

A directory of our Colony

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Confederation. Thus the movement for the woman's vote will spread from the bottom to the top.

The interesting and vital problem of how to keep the Swiss abroad in contact with the Homeland was also brought up. It was agreed that more should be done in this connection than has hitherto been done, which is one of the tasks that the N.S.H. has set before itself. When the matter was discussed at the "Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger," last summer, a small hope of some participation in the political life of Switzerland was given, one suggestion being that eventually Swiss abroad might be able to vote on an issue in Switzerland without being on the spot and paying taxes. Although the hope given was small, it showed that at least a beginning is being made in strengthening the ties between the Swiss abroad and their Homeland.

The very successful Meeting came to an end and we now look forward in the near future to M. Lindt's next lecture in the series which will deal with Swiss History.

A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE YOUNG SWISS IN LONDON.

Urgent Appeal for Furniture.

The endeavours, to which the Council of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group, has lately devoted its attention, to provide the young Swiss in England, of whom several thousand have arrived since the war, with some sort of social *pied-à-terre* in the metropolis, are about to materialise at least on a provisional basis. A suggestion, submitted to Monsieur Escher, Chargé d'affaires in the absence of the Minister, that a suitable room might possibly be spared for the purpose in the Grosvenor Square building of the Legation, has met with his instant agreement, recognising as he does, the importance and the urgency of the problem.

A big and beautiful room is thus available in the Legation building at *Grosvenor Square* (entrance 28, Duke Street) for use as a sort of social club for the young Swiss in London. It is hoped to effect all the necessary arrangements within a matter of days, in order to make use of this magnificent opportunity, so readily granted, at the earliest possible moment. For this, however, the full co-operation of the Colony is required immediately.

First, the *furniture*. A large table and some 20 chairs are being lent by the Swiss Tourist Office. But more chairs, some club-chairs and settees, another table or two, a book case, a piano, a wireless-set and some floor rugs are needed, as well as a pair of chandeliers or globes for two ceiling lights. Any offers of such articles on loan will be gratefully received by Mrs. Egli on the telephone: HAMpstead 2051, or by letter to 3, Chesterford Gardens, N.W.3.

Second, the *organisation*. A responsible Committee of Management must be formed to make the neces-

sary arrangements, assist in the running of the place and supervise its proper use. Three lady-volunteers are required for this task, requiring sympathy and understanding for the young, imagination and tactful firmness. It is a wonderful opportunity for rendering our country as well as our young compatriots invaluable and interesting service. Volunteers are invited to communicate immediately with Mrs. Egli as above.

A meeting of those interested in the social welfare of our young compatriots, including representatives of the churches and the various societies, as well as the volunteers above mentioned will be held to discuss the scheme, how and by whom it should be handled, and how to co-ordinate it with the existing facilities. It is thought that the Social Centre might most usefully be made available on the evenings when no other facility is provided.

Thousands of young Swiss are lonely in London and thus exposed to all sorts of hazards as well as unhappiness. Please help to remedy this situation by responding to the above appeal for furniture and active help and possibly for financial assistance.

Helveticus.

A DIRECTORY OF OUR COLONY

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Welcome to New Arrivals from Switzerland.

A most interesting suggestion for issuing a booklet of welcome to the new arrivals from Switzerland, containing detailed information about all Swiss societies in the United Kingdom, the Legation, Consulates, Churches, etc., as well as the Swiss publications here and a list of Swiss owned or managed firms, has been submitted to all concerned by the Council of the N.S.H. We reproduce the proposal herewith, coupled with the request, that any society or group or firm not directly approached by the N.S.H. should kindly assist this worthy initiative by communicating with the Hon. Secretary of the N.S.H., 18, Montague Place, W.1.

Proposals for a booklet of welcome to new arrivals in the Colony, representing a complete guide to our Colony, submitted by the Council of the N.S.H., London Group.

Several thousands of young Swiss have arrived in this country since the end of the war, thus bringing the possibility of rejuvenation of the Colony, the need for which has so often been expressed on all sides.

Very few of these new arrivals have, however, found their way into our societies. We are losing their potential support. They are missing the help, friendly advice, etc., and the social background of our Colony which might be useful to them in more than one way.

The N.S.H. suggests that a booklet of Welcome and information on our Colony should be issued to all new arrivals and anyone interested in our Colony. The Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, has agreed to write a covering message of greeting for this booklet and to help in reaching the new arrivals.

The contents of the booklet of 24 small size pages should, in our opinion, be as follows:

- page 1: Welcome by the Minister.
- 2: Welcome by the Colony.
- 3: Swiss Legation and Consulates, names, addresses, etc.
- 4: Swiss Churches, details of services, ré-unions, etc.
- 5 — say 13: Swiss societies, their history,

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constitution, aims, subscriptions, functions, officers whom to approach for introduction to the society in question, not more than one page each, insertion to be paid for at the rate of £2 per page.

14: Swiss publications (S.O., Messenger, Gemeindebote, Echo, subscriptions.

15 —24: List of Swiss hotels, restaurants, shops, firms, agencies, doctors, hospitals; insertion to be paid for a £1 for issue of 3,000, only reputable firms being accepted. No advertising to be included in the booklet.

More than full recovery of costs is aimed at by the charges for insertion as put forward above, any surplus, which should be a considerable sum going to the Benevolent Society. All societies and firms to be inserted in alphabetical order, the N.S.H. acting as responsible publisher on behalf of the Colony. Publication annually or every two years. It is hoped to include all provincial colonies as well, and to publish this guide early in the New Year.

Such a complete and permanent guide to our Colony should prove of great interest to all its existing members as well as the new arrivals. It is therefore thought that the societies might like to acquire copies for distribution among members, while individuals also could purchase copies, say at 6d each.

Suggestions for inclusion in the guide or the list of firms should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, N.S.H., 18, Montagu Place, W.1.

SWISS CLUB BIRMINGHAM.

The Swiss Club Birmingham had the honour of entertaining M. and Mme Schärer — from the Liverpool Consulate — at a dinner held in the White Horse Hotel, on Monday, December 8th.

There was a record attendance amongst whom were twelve young Swiss Ladies who are here to learn English and two young men students.

They presented Mme Schärer with a Bouquet and M. Schärer with a button-hole as a small token of their appreciation of their help in bringing them together. (They meet twice monthly at the home of Mr. Otto Wüest the President of the Swiss Club.)

After toasts to the King and the Swiss Confederation the President spoke of the great pleasure it gave the Club to welcome M. and Mme Schärer. This being Mme Schärer's first visit to Birmingham made it a special honour.

M. Schärer expressed his great happiness at being once again in Birmingham. He congratulated the Club on its numerical strength and wished it success. He welcomed the young Swiss and thanked them for their presentation. He then gave details of the Old Age Insurance Scheme which the Swiss in Britain are eligible to join.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the President to Mr. Foster, the Host, and Mr. Höfliger, Chef, for the excellent dinner and appointments.

Mr. Hans Brunner, at the piano, accompanied the guests while they lustily rendered Swiss songs old and new, and a selection of English popular Airs was played by a young English visitor. An illusionist added to the entertainment by baffling the audience by his amazing skill. A most enjoyable evening — would there were more like it.

L.M.L.

RUTLI LADIES' CLUB.

On Thursday, 11th December, the Rutli Ladies' Club held a Dance at Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury. Although it was due to commence at 7 o'clock, many guests did not arrive until an hour later and the festivities were consequently late in warming-up. After a Paul Jones, however, with the excellent orchestra playing every conceivable dance, things really went with a swing. The popular quick waltzes were interspersed with slow "spot" waltzes in which the ladies received hand-painted novelties and the gentlemen, cigarettes.

Next dance to be held, Friday, 20th February, 1947, at Seymour Hall, Bryanston Square, W.

M.V.B.

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