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**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.**

On 12th October 1953 the Swiss Benevolent Society held a meeting at Swiss House. Mr. R. Dupraz, Hon. Vice-President, was in the chair. It was with great regret that the resignation of the President, Col. A. Bon, was accepted. After 12 years of untiring work in the interest of our poor compatriots Col. Bon felt he could not remain at the head of the SBS as he was now no longer residing in England. Monsieur Ansermoz, Attaché Social, who represented the Swiss Minister, expressed the Legation's appreciation of Col. Bon's great services. Mr. Th. Ritter, the former Secretary, added his personal tribute.

The Chairman asked the members to pay silent homage to the late Mr. E. Steiner who had been a loyal member of the Society and whose death had occurred since the previous meeting. Mr. John Steiner had given a legacy to the Society in memory of his late brother. This has been added to the Martha Steiner-Stachelin Fund which Mr. E. Steiner had started in 1936 in memory of his wife. The income of this fund is to be used on holidays for needy Swiss in failing health.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. Rothlisberger, presented the accounts and the committee heard of a considerable deficit at the end of the first six months of the year. He expressed his hope that the many subscribers who had so generously supported the Society in the past would continue to do so, and that by the end of the year the financial position would have improved. The sum spent on casual relief had gone up again, and the committee had had to increase the pensions because of the still rising cost of living. Of the 67 pensioners seven had died, and four new ones were elected by the members.

The meeting closed after a tribute to Miss M. Wolfer. Mrs. W. Meier passed on to the committee the grateful thanks of one of many people Miss Wolfer had successfully helped well beyond her official duties as Welfare Officer.

Christmas is not far away now. Most of us are lucky enough to be looking forward to it. But there are amongst our compatriots some who are not as fortunate. Perhaps their only Christmas cheer will come from a parcel sent by the Swiss Benevolent Society. The ladies of the "Nähverein" and the "Couture" both of the Swiss Church, and many others have been busy throughout the year sewing and knitting. But in spite of their untiring efforts there are not enough new garments to fill all the parcels. Surely most of us have some clothes and shoes which we and our children have outgrown. Let us select some clothing which is in good condition (clean and mended) and send it to the SBS. But they also need kitchen utensils, and even furniture, and groceries, apples, sweets, toys and books are all equally welcome. Let us make up parcels now before we get caught in the inevitable Christmas rush. They would like to have the goods by the end of November at

Swiss Benevolent Society,  
Swiss Home,  
31, Conway Street,  
London, W.1.

Remember that with every gift that we send to the SBS we enable them to make up more bigger and better parcels, and thus we can contribute towards a happy Christmas for all those Swiss in less fortunate circumstances than our own. Thank you!

*Mariann.*

**SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE.**

A Reception and Supper was held on Thursday 22nd October, in the Canteen of Dunfermline Silk Mills Ltd., on the occasion of the visit to our colony of Mr. O. Schneider, Consul in Manchester. During this informal gathering our compatriots took full advantage of the opportunity to talk to our Consul and, no doubt, put before him any personal queries they may have had. The few available hours that evening passed only too quickly.

*B.F.*

## *An Appeal . . .*

The SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES in LONDON appeal once more to their compatriots for their kind contributions in kind or cash, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. All kinds of wearing apparel, household goods and furniture would be much appreciated and gratefully received.

Please send parcels, if possible not later than the end of November, to 31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and cash remittances to :

**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31, Conway Street, W.1. • The Revd. C. Reverdin, 7, Park View Road, Finchley, N.3. • The Revd. H. Spörri, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. The Revd. Father A. Lanfranchi, St. Anne's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.**

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