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team had had a most successful season under the captaincy of Mr. R. Bashmann, a member of the Society and a former student of the College, whose return to Switzerland had deprived the team of a very able leader.

The importance attached to the diploma of the College could be gauged by the number of students who had presented themselves for the examinations, 308 having sat, of whom 280 (91%) were successful, compared with 263 (92%) in the previous year.

The evening classes also had had a record-breaking year, the number of enrolments having for the first time exceeded the 1,000 mark. These courses had been attended by 370 male and 633 female students, divided into 51 classes, a total increase of 35 students over that of the previous year.

At the examinations held under the auspices of the University of Cambridge, the students of both the day and evening classes had again obtained very satisfactory results. Out of a total of 166 candidates, 130 had been successful in the examination for the Lower Certificate in English, whilst of 41 candidates, 22 had been awarded the Certificate of Proficiency in English.

Thanks to the employment advisory service provided by the Society, 36 of our young compatriots had obtained office employment in England on completion of their studies.

Thanks were expressed to the teaching and administrative staffs for their continued good work and co-operation.

The report of the House Committee was presented by the Chairman, Mr. L. W. Krucker. He was pleased to state that, after lengthy negotiations, a new lease, which secured the tenure of Swiss House for a further 12 years, had been signed last year. Although at a considerably higher rental, the new lease would ensure accommodation for the College until June 1973.

In order to give the teachers more adequate accommodation, a new staff room to suit their needs had been provided at Swiss House.

Concluding his report, Mr. Chappuis expressed thanks to our Honorary President, the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, and his collaborators for their continued interest in and support of the activities of the Society and the College. He also expressed appreciation to National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, Central President, and Mr. A. Meier-Ragg, Secretary-General of the S.K.V., for their continued advice and assistance.

Further, he gratefully acknowledged the annual subsidy received from the Swiss Government (B.I.G.A.) as well as the donations in favour of the Education Fund from contributing members and firms.

The report as presented was adopted unanimously, thanks being expressed to those who had compiled it.

Under the temporary Chairmanship of Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Hon. Member of the S.K.V. and the London Section, the meeting then proceeded with the elections, as a result of which the Council and the Committees for the financial year 1962 were constituted as follows:—

*Council*:— Chairman: Mr. R. Chappuis; Trustees: Messrs. J. J. Boos, H. Knoll, L. W. Krucker, F. G. Sommer, C. Voegeli; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, A. Faes, O. Grob, E. M. Huber, A. Jaccard, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn, F. Streit.

*General Purposes Committee*:— President: Mr. R. Chappuis; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. Jaccard and L. W. Krucker; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. E. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Senn; Members: Messrs. H. Andrea, H. Mock, E. P. Seigfried, E. Zwicky.

*Education Committee*:— Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Faes; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, G. Hediger, O. Luterbacher.

*House Committee*:— Chairman: Mr. L. W. Krucker; Vice-Chairman: Mr. H. J. Keller; Members: Mrs. M. Meier and Mr. W. Schedler.

*Press Reporter*: Mr. W. Burren.

*Delegate to the N.S.H.*: Mr. H. Mock.

The A.G.M. was followed by an Ordinary Monthly Meeting, when the following new members were elected: Messrs. C. L. Coulet, F. A. Irmiger, A. Schmid, M. Spycher, and P. Woodtli.

Finally, the draft text of a new Article (45 bis) defining the status and rights of the Swiss abroad, which it is proposed to introduce into the Swiss Federal Constitution, was discussed. The meeting unanimously favoured the adoption of this article and decided to make a suitable recommendation to the Assembly of Presidents of Swiss Societies in Great Britain, at their next meeting.

W.B.

## NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE STATUS OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Should status and legal position of the Swiss abroad be specially anchored in the Swiss Federal Constitution? This question has agitated the minds of members of the Federal Parliament and others for ten years on and off. Some time ago the Nouvelle Société Helvétique formulated the text proposal for a new section to Article 45 of the Federal Constitution. This proposed "Art. 45 bis" was the subject of lengthy discussion at the Council meeting, on 7th February last, of the London Section of Nouvelle Société Helvétique, to which all members of the society had been invited. Twenty-two members were present, and practically everyone took part in the debate. The President, Mr. M. Homberger, was in the chair.

To provide the members with the documentary background the President had, very generously, circulated members with the text of the proposal and the Memorandum which accompanied it, as well as with the text of the report of the official constitutional expert. The members of this *ad hoc* parliament were therefore able to — and on the whole did — deal with the question objectively.

At the open meeting of the society on 20th February last, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, Belsize Grove, Mr. M. Homberger, who was again in the chair, was able to present the meeting with a summary of what may fairly be called the consensus of opinion of the participants of the first-mentioned council meeting. The following is the text of his summing-up:—

"We have been asked to discuss at NSH the draft Article 45 bis of the Federal Constitution defining the status of the Swiss abroad. The Council prepared this evening's discussion in a long session on 7th February, at which twenty-two members were present. We were delighted that members who did not belong to the Council have given us the benefit of their presence and enlightened opinion.

"I will now try to put into a few words the gist of a very lively discussion, and I should here like to thank all who have assisted in an unusually long meeting.

"The idea of a Constitutional Article is almost ten years old. The question was raised in Parliament by Nationalrat von Tobel. It was stressed at our meeting

that Mr. von Tobel is not particularly associated with an organisation of the Swiss abroad and that therefore the idea has come from a party not directly interested in legislation on the Swiss abroad. Support for Mr. von Tobel's suggestion has been given by equally disinterested people. This seemed to all of us to be quite important.

"In general, it was recognised that so far the Swiss abroad have not been forgotten by our Federal Authorities. Help and assistance have been given so far even in the absence of a definite legal basis, but we found that it would be desirable to create legal certainty instead of relying on friendly interpretation of Federal legislation.

"The idea has been put forward that the Article should not only define the rights but should also mention the obligations of the Swiss abroad towards their country. This is no doubt an opinion of high moral importance. It was, however, felt that it might be difficult to find appropriate wording for an Addendum to the draft Article. If, however, a solution could be found satisfying the legal minds, we would be for it.

"As an immediate practical recognition of such obligations on our side a strong appeal was made by several members to join the Solidarity Fund and not to accept the probable forthcoming Federal Guarantee without a renewed strong effort made by the Swiss abroad to strengthen the Solidarity Fund and thereby to help themselves.

"As to the wording of the various paragraphs, approval in principle was widely given. However, as far as the German text goes, we should like to be referred to as 'Schweizer im Ausland' and not as 'Auslandschweizer' in Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6. Paragraph 1 correctly says 'Schweizer im Ausland'. The French text appears to be in order; the Italian text was not available to us. To sum up, it was felt that our gratitude was due to our friends in Switzerland both unconnected and connected with the organisations of the Swiss abroad, and particularly to the Zentralsekretariat of NSH for having gone deeply into the problem of strengthening the position of their compatriots abroad."

The text of the summary was unanimously accepted as a resolution to be passed on to the Swiss Embassy and the Secretariat of the Society in Bern.

At this meeting members and friends were also entertained by a film, "Selection 1961", of the Montage Ciné-Journal Suisse. The film found universal applause, and rightly so. It was very well edited and contained some extraordinarily well done items. Thanks are due to the manager of the Swiss Tourist Office for providing, and to Mr. Brown for operating, the projector.

J.H.B.

#### SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

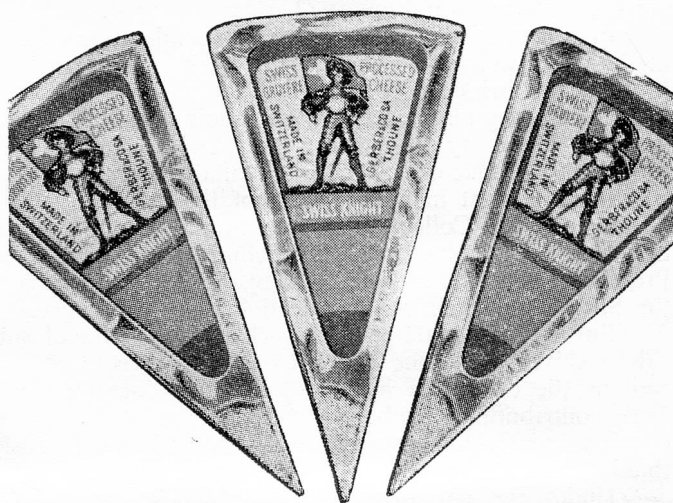
On 22nd February Dr. R. E. Keller, Professor of German Language and Medieval German Literature at the University of Manchester, and a member of the Swiss Club Manchester, gave a very interesting talk on "Traugott Vogel: A Zürich Dialect Writer".

Traugott Vogel, although he has been awarded the "Literaturpreis der Stadt Zürich", is not very widely known. After discussing the problem of literature in dialect in general and stressing the enormous danger to which *Schwyzerdütsch* is now exposed owing to modern means of communication, e.g., radio and television, Professor Keller characterized Traugott Vogel as an outstandingly gifted story-teller. In his stories Traugott Vogel

depicts men and women striving for love and understanding and meeting adversity and suffering and hard-heartedness in others with a moral consciousness which is decidedly pre-Freudian. His sense of pathos prevents him from allowing facile triumphs and easy victories of good over evil. The stories are told in a realistic language diffused with subtle irony and frequent flashes of dry humour. His use of symbolism gives the stories a depth which must come as a surprise to those who believe that dialect literature in *Schwyzerdütsch* is an inferior kind of literature. It is hoped that Traugott Vogel's two volumes of "Gschichten us em Züribiet", "De Läbesbaum", 1952 (Büchergilde Gutenberg), and "Täilti Liebi", 1961 (Sauerlander, Aarau), will find an ever increasing readership and that the threatened *Schwyzerdütsch* will get the strong support it so desperately needs and deserves. After analysing one of the short stories, "De truurig Umwääg", in greater detail, Professor Keller ended his talk by reading "Zwo Muettere", a story which was greatly enjoyed by the audience and which left everyone convinced of the vigour and incisiveness of *Züridiütsch* as well as impressed by the talent and humour of Traugott Vogel.

In the absence of the President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. Berner, Vice-President. A vote of thanks was very charmingly proposed by Madame E. Bebié and seconded by prolonged applause. All agreed that we had had an outstanding and interesting evening, and many expressed the hope that Dr. Keller will favour us again with such interesting and instructive talks.

H.M.



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