

Swiss Mercantile Society

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House, on Wednesday, July 10th, with Mr. J. J. Boos presiding.

There was a fairly large gathering, despite the fact that a number of members were enjoying their holidays in Switzerland, their first for many years.

One member, Mr. Rolf Gerber, who had previously been a member of the Berne Section, was admitted, and there were two resignations, Miss L. Baertschi and Mr. A. H. Haab, both of whom have returned to Switzerland.

An invitation was extended to members of the Society to attend a Dance arranged by the "Rütli Ladies' Club" at the Hornsey Town Hall, Crouch End, on August 1st. This will no doubt be welcomed by some of our members and the students of the College.

In a circular from the Swiss Legation, attention was drawn to an Exhibition of Swiss Planning and Building, to be held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, from September 19th to October 26th, 1946.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that after lengthy negotiations, a licence had been received from the Ministry of Works to carry out the necessary building alterations and renovations at Swiss House. When these are completed in the latter part of the year and early in 1947, it will be possible to accept a considerably larger number of students at the College, which is most desirable in view of the long list of applicants.

Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the educational activities. He said that both day and evening classes were now in full swing and although, due to lack of accommodation and shortage of teachers, etc., numbers were very modest compared with pre-war standards, a very satisfactory beginning had been made, and it was the Committee's endeavour gradually to build up as conditions permitted, to enable more and more students to profit from the courses held at Swiss House.

Mr. Boos, who had just returned from a holiday in Switzerland, gave members an interesting account of his numerous interviews as well as his impressions as regards the economic conditions and life in general. Last but not least, he gave some very useful hints regarding travelling to those who intend shortly to go themselves.

Outing to Whipsnade.

A party of over fifty, members and their families, including a few students of the College, assembled at Swiss House on Sunday morning, June 23rd, for an outing to Whipsnade. Punctually to time, an L.P.T.B. 'but set out for what proved a very pleasant ride via Watford and St. Albans. It was a gorgeous summer day, with nature looking at its very best, in fact it was the first really fine day for weeks.

On arrival at Whipsnade, which is situated at the Eastern end of the Chiltern Hills, the party split up into little groups which wended their way across the expansive Zoological Gardens. The children particularly enjoyed watching the antics of some of the animals in surroundings far more natural than those of the London Zoo.

A picnic luncheon on the Downs, which afforded a splendid view of the country far beyond, gave a welcome rest to many who had already walked a great deal to satisfy the eager curiosity of some of the children who did not wish to miss any of the animals.

The chase was renewed when it was feeding time for lions, tigers, etc., and many were queuing up to see large chunks of meat devoured by these ferocious beasts, with little sense for meat rationing.

Somewhat weary, but in the knowledge of having spent a most pleasant day, the party returned to London in the evening, and all expressed their grateful thanks to Mrs. Meier and the Ladies' Group, who had made the arrangements for the outing. This innovation proved indeed a popular success and similar outings will readily be supported by all who took part.

W.B.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

London Group.

A monthly members' meeting was held on Tuesday, July 16th, at Conway Hall, W.C.2, presided over by the President, A. F. Suter, recently returned from Switzerland and France. The audience was addressed by Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, LL.D., the President of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and President of the Commonwealth League.

Mrs. Corbett-Ashby has lately returned from an extended tour in Czechoslovakia and Poland, and has given a moving picture of the present day conditions in these two countries. Some of her experiences have been of a most harrowing nature, especially in Poland:— she spoke of a day-nursery with three hundred children of all ages in which three solitary toys were kept in a glass case so that the children might at least know what a toy looked like; of a school in which there were not enough pencils for each child and less than one small piece of paper per day; of the terrible struggle to reconstitute the educated class which had been exterminated; of the wretched living conditions in destroyed Warsaw, and of the contrast in Prague, a fine city almost untouched by war, where food can be bought by the masses because of the U.N.R.R.A. supplies being distributed adequately by the Government.

Mrs. Corbett-Ashby gave us much information on the political and economic conditions prevailing today in these two countries, and made a strong appeal for the continued assistance by the Western nations to these two border countries.

After an extended discussion, the President was happy to be able to give the lecturer an idea of what the Don Suisse was doing in this respect. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Corbett-Ashby.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

C. Kaeser, J. H. Magron, F. Schaerer, E. Steiner, B. Frick, A. P. Gubeli, Miss R. Racourssier, Mrs. E. F. Homberger, H. C. Guigon, L. W. Storey, J. D. Storey, C. O. Brüllhard, R. Huguenin, C. Beluich, R. Wyss, E. Luterbacher, Miss R. Zurbrugg, R. J. Corbett, C. Valchera, Miss S. Morosi, P. Moll, Mrs. A. C. Muller, A. Tosio, Ch. Iseli, Miss A. Anderegger, G. Ferrari, Miss R. Weber, Ch. Bertschi, W. Allenspach, O. Rothlisberger, W. R. Gamper, A. F. Frickhart, J. Kessler, Miss M. Lochinger, E. Forster, P. B. Haberstich, Mrs. A. Perkins, Miss P. E. Bolla.

(To be continued.)