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AT THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Society held its Monthly Meeting, which was well attended, at Swiss House on Wednesday, 12th April.

It was with regret that the Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, announced the death of Mr. J. E. von Felten, who had been a member of the Society since 1916. The members rose to pay a last silent tribute to their departed friend.

A letter of thanks received from the Zurich section, to whom a telegram of congratulations had been sent on the occasion of their centenary celebration on 11th March, was read by the Chairman.

The meeting unanimously elected Mr. R. Chappuis, President, and Mr. A. Jaccard, Vice-President, and Chairman of the Education Committee, as the Society's representatives at the Delegates' Meeting on the S.K.V., which will be held at Rheinfelden on 13/14th May.

As possible venues for a family outing this summer, Hatfield House and Parham were suggested, but a definite decision was deferred until the next meeting.

Reporting on the activities of the College, Mr. Jaccard stated that the summer term, commencing on 8th May, was fully booked and that further applications could only be accepted for later entry dates. He mentioned that the College football team would be playing their annual cup match, for the Lints-Smith trophy, versus The Times on Saturday, 15th April, at Ravensbourne, Kent.

Mr. L. W. Krucker, Chairman of the House Committee, briefly reported on the renovations and alterations carried out or contemplated at Swiss House.

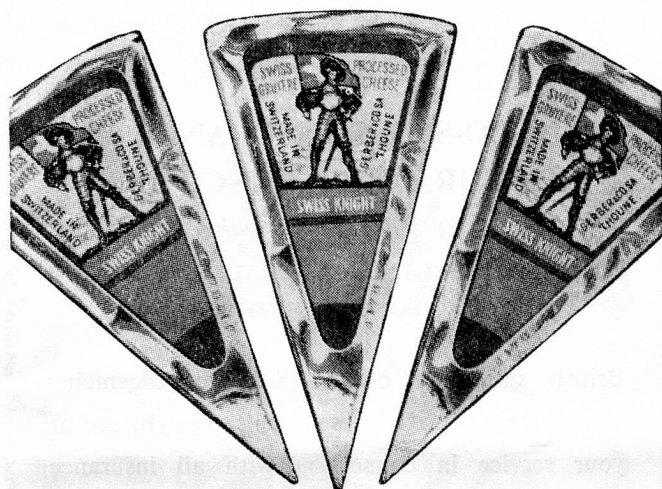
The Chairman then read a letter received from our Ambassador in connection with the proposal before the Swiss Parliament to accord to Swiss abroad the right to vote, as well as an explanatory outline of the pros and cons involved. This question was fully discussed and the outcome of the deliberations was that, whilst not ignoring the difficulties, a majority of those present favoured the granting of such facilities. It was felt that this would strengthen the bonds between them and the mother country. The considered opinion was, however, that on basis of the information available, it would be difficult to arrive at a final conclusion and it was deemed to be desirable to await elucidation of the problems connected with this matter.

Following the official part of the meeting, a colour film, "Viens avec nous", produced by the Federal Gymnastics and Sports Training Centre at Magglingen, obtained from the Consulate of Switzerland, Manchester, through the good offices of Consul E. Ribi, was shown to the members.

This excellent film depicted physical training in all its aspects in most congenial and beautiful surroundings. Almost every type of popular sport is being taught there by expert instructors and it was pleasing to note that despite keen rivalry, an atmosphere of friendly comradeship prevailed.

Many present must have envied our young sportsmen for the wonderful facilities nowadays granted to those whose motto is "Mens sana in corpore sano".

W.B.



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