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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

(London Group)

Council's Annual Report for 1957/58.

The last Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 19th, 1957, followed by the Annual Dinner. Since then the following Open Meetings were organised by the Group :

Talks and Film Shows.

- 1) April 2nd, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Prof. Dr. Max Wildi, on Contemporary Swiss Literature.
- 2) May 14th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Mlle. Andree Inebnit, Lecturer at Royal Holloway College, University of London: The Swiss-French writer Madame T. Combe.
- 3) June 18th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Farewell Dinner to Consul and Mrs. J. J. Huber.
- 4) July 17th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Dr. G. Schuerch: Ungeloeste Aufgaben der Ausland-schweizerpolitik.
- 5) September 17th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Dr. Hans Conzett: The Swiss Parliament, Cultural Problems & Foreign Affairs.
- 6) October 22nd, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Dr. A. D. Merriman, G.C., O.B.E., Atomic Science & Technique.
- 7) November 19th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Mons. Maurice Jaccard, Department Politique, Berne: Questions affecting the Swiss Colonies Abroad.
- 8) December 17th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Informal Pre-Christmas Party.
- 9) January 11th, at 21, Tothill Street, S.W.1.: Annual Film Show.
- 10) February 18th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Mons. A. Daeniker, Swiss Ambassador: Glimpses of Diplomacy to-day.

At the last A.G.M. the President's and the Hon. Treasurer's reports were discussed and agreed. This year, in spite of economies realised in lecturers' fees and an increased subscription (£1.—.—) a deficit of £39.6.2 was again incurred. In view of the continuous rise in expenditure outside our control, such as printing, stationery etc. etc., we must appeal to the generosity of our Members to increase their donations which, most regrettably, this year have declined by £37.

Council Affairs.

The following members were elected by the Annual General Meeting to the Council :

Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. P. Bessire, Mr. A. C. Boller, Dr. P. Bohny, Dr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Mr. Th. Haller, Consul J. Huber, Mr. A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Miss L. Meierhofer, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. R. Schneider, Mr. R. Weist, Mr. M. Wiesendanger and Miss M. Wolfer.

The Council held seven meetings during the year under review, which were usually also attended by our Hon. Vice-President, Mr. A. F. Suter, and by Mrs. Suter. The Council are much gratified by Mr. Suter's continued and vigorous participation in the affairs of the Society, so ably guided by him for many years, and would like to present him, on his having passed the remarkable age of 75 years, with their best wishes for continued good health and ability to enjoy life.

Of the above-mentioned Council Members, we lost, to our deep regret, through death, our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Weist, whose devoted services to our Society we would like to put on record. The Society's sympathy goes out to Mrs. Weist.

We also have to report, regrettably, the departure from London of our Council Member Consul J. Huber, translated to New York. We took leave of Mr. & Mrs. Huber on June 18th, at a small dinner party, when we thanked Consul Huber for his often proved friendship and the extremely valuable work done for us. The Society warmly welcomes in his place Mons. E. Vallotton, premier secretaire d'Ambassade.

The following Officers were nominated by the Council :

President: Mr. W. Renz; Vice-President: Dr. H. W. Egli; Hon. Secretary: Miss L. Meierhofer; Ass. Hon. Secretary: Miss A. Gretener; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. L. S. R. Asch.

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We feel certain that Members would wish to join the Council in expressing our warmest thanks to Dr. Egli, who has so successfully and for many years carried the not inconsiderable burden of the presidency. It is a matter of great satisfaction that he, in the best tradition of this Society, volunteered to lend us his experience as Vice-President.

We were fortunate again in enjoying the continued firm and benevolent support of our Ambassador, Mons. A. Daeniker, and of his Officials from the Embassy, to whom we would like to express our gratitude. We are also greatly indebted to the Publisher and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer", Messrs. O. Boehringer and A. Stauffer, for their quite exceptional and indispensable services as advertisers of our activities. Truly, the "Swiss Observer", that always interesting and courageous chronicler of the Colony's — and Switzerland's — affairs, deserves the fullest support from all members of the Colony. Our thanks are also due to Messrs. H. O. Ernst and A. Kunz, of the Swiss National Tourist Office, Messrs. W. Wyler and Burgaezzi of Swissair, for their helpful co-operation in connection with our Film Show and the Pro Juventute Holiday Scheme.

Pro Juventute Holiday Scheme for Swiss Children in Great Britain.

For the twelfth time altogether, the Society, with the generous support of Pro Juventute and the Swiss Benevolent Society, organised through our President and Mrs. W. Renz, this excellent scheme which has proved so beneficial to many of our Swiss children over here. Eleven children, transported by Swissair, were enabled to pass long and eminently satisfactory holidays in Swiss homes.

Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger.

Last year's Journée was held at end of August in Brunnen. The Society was represented by its President, and Mr. & Mrs. Suter. A full report of proceedings and the considerable progress made towards solution of many outstanding problems was published in the "Swiss Observer".

Swiss Hostel for Girls.

As you will have observed, all our gatherings, with the exception of the Film Show, were held this year at

the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3, which was formally opened in January 1957 and which has become by virtue of the Management Committee's kind invitation, our favourite meeting ground. All those who have attended our meetings there will agree that the atmosphere created at the Hostel is most suitable for our meetings and our warm thanks are due to the Management Committee, presided over most admirably by Madame M. Daeniker, the Warden, Miss Preiswerk and Miss Hagenbuch. The Hostel is fulfilling its mission with great success and we were happy to be able, out of funds from our former Youth Club and now administered jointly by the Embassy and us, to provide some useful sporting equipment for the Hostel's residents.

Membership.

Apart from the losses and departures already referred to, we have to record the much regretted deaths of our following members: Mrs. Boller, Messrs. Walser, Gysin, Gluhr and Speich.

On the other hand, we had the joy of being able to congratulate our foundation-members Louis Chapuis and Ritter on their 80th — and Mr. Baume on his 75th — birthdays.


Twelve members resigned, six died and eight new members were admitted to the Society. Our paying membership is now 174.


On behalf of the Council:

W. Renz,

President.

February, 1958.



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