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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is my duty to review the past with critical eye so that we may see where we have failed and where we succeeded.

The arrival of our Ambassador, Mr M. Corti, ranks easily highest on the credit side and gives us all much pleasure. May his stay amongst us be a happy one. Mr Erb and his staff at the Embassy have once again been of tremendous assistance to our Society, our Clubs and every one of our members.

It is pleasing to see all our Clubs working so well and striving hard to achieve success. This in itself gives great credit to their Committees. The stark figures of the balance sheet show for the first time in many years a credit. The good work done by both our Secretary and the whole Editing Committee has thus produced the result they aimed for. All these good people have worked so selflessly in the past, giving up their spare time to help our Compatriots from north to south.

Our Shooting Competition has also once again been a most popular and very successful event thanks to the smooth organisation headed by our Riflemaster. May I express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all of them for their sterling efforts and the splendid results their good deeds produced.

However, not all was bright in the past. The tragedy that beset the Thonig Family has reminded us of one of our duties. The appeal for assistance has netted a slightly lower sum than expected due to mixed support in certain quarters.

Probably the outstanding feature in the past year was, as far as I am concerned anyway, the fact that we have as yet not achieved the unity I was hoping for. This showed itself particularly in one sector and overshadowed much of the mentioned achievements.

As Society members we must support our Clubs and their Committees. We simply have to realise that petite self-importance will have to be forgotten for the good of all. We have to swallow our pride occasionally — it's non-fattening — and unite on all levels striving for the common good of all. The history of our homeland should surely be ample evidence for us to see what unity can achieve. If we put the Club's interest before our personal interest, the Society's benefits before the Club's wishes, then we would take a good step forward in the right direction. This bond of unity is a heritage handed on to us by our fathers since 1291! We certainly want to be proud Swiss! Well, let us then also act like our forebearers did and become a united Society.

K. E. BISCHOF,
President.