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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

"Gäll, Willy . . ."

(In memory of Mr. Willy Deutsch)

Gäll, Willy, jetz hämmer überstande
E lange Wäg isch's gsi,
Du hesch Di gross Exame guet bestande
Und chasch ganz stolz druf si.

Du bisch e Maa mit Qualitäte gsi
E Maa mit Gfüel, Härz und Verstand
Und was derbi isch wichtig gsi
Isch Di gäbig, offeni Hand.

Du hesch Di nit ufdrunge
Di ehrligi Natur het gnüegt,
Di fründlig Gsicht het meh errunge
Als Sträbertum dä sich nie füegt.

I glaub wo Du bisch gsi
Kei andere Di Platz cha näh,
Er müesst e zweite Willy si
Und e söttige wirts chuun me gä.

I hättis ungrächt gfunde
Wenn Du hätsch müesse go
Ohni es Gedichtli bunde
An Di wo viel für d'Poesie het do.

I schribe Dir die Ziile
Zum Zeiche dass Du nit umsunst
Dir Müeh gä hesch für viel
Wo Freud gha hän an Diner Chunscht.
(*Sent by an old friend.*)

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Swiss Benevolent Society held its quarterly meeting on Monday, 27th August, at Swiss House, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. G. Sommer, president. In the absence of the Swiss Ambassador, on holiday, the Embassy was represented by Monsieur F. Ansermoz.

There was a rather small attendance, not unusual at this time of the year, when many members are away on holiday.

Mr. M. Rothlisberger, the Hon. Treasurer, presented the Society's accounts for the first six months of 1962, and these were duly passed. Total relief paid of £2,764 remained on the level of the corresponding period of 1961, although the number of pensioners was slightly lower. Due to earlier distribution of the Annual Report, subscriptions in large number had come in sooner and the total at the end of June compared favourably with that of June 1961, but the latest figures were now a little below those of a year ago — a temporary fall-off, it is earnestly hoped.

Two extraordinary donations were gratefully acknowledged: one of £1,025 through the courtesy and generosity of Mr. W. A. de Vigier as a result of the Charity Concert given by the Stadtmusik Solothurn at the Central Hall and organised by him, the other of £450 through the courtesy and kindness of Madame Daeniker as our share

of the two Gala Performances given in aid of charities too by the Swiss Artists, Voli Geiler and Walter Morath, at the French Institute Theatre.

On the other hand, the first periodical external re-decoration as well as necessary repairs of our premises occupied by the Swiss Hostel for Girls at 9-11 Belsize Grove were entailing rather heavy expenditure this year.

Three aged compatriots deserving of support were elected as pensioners, bringing the number in receipt of regular weekly assistance from the society to 66.

On the Chairman's proposal, a vote of thanks to our Consul, Monsieur E. Ribi, soon leaving for his new post in Zagreb, was recorded for his valuable, whole-hearted support and very active co-operation in our work during his years at the Swiss Embassy in London.

J.Z.

SWISS Y.M.C.A. IN LONDON

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Members was held on 9th August at London Central Y.M.C.A., Great Russell Street. After one of our friends had shown some slides, illustrating a number of interesting trips from London, Mr. Walter Fischer, the retiring President, opened the meeting with a prayer and then gave us a brief account of the forty years of his association with, and work for, this Group. In spite of very difficult times, the work, which was originally started in 1888, had been carried on, without interruption, throughout the War years. It is most regrettable that, at a time when the Association is so flourishing, our President, instead of being able to enjoy the results of his labours, felt he had to submit his resignation and say farewell to these shores.

Mr. Fischer then proposed Mr. W. M. Strub, hitherto Hon. Secretary, as the new President; this was approved unanimously and Mr. Fischer's resignation regretfully accepted.

After thanking the members for their confidence, the new President proposed Mr. E. Bruderer as Hon. Secretary, and this was duly confirmed. He then paid tribute to Mr. Fischer for his untiring work and unflinching Christian friendship. The steadfastness in his faith at all times has been an example and witness to countless young men throughout the years. This tribute was followed up by Mr. H. M. Schmid and Mr. Bruderer.

In recognition of his invaluable services to the Association, Mr. Fischer was elected as an Honorary Member, and Mr. J. Scheuermeier, who had also been a much esteemed and honoured President of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. for many years, received the same honour.

After prayer, the hymn, "Till we meet again", brought the Meeting to a fitting close.

W.S.

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