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R. CHAPPUIS

President of the Swiss Mercantile Society

As mentioned in another part of this issue, Mr. R. Chappuis, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, which took place on Wednesday, 15th February, was elected president.

Mr. Chappuis was born in Paris in 1896. After finishing his schooling in Montreux he made his apprenticeship — and a year as employee — at the Banque Populaire Suisse in Montreux, followed by 3½ years in the employ of the Zurich branch office of this Bank. In 1920 Mr. Chappuis came to London, where he secured a position with the Swiss Bank Corporation. In 1921 he joined the Merchant Bankers concern, Lazard Brothers & Co. Ltd., from which Bank he retired in 1956.

The new president joined the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1919, and has been a member of the committee since 1922. He was at one time secretary for eight months until Mr. Burren took over the office.

Mr. Chappuis has been a member of the City Swiss Club since 1953, and for many years was assistant secretary, and then honorary secretary of the Swiss Sports Committee. In 1923 he married Miss Alice Thierrin, who presented him with a daughter and a son.

We wish him a successful year in the responsible position he now holds.

* * *

Mr. O. Grob, who for the last three years has been at the helm of the S.M.S., relinquished the office which he had occupied in such a noteworthy manner, and we take this opportunity of thanking him, not only for the eminent services which he has rendered to this Society, but also for those to the Swiss Colony. On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting he was presented with the "Ehrendadel" of the Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Verein.

May we express the hope that, in the coming time of more leisure, we shall still enjoy his collaboration for the benefit of the Colony.

NEW ARRIVALS AT THE SWISS EMBASSY

We have much pleasure in introducing to our readers two new members on the diplomatic staff, who recently arrived at the Embassy.

Monsieur Marcel Heimo, Counsellor in Charge of Economic Affairs, was born in Fribourg in September 1917. He spent most of his student life in that town. After taking a degree in Economics and Political Science at the University of Fribourg, he specialised in Economics, first at the Hochschule für Welthandel in Vienna, then at Clark University (Mass., U.S.A.), where he took a M.A. degree. Just before the war in 1939, M. Heimo returned to Switzerland. After becoming a Doctor of Economics of the University of Fribourg, he then spent several years in the research department of the Swiss National Bank in Zurich, and worked in Berne in the offices of the Federal Finance Administration. In 1947 M. Heimo entered the Swiss foreign service and was immediately sent to London, where he stayed less than a year. His next assignments too him to Brussels as Commercial Attaché, Berne and Paris. From 1954 to 1961 M. Heimo was a member of the Swiss delegation to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC).

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Monsieur Jean Revilliod, Press and Cultural Counsellor, was born in October 1905. He completed his schooling at the Collège at Geneva, and then went on to the University of that town, where he took a Law degree. For nine years he was with the Shell Company in Italy, returning to Switzerland in 1940. In 1942 he entered the service of the Confederation, working for the first two years at the Département fédéral de l'économie publique and joining the Département Politique in 1944. In 1954 he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Peking, where he remained until 1959. Before coming to London he was for a short period Acting Consul in Hong Kong and then Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Colombo.

ALBERT FERBER AT WIGMORE HALL

Mr. Albert Ferber, the famous Swiss pianist, last month gave the seventh of this season's London Piano-forte Series at Wigmore Hall and had the interesting idea of building the first half of his programme around Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue and works by Liszt and Hermann Reutter. The main feature in the second half of the recital consisted of the first book of Debussy's Images, which was followed by Roussel's L'accueil des Muses, written in 1920 for "Le Tombeau de Debussy".

ANNETTE WEISBROD IN MANCHESTER

Miss Annette Weisbrod gave a piano recital at the Houldsworth Hall in Manchester on 22nd February. Sharing the programme with a contralto, Miss Weisbrod gave an excellent interpretation of works by Maurice Ravel, which was greatly appreciated by all present.

COCKTAIL PARTY

H.E. the Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, gave a cocktail party on 2nd March to introduce the new economic counsellor and press attaché, Messieurs Heimo and Revilliod.