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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The March meeting was held at Swiss House and was well attended.

Mr. W. Meier, our President, had no applications for membership to report, but he regretted the necessity of bringing forward three resignations. Among these was that of Mr. H. H. Baumann, who had joined our Society in 1927. For many years he had been very active on various committees, and was well remembered by our members. Ill-health prevented him from continuing his active membership. In recognition of his past services the meeting elected him as a corresponding member.

Mr. Meier then reported the decision of the Presidents Assembly that young Swiss of either sex should, when coming of age, be presented with a copy of the book *Mein Heimatland* (Ma Patrie or Il Libro del Citadino). The books which will be presented by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique will be distributed by the various Swiss Societies and he invited members to get in touch with him when such cases came to their knowledge.

We were informed that the Swiss Sports and family gathering would be held on Saturday, 21st June, at the Polytechnic Stadium at Chiswick. While the scope would be much more modest than before the war, it was felt that this gathering still held a sure attraction for young and old, and Mr. Meier appealed for strong support in every way of the only outdoor gathering of the Swiss Colony in London.

The Annual Delegates' Meeting will this year be held at Chur on 3rd and 4th May, at which our members Messrs. F. Dannmeyer and F. Kibiger will qualify for the plaques as veterans of the S.M.S., having completed 50 years as members. As Mr. Dannmeyer and Mr. Boos will be attending the meeting in any case, they were elected as our official delegates, which will enable them to vote at Chur.

This disposed of the official business of the monthly meeting. Our President was thus able to introduce Mr. Ernest W. Alther, Dipl. Agr. S.F.I.T. (Ingénieur diplômé of the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich). He had spent several years in Africa as research agronomist and had to deal with plant diseases which ravage the plantations of cocoa, rubber, sugar, tea, cotton, etc., produce which plays such a vital part in providing for the needs of an ever-growing world population. He dealt in particular with the swelling of branches of the cocoa plant, and the boll-worm which attacks the cotton plant, illustrating the scientific approach to these problems with an abundance of instructive lantern slides. He also treated us to a variety of beautiful coloured slides of life among the natives and of some of the large modern towns of South Africa. The talk concluded with a charming short film of the natives building their home with poles, straw, and clay.

E.H.S.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Thursday, April 10th, 1952.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: F. Eggar, L. P. Croset, R. A. Jequier, A. Schmid, Mrs. H. Ellison, A. A. Gautier, J. Scheiwiler, J. Moesch, Mrs. C. Schaerer, Johannesburg, H. J. Dufour.

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