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HAZEL SCHMID.**Lunch Hour Recital.**

Hazel Schmid, the young Swiss soprano, who recently won the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Prize, and also a French Government scholarship to study interpretation of French classic songs under the direction of M. Pierre Bernac in Paris, gave a lunch hour recital on Thursday, May 23rd, at the lovely and re-built St. James's Church, Piccadilly, W.1.

The programme included three arias of Bach (with organ accompaniment) — "Stein der über all Schätze", "Seufzer, Tränen, Kummer, Not", and "Es ist vollbracht" — and Schubert's "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen" with clarinet obbligato (Leonard Setreight), as well as four Lieder by Hugo Wolf — "Schlafendes Jesus Kind", "Der Gärtner", "In der Frühe" and "Er ist's".

Her voice has delicious warmth and purity; she sang Bach's aria "Seufzer, Tränen, Kummer, Not" with much warmth and purity of tone. Both Schubert's "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen" and Hugo Wolf's "Er ist's" were delightfully rendered.

Hazel Schmid is plainly an artist of more than ordinary intelligence, and we feel sure that with intensified training and studies — especially as to diction — she will in time make a name for herself, and we are eagerly looking forward to hearing this young artist at some of the musical functions in the Colony.

Both her accompanists, Bruce Hylton Stewart (organ) and Michael Pilkington (piano), served her with unflinching discretion and discernment.

ST.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

(London Group)

On May 14th, 1957, the London Group of the N.S.H. held a Meeting at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3, presided over by the new president, W. Renz, who paid warm tribute to the sterling work of the outgoing Officers, Dr. Egli, the late R. Weist and Miss Alice Gretener. The Society is fortunate in having retained the assistance of Dr. Egli and Miss Gretener in their new capacities as Vice-President and Asst. Hon. Secretary.

On the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, members were entertained by a charming causerie given by their member, Miss Andree Inebnit, Lecturer in French at the Royal Holloway College, University of London, on the personality and life-work of the late French-Swiss writer, Mme. T. Combe. The lecturer captivated the audience not only by the nature of the subject chosen but, equally, by the elegance of her delivery.

It is hoped to obtain the services of lecturers for the Society's next meetings, on June 18th and July 16th next. At the latter meeting members will be invited to discuss problems that will be brought up at the Journee des Suisses a l'Etranger, on August 31st.

W.R.

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