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Wenn wir mit ihr als Mittelpunkt einen Kreis mit einem Radius von etwa 15 km ziehen, so finden wir an der Peripherie die Städte Lugano, Locarno und den am Eingang zum Bleniotal gelegenen Flecken Biasca.

Aus dem einfachen italienischen Satz "io non vengo" wird mundartlich:

- in Bellinzona: "mi vegni migna".
- in Locarno: "mi vegni mia".
- im Bleniotal: "mi vegni miga".
- in Lugano: "mi vegni minga".

Der junge Bellinzonese, der seine Freundin zufällig auf der Strasse trifft, fragt nicht: "Buon giorno cara ragazza, dove andate così in fretta?", sondern: "Buon giorno cara tosa, dove ande in sc'impessa?". Der Tessiner vom schönen Bleniotal hat jede Ursache zu sagen: "Mi, l'am piass la mea vall" und meint damit: "A me piace la mia valle".

Vori saven pussei?, Volete saperne di più? Lassen wir es dabei bleiben: Ich hoffe, gezeigt zu haben, dass der Tessiner Dialekt selbst in den Städten und, wie zu erwarten ist, mehr noch in den Tälern vom schriftsprachlichen Italienisch erheblich abweicht.

Was dem Uneingeweihten das Verständnis einer gesprochenen Mundart trotz der Wortverwandtschaft so sehr erschwert ist die Lautverschiebung, die Betonung oder der Akzent und, wie bereits erwähnt, eine gewisse Regellosigkeit in der Grammatik. Fast jede Mundart klingt daher breiter, behäbiger und etwas rauh. Die reinen Vokale arten oft in Umlaute aus, und die weichen Konsonanten werden hart. Dazu kommen, besonders in der Schweiz, eine grosse Anzahl Lehnworte, die ihren Weg über die Sprachgrenzen finden. Um nur ein Beispiel zu erwähnen: Der Deutschschweizer nennt mundartlich eine Art runden Korb eine "Zaine". Das italienische Wort "la zana" hat also seinen Weg über die Alpen gefunden und sich in der Nordschweiz eingebürgert.

Was ist die Zukunft der Dialekte in der Schweiz? Wird, wie zum Beispiel in Holland, aus den lokalen Idiomen eine Einheitssprache hervorgehen? Ich zweifle daran, mit andern Worten, ich hoffe es nicht. Trotz dem ausgleichenden Einfluss der Schule, der Literatur, des Handels und dem durch die modernen Verkehrsmittel erleichterten Kontakt mit den umliegenden Gross-Sprachgebieten und unter Volksgenossen verschiedener Zungen in der Schweiz selbst ist sprachliche Einheit fern. Die Schweiz war immer und ist gegenwärtig im politischen und weltanschaulichen Sinn eine Insel. Sie verteidigt ihre nationale Eigenheit auf geistigem Boden genau so, wie sie ihre Staatsgrenzen militärisch gegen Uebergriffe bewacht. Zu dieser schweizerischen Eigenheit gehören auch die Mundarten, die sich der Eidgenosse als ein Stück Heimat erhalten will.

(Schluss.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, March, 13th, 1953. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Rev. C. Reverdin, Mrs. H. Joss, A. Steiner, H. M. Ochsner, F. Magnin, A. C. Baume, P. Isacco, J. Margot, R. Schmid, E. Rognon, J. J. Huber.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. (London Group.)

COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952/53.

Meetings.

Since the last A.G.M. held on March 18th, 1952, the following Open Meetings were organised by the London Group of the N.S.H.:

- 1) April 29th: Christoph Bon, Dipl. Arch. E.T.H. Zurich, "Architecture of the Grisons" in English, illustrated by lantern slides.
- 2) June 10th: Melle A. Briod, Joint Director of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, Berne, "L'influence de la femme Suisse sur la Vie Nationale" in French.
- 3) November 3rd: jointly with the Anglo-Swiss Society, London, Prof. J. Baer, Neuchâtel, Institut de Zoologie de l'Université, Member of the Federal Administration of the National Park, "The Swiss National Park". In English, illustrated by lantern slides and a film.
- 4) January 13th, Mr. Hermann Boeschstein Representative of the Ringier Publications, "The old city of Berne and its surroundings" in English illustrated by lantern slides.

The last A.G.M. was held on March 18th at the Vienna Café, after a dinner and an address by Dr. Gerhard Schuerch, Zentralpräsident der N.H.G. in Berne on "Switzerland's Political and Military Position" in English and Bärndütsch.

Entertainments.

On March 27th a performance by *Elsie Attenhofer*, foremost Swiss diseuse, was organised by the N.S.H. on behalf of the Colony at the French Institute. Various Societies, viz. the "City Swiss Club," the "Swiss Mercantile Society," and the "Anglo-Swiss Society" supported the venture with financial guarantees while other societies and the "Swiss Observer" assisted in disposing of tickets. Unfortunately the costs were so high that a net deficit resulted although every seat had been sold.

On October 16th, a recital by the "Berner Singbuben" was organised by our Society on behalf of the Colony. It was held in the Great Drawing Room of the Arts Council of Great Britain at 4, St. James' Square. Owing to short notice the propaganda made for the recital was not as extensive as usual, but the concert was a delightful experience to those who attended it. It yielded quite a nice little sum towards the expenses of the boys choir. The N.S.H. also made the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of the 35 boys and it offered them some modest hospitality, including a conducted sightseeing tour round London with the assistance of Mr. Hermann Boeschstein, London Representative of Ringier Publications. A letter of warm thanks and appreciation for these arrangements, including the organisation of the recital, was received from Mr. A. Steiner, the Leader and conductor of the "Berner Singbuben".

On Saturday December 13th a *Film Show* was offered to the Colony, especially also to Swiss children, at Conway Hall, thus resuming the tradition of the occasional organisation of special Swiss film shows by our group of the N.S.H. It is hoped to give other such film shows once or twice a year, although it has proved extraordinarily difficult to surmount the formal

obstacles in the way of importing suitable films from Switzerland.

At all functions our Minister, Monsieur H. de Torrenté, or other members of the Legation were present, whose continuing interest in our activities is much appreciated. The showing of films and slides was made possible on each occasion by the generosity of the Swiss National Tourist Office, whose London Manager Mr. H. O. Ernst and Publicity Manager Mr. A. Kunz are giving us invaluable support. Those Meetings not requiring a larger room were once again all held at the Vienna Café, whose owners Mr. and Mrs. Dubs continue to put their room at our disposal free of charge, for which we record our gratitude. Similarly we continued to enjoy the support of the "Swiss Observer" in all our activities.

Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger.

The annual gathering of Swiss from our colonies all over the world, whose proceedings are followed year by year with growing interest in Switzerland, was held at Lucerne and on the Bürgenstock on August 29th — 30th. The Swiss Colony in Great Britain was represented by: Col. A. Bon (Swiss Benevolent Society), Dr. H. W. Egli, Mr. Joseph Fries (Union Helvetia), Consul Jakob Huber, Prof. Jean Inebnit (Yorkshire West Riding Swiss Club), Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter. The full report of the gratifying proceedings was published in the "Swiss Observer" of Oct. 17th 1952.

Children's Holiday Scheme.

In 1952 our Vice President Mr. W. Renz, assisted by Mrs. Renz, took over the onerous task of organising the children's holidays in Switzerland under our usual scheme, which is so generously sponsored by "Pro Juventute" in Switzerland and supported by the Swiss Benevolent Society here. (Swissair again facilitated the transport of the children on special terms.) In all 18 children benefited from the holiday scheme and the devoted work put into it by its organisers.

Swiss Youth Club.

Formed by the initiative of the N.S.H. is now 5 years old and continues to prosper under the care of our Council Member Mrs. Bachofen and Mr. Bachofen. The Saturday evening dances still took place at Duke Street by special permission from the Minister. The success of the Swiss Youth Club is of course entirely due to Mrs. Bachofen's and Mr. Bachofen's efforts.

A considerable supply of the 2nd edition of the *Guide to our Colony* still being available there is no present need for a 3rd edition.

Of the free copies of "Ma patrie", "Meine Heimat" and "Il libro del cittadino" obtained from the

Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger for presentation to young Swiss on their coming of age only a few have been distributed so far. They are available to all Swiss Societies for this purpose free of charge on application to the N.S.H.

A Centre for the Young Swiss.

The question of establishing a Centre for the Young Swiss raised by the N.S.H. years ago, has been further pursued by the Presidents' Assembly. The outlines of concrete proposals have been handed over to an Organising Committee in London with the Minister as President for the purpose of their realisation. In Switzerland an Action Committee may be formed to collect the necessary funds.

Council Affairs.

The Council held 5 Meetings during the course of the year from the last to the next A.G.M. Those elected to the Council at the last A.G.M. were: Messrs. P. Bessire, A. Boller, H. W. Egli, Th. Haller, Consul Huber, S. Marcuard W. Renz, R. Schneider, as well as Mrs. Bachofen, Mrs. Bessire, Mrs. Boller, and Miss A. Gretener. The Council Meetings were also attended regularly or frequently by Mr. A. F. Suter, Hon. Vice-President, and Mrs. Suter, Mr. C. Campart, as Hon. President of the Secours Mutuels and honorary member of the N.S.H., Mr. E. J. Schneider on behalf of the S.M.S. Mr. P. de Maria, President of the Unione Ticinese, Miss L. Bonetti, Delegate of the Sezione Femminile, Unione Ticinese, and Mrs. M. Meier.

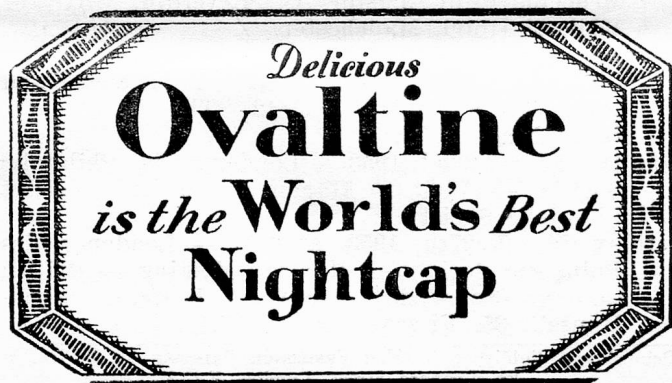
The death of our old founder member Mr. César Campart who has served the Society as Hon. Secretary during more than 20 years was deeply felt as a personal loss by all his colleagues on the Council. The departure to Switzerland of Mr. Marcuard, 1st Secretary of the Legation, has deprived us once again of a highly esteemed Council Member. He has been replaced by the co-option of Mr. René Keller, another diplomatic member of the Legation. The special offices of the Society were distributed as follows at the first Council Meeting after the A.G.M.: Dr. H. W. Egli, President; Mr. W. Renz, Vice-President; Mr. R. Weist, Hon. Treasurer and Miss A. Gretener, Hon. Secretary.

The paying membership of the N.S.H. is now 201, there were 12 new entrants against 11 resignations.

We lament the loss of five members who died in the course of the year: Mr. J. Weber, Mr. Hafter, Mr. Campart, Mr. Joss and Mr. von Bergen.

On behalf of the Council:

H. W. Egli,
President.



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