

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

A very pleasant surprise was in store for the members and friends who attended the Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, June 14th. Although the ladies had given an intimation that they would make arrangements to serve refreshments prior to the meeting, few could have expected to find such an array of liberal dishes as they did on arrival at Swiss House, and let it be said, all home made in good Swiss fashion.

In the official part of the meeting, which started at about 7 p.m., the President, Mr. J. J. Boos, was able to give a full report of the deliberations of this year's Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Geneva. Of particular interest was the election of Mr. Carl Weigl, Vice-President and Financial Delegate of the Central Committee, as Honorary Member, and the appointment of Mr. Arnold Meier as General Secretary.

The meeting decided to send congratulatory telegrams to these gentlemen, both of whom having done so much to further the interests of the London Section.

The Chairman also mentioned that Mr. J. Etterlin, first President of the London Section (1888-1889) had recently celebrated his 80th birthday and a telegram of good wishes was also sent to him.

Assuming that no official First of August celebration of the Colony would be held this year, the meeting decided to arrange a quiet celebration for the members of the S.M.S. at Swiss House on Tuesday evening, August 1st. Members will receive full particulars in due course.

The meeting was followed by a discussion on "WHAT WE SHOULD AIM AT IN EDUCATION," the subject being introduced by Mr. W. Meier, Vice-President.

He pointed out that since health, sufficiency of economic means and spiritual contentment contributed in equal measure to human happiness, each of these three should be given equal importance in education. He demonstrated that as a result of the intense competition of men to gain a living the main weight of education in modern times had, unfortunately, been placed on vocational training, while the other two parts had been sadly neglected. He wanted a more harmonious and better balanced education for everyone which would bring about not only a healthier mode of living but a better understanding by all of the real values in life. In conclusion Mr. Meier dealt with the special educational problems with which Swiss living abroad are faced.

A very interesting and animated discussion ensued, in which a number of members took part. Most instructive were the observations of Mrs. Zurbrugg, who as a fully qualified teacher was able to speak from first hand knowledge.

In conclusion, the President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Meier for the excellent and exhaustive manner in which he had dealt with the subject. He also referred to the efforts which are being made by the Council for the Study of Swiss Problems in conjunction with the educational authorities in Switzerland, to send some of our young compatriots to Switzerland to complete their studies in Swiss schools, bursaries being granted to those having the necessary qualifications.

Finally Mr. Boos thanked the ladies for the mag-

nificent way they had treated the members, mentioning in particular Mrs. Jenne and Mrs. Meier, who with the assistance of several other lady members had made the innovation of serving refreshments a most popular success. This was enthusiastically endorsed by all present.

W.B.

### NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

The Monthly Meeting of the N.S.H. was held at Swiss House on Saturday, June 17th.

Mr. A. F. Suter, who has made an excellent recovery from his injuries, again came up specially for the meeting and was given an enthusiastic welcome by the large assembly of members and friends present.

In his monthly survey of current events, Mr. Gottfried Keller gave the latest news from Switzerland.

Reporting on home news has now become a regular feature of his talks, which is eagerly looked forward to by many of the members who hardly ever miss a meeting.

No less interesting are Mr. Keller's comments on the happenings in the international and political spheres. As a journalist of great experience, he is able to give members a clearer picture of what is happening in the world at large than they are able to glean from the daily press. His views on the news are greatly appreciated as is evinced by the ever-growing attendance at these monthly talks.

The Hon. Secretary, Monsieur C. Campart, has recently received from the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne, a copy of Col. P. de Vallière's "Honneur et Fidélité—Histoire des Suisses au Service Etranger." This magnificently illustrated work was presented to M. Campart on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of secretaryship of the N.S.H., London Group, in 1941, but owing to postal difficulties could not be transmitted to him at the time. This is indeed a fine testimony to Mr. Campart's faithful services.

The next Monthly Meeting of the Society will be held at Swiss House on Saturday, July 15th. W.B.

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