

# Home news

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heiligenberg" (Ct. Solothurn), and to the "Insel-spital" in Berne.

From Berne comes the news of the death of Colonel Johann Bossart, a member of the Federal Instruction Corps, at the age of 55.

The deceased was born at Buchs (Ct. Aargau), and entered the instruction service (cavalry) in 1904. Lately he held the command of the 3rd cavalry brigade. During the Frontier occupation he acted as a staff officer of the 1st Army-Corps. Colonel Bossart was one of the most efficient cavalry officers in the Swiss Army.

#### ZUG

A motor car driven by the 35 year old Karl Huber from Lucerne met with a bad skid on the road between Arth and Küssnacht and was thrown into the Lake of Zug. The driver, and his passenger, a Miss Ehrler from Küssnacht, were drowned.

#### GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of M. Lucien Désert, Manager of the Banque Populaire Suisse at Geneva, at the age of 53.

Dr. Askenazy, since 1905, Professor of pathology at the University of Geneva, has been made a honorary citizen of the town of Geneva.

Colonel Fonjallaz, who has been accused of espionage has started an action against M. L. Nicole, head of the Geneva Government, for defamation of character, he claims damages amounting to 50,000 frs.

Dr. George Werner, Professor of Law at the University of Geneva, has died at the age of 56. Professor Werner was Vice-President of the Committee of the International Red Cross.

#### AARGAU.

Dr. Othmar Häuptli, principal medical officer at the municipal hospital at Baden, has been appointed surgeon-in-chief of the cantonal hospital at Aarau, in succession to Dr. E. Bircher, who recently retired from this post.

#### ST. GALLEN.

The Commercial University at St. Gallen has celebrated the 35th Anniversary since its Foundation.

#### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

A fire which broke out at the Parkett-Fabrik at Oberwiesen-Schleithelm completely destroyed the works; the damage caused is estimated to exceed 250,000 frs.

#### GRISONS.

M. J. Huonder, head of the cantonal government has died suddenly at Samaden. M. Huonder was in the company of a party visiting the Julier Pass, when he was suddenly taken ill, he was taken to the hospital at Samaden, where he died. M. Huonder was born in 1878 at Rabius, he studied forest-economy at the University of Zurich and was for many years on various boards of Woods and Forests. He entered the cantonal government in 1927, and three years later represented his canton in Parliament. (States Council).

#### VAUD.

Seven houses were destroyed by fire at Fey near Echallens, the damage caused is considerable.

M. Ch. A. Favrod-Come has succeeded to the seat in Parliament, which has become vacant through the death of M. J. de Muralt. The new member of Parliament was born in 1877, and after having concluded his studies established himself as a notary at Château-d'Oex; since 1922 M. Favrod occupied the post of President of the community of Château-d'Oex; in 1925 he was elected a member of the Grand Council.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON GROUP OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

January the 16th, 1935.

It is again my privilege to address to you from the chair a short survey of the activities of our Group during the past year. I feel almost tempted to repeat the introductory remarks to my address of 1934, as they describe very correctly the pace and quality of our progress in the past year. Again we have to record a shrinkage in our membership and the causes are again the same, apart from removal by death. The frontiers are still closed to immigration on the one hand, while on the other repatriation deprived us of several members of many years' standing. There were three admissions, and the membership stands to-day at 125 as against 133 a year ago. We especially deplore the loss by death of Mr. Hermann Senn, O.B.E., the famous expert and writer on foods and cooking.

I have previously spoken of the extraordinary and touching trust of so many of our members in their President and Council by allowing them to do all the work without participation; this year I look upon it as a positive compliment in view of the fact that the members have paid their subscriptions with such laudable promptitude that, at the end of the period under review, not one single penny is outstanding. At this point I am again tempted to repeat last year's remark, that, if they only knew how interesting and stimulating our monthly meetings with their discussions, reviews, lectures and reports have become, they would appreciate the loss they incur by staying away.

The Council of the Group has held nine monthly meetings at Swiss House in the course of the year, and these were attended with great regularity by the Council members. Apart from the time taken up by administrative matters the following causeries and discussions were produced at these meetings:—

February 14th, Dr. H. W. Egli,  
*Political influences on Swiss Groups abroad.*

March 21st, Dr. H. W. Egli,  
*Swiss democracy and Swiss colonies.*

May 16th, Dr. Eric Kessler,  
*Recent political developments in Switzerland.*

June 27th, Mr. M. Lorian,  
*The Union Helvetia and its Members.*

July 12th, Discussion,  
*Double Nationality, and Direct Representation of Swiss Abroad.*

November 21st, Dr. H. W. Egli,  
*Political Review.*

December 19th, Discussion,  
*Changes in policy for 1935.*

In accordance with the accepted custom, the Group has last year again presented two film-shows to the Swiss Colony in London. On February 24th, the "Suchard" film, graciously placed at our disposal by the famous firm of chocolate makers, filled the King George's Hall twice in the afternoon. The November performance was of a different character, when the distinguished writer on the Alps, Mr. Charles Gos of Geneva, entertained us with a magnificent lecture on "La conquête des montagnes ou Comment la montagne conquiert l'homme." The lecturer showed and commented on a large number of lantern slides, developing his subject from the point of view of the historian, the artist and the alpinist. The lecture was of a very high order and attracted a number of the great British alpinists of the day.

There were a number of other functions in the colony in which the Group usefully collaborated during the year and in which it was your President's privilege to be personally and actively engaged. Owing to the absence on sick leave of our valued friend and member the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, I was offered and accepted the direction of the Fête Suisse at Central Hall in June; as your President and Representative of the Swiss in Great Britain, I took part at the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger in Fribourg on August 1st, and in September I had the pleasure of assisting actively in the organisation and execution of the Jubilee festivities in honour of the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. In accordance with long standing custom, the Group participated in the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill in May, when our three representatives assisted in general administrative duties.

I am happy to state that our relations with the Minister, the Legation and our sister Societies in London continue to be of the most cordial character. Our sincere thanks are due to the Minister and we express them here with deep

satisfaction for his ever ready assistance and collaboration in our undertakings and for his evident appreciation of our efforts. Our thanks also go to his staff at the Legation. During the year, we have cultivated a most intimate and constant intercourse with the S.S.E. in Berne, and I had the pleasure of paying two visits to the Secretariat, the direction of which is now divided between Mlle. A. Briod (French) and Mr. Schurch (German). On these visits to Switzerland I gained new inspiration and courage by the contact with our great friend and preceptor Prof. A. Latt in Zurich. Further I would express the thanks of the Group to Mr. Staufer and the "Swiss Observer;" to Mme. C. Muller for her thoughtful and obliging secretarial assistance and to one of our council members, Dr. H. W. Egli for his eminently practical and forceful infusion of new thought and direction in our policy. We are also indebted to a number of associations and institutions, both here and on the Continent, for their publications and printed matter sent to us.

We may again look back upon last year's work with a sense of satisfaction that outside influences, such as the pressure of economic circumstances, political restrictions, etc., have been unable to affect our activity fundamentally. We continue to exist; we go forward in an even stride and, as one of the earliest units of a movement which now counts well over 200 Groups abroad, certain special obligations are inseparable from our individuality. We are looked upon by the newer Groups as a model and it behoves us, therefore, to be a real example of steadfastness in our principles, the greatest of which is *Service* in the cause of *True Patriotism*. The courage of our convictions is the test of our existence for the simple reason that, if a thing be good in itself, it must win through. If we are but a small nucleus of former glory, and the spirit be not lost, it might be more difficult for us to hold that jewel in safe keeping, but it is a greater achievement. In this belief we shall carry on and look to the future of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique with calm assurance.

## NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. (London Group).

Instead of the monthly meeting for February, the London Group will be giving a reception to Mlle. Alice Briod, French speaking Secretary of the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne, on her first visit to England, at the "Foyer Suisse," Upper Bedford Place, on Friday the 15th February at 7 o'clock.

A modest supper will be laid in the large Hall at 7.30, at the cost of 2/6 per head inclusive of tips. Wines may be obtained at the table.

It is hoped that the Minister may take the chair and that the presidents of the sister societies in London will be present as guests. Ladies are specially welcome.

Early application for tickets will be necessary as the Hall accommodates about 60 persons, and they may be obtained from the office of the "Swiss Observer" and from the hon. treasurer of the Group, Mr. A. F. Suter, 133, Finchurch Street, E.C.3.

## YODELLERS AT THE LEGATION.

Madame Paravicini gave a party on Thursday, January 17th, between 6 and 7 o'clock p.m., at which Mr. and Mrs. Frey-Bernhardsgrütter entertained the numerous guests.

The yodellers, who wore their picturesque national costumes, were heartily applauded after each turn.

Among the guests who assembled in the drawing room, were:

Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise, Countess of Bradford, Lady Joan Bridgeman, Lady Mildred Fitzgerald, the Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Hay, the Hon. Edward Bigham with Lady Katherine, the Hon. Mrs. Francis Curzon, Mrs. Baldwin, the Hon. Mrs. Edward Stonor, Sir Horace and Lady Rumbold, and Sir Odo and Lady Russell, — two former Ministers at Berne — Mr. Edward Knoblock, Lady Guernsey, the Earl of Aylesford, M. and Mme. de Jenner, M. de Bonrg, M. Rüfenacht.

Both the English and Swiss Press were invited.

After the concert, sherry and delicious hot sausage and savories were served.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

## ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

on  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1935

at the

**Trocadero Restaurant**  
Piccadilly Circus, W.1

In the chair : M. C. R. PARAVICINI, Swiss Minister.

RECEPTION at 6.30 p.m.	DINNER at 7 p.m.	DANCING 8.45 p.m. till midnight
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TICKETS at 12/6 can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6663). City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.3. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9565)