

Dr. L. Bossard, honorary member of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

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DR. L. BOSSARD,

Honorary Member of the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

On his urgent request, Dr. Bossard was released from his duties of the Chair at the recent General Assembly. Since he took the lead, five years ago, the former "benevolent" society has gone through several changes which should prove themselves valuable for those of Swiss origin in New Zealand.

On one hand, the changes from a dominantly benevolent to a society of wider and more general interest are established by the new rules. On the other hand, these new rules reflect a good deal of the spirit by which Dr. Bossard has lead the affairs: "I want the Swiss in New Zealand to be aware that they all belong together, that our Society is of value to them, and that they feel themselves at home in district clubs or branches wherever this is possible. It also is our duty to organise the reception of Swiss immigrants amongst ourselves, and to introduce and advise them on the New Zealand way of life." Dr. Bossard has not missed to point out this his special aim in a variety of well pronounced suggestions whenever he presided over our committee or our General Assemblies.

No doubt, his spirit has spread. It has created directly or simultaneously a movement of initiative and new activity.

Dr. Bossard did not retire from the Chair without first making sure a long time in advance that Mr. W. Risi—well known as the former nerve of life of the Taranaki Swiss—stood to replace him as President of our Society.

It is the dedication of Honorary Membership that expresses our thanks for a wise leadership, and will serve to remind us in the future of the special merits of our Dr. Bossard.

F.K.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee of the Swiss Society of New Zealand herewith submits its 22nd Annual Report for the year ending the 31st of March, 1957. The transformation of the Swiss Benevolent Society to the Swiss Society of New Zealand as adopted by last year's General meeting has been

carried out and the society is now duly registered under the latter name.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand took place on the evening of the 16th of June at the Riverlea Cabaret in Hamilton. It was attended by approx. sixty members. As decided previously the general meeting adopted the motion of the President that the Committee should be transferred to the Waikato and its executive members should be drawn from that district. The new rules of the Society encourage the formation of local clubs, and the new executive members are also members of some of the largest Swiss Social Clubs in New Zealand.

The new Committee is now constituted as follows:—

Patron: Consul-General of Switzerland, Mr. P.-H. Aubaret.

President: Mr. Walter Risi, Box 23, Ngaruahia.

Vice-President: Dr. F. Kaegi, Rockdale, Gt. South Road, Bombay.

Secretary: Mr. A. Biland, Te Rapa, Te Kowhai Road, Hamilton.

Treasurer: Mr. Toni Loetscher, Box 608, Hamilton.

Executive Members: J. Arnett, E. Studer, O. Fitzi (representing the Waikato District); Dr. F. Kaegi, A. Sidler, A. Lussi (representing the Auckland District).

It is hoped that by centralising the Executive Committee in the Waikato closer contacts with social clubs further South can be achieved, and the retiring President appeals to all members to assist the new Executive Committee in this task.

The General Meeting also decided to revert to publication of the "Helvetia" to its former monthly appearance. The trial of a bi-monthly publication of the "Helvetia" has not received the support from the members of the Society who prefer a four page monthly issue to a 6 page bi-monthly issue.

On the motion of the new President, Mr. Risi, the yearly subscription has been raised to one pound per year. Many members have already given voluntarily one pound a year to assist the