournée* happen, and in their name I wish to thank both, Mr. and Mrs. Landolt, and the authorities of Zurich for their spirit of international friendship."

Amidst great applause, Dr. Landolt rose from his seat, and in English and "Züridütsch" he expressed first hearty thanks to our English friends for all the

kindness they had shown to him and his wife during their stay in London and Birmingham, saying that this visit was a very interesting experience which will leave behind nothing but treasured memories.

He passed in review the history and the rôle the town of Zurich has played throughout the ages, he referred to such famous citizens of Zurich as Waldmann, Zwingli and Gessner.

Mention was made of the achievements of his native city in the sphere of culture and industrial and commercial developments, and he concluded his oration with a forecast of the forthcoming 600th anniversary celebrations of Zurich's entry into the Confederation, which will take place shortly.

This excellent address was loudly cheered by the entire company.

The next speaker was Mr. G. H. Shreeve, of the British Council, who, in a humorous vein referred to the cordial relations which have always existed between the two countries, expressing the hope that the bonds of friendship would become ever closer and more intimate.

He was followed by Mr. A. F. Suter, a former President of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, who assured our English friends, that our compatriots have always felt happy in this country, he referred to the annual holding of the "Auslandschweizer Tag" in Switzerland, and the similarities of our two countries with regard to cultural relations.

The official part of the evening thus came to a close and Mlle. Ruth Huggenberg, the talented Swiss artiste, rendered pieces on the pianoforte by Schumann, Brahms and Chopin, which were greatly appreciated.

Before closing this short narrative of a most successful function, I would like to make a respectful suggestion to the "Herr Stadtpräsident" with regard to traffic control in Zurich; I had seen, that amongst the heavy programme of his *séjour*, a visit to Scotland Yard was undertaken, where road traffic control was discussed. As a native of the town of Berne, and "in spite of this", a regular annual visitor to his fine city of Zurich, I have constantly been in deadly fear of being knocked down when crossing the "Bahnhofstrasse" from the motorists and cyclists, who are trying their level best to chase one "all over the place". I know, that we Bernese have the reputation of being slow, but that should be no excuse for going "hell for leather" after them. If he can persuade the motorist and bicycle fraternity of his home town to show a little more consideration for the poor pedestrians, this road and traffic control demonstration which took place at Scotland Yard, should not have been in vain, and we shall all still further enjoy a visit to his fine city of Zurich.

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