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## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. Monthly Meeting.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, April 9th. The President, Mr. W. Meier, extended a cordial welcome to the large number of members and friends present, including Monsieur E. De Graffenried, Counsellor of Legation.

Four new members were elected, viz. Miss S. J. Bachofen, Miss J. Blesi, Mr. W. Moser and Mr. E. A. Schneider, three being transfers from Swiss Sections. Although only few of our young compatriots are fortunate enough to be able to take up employment in this country, it does mean a steady, if small, influx of new members who are able to benefit by the educational facilities offered by the Society during their sojourn in England.

Reporting on the activities of the College, Mr. K. E. Ammann, Chairman of the Education Committee, stated that 75 students were attending the present course, whereas about 105 to 110 would be admitted next term, commencing in May. Excursions had been arranged to Southampton and Oxford to give students an opportunity of visiting places of special interest before returning to Switzerland. The College Football Team will match its prowess with the Times F.C. and the game will be followed by Tea and Dance. This used to be a regular and popular fixture before the war and it is to be hoped that relations with other well-known English Clubs can in due course be resumed.

### PRESENTATION TO Mr. and Mrs. BOOS.

The Chairman then passed on to the main item of the agenda, the presentation to Mr. & Mrs. Boos. He expressed his pleasure at finding so representative a gathering of members, all of whom wished to show their appreciation to our former President for the services rendered during eight years of office. The Chairman briefly reviewed Mr. Boos' activities in the Society during the last 20 years, when he held office of one kind or another, and praised him for the constancy and enthusiasm which he had displayed throughout and the great care and attention which he had given to all matters connected with the Society. He further read a telegram from Dr. De Wolff, Chief Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, expressing regret at being unable to attend and praising the good work rendered by Mr. Boos during his tenure of office, stressing the cordial relations between the S.M.S. and the Swiss Bank Corporation, many of whose Staff are members of the Society.

Personal tributes came from Messrs. A. C. Stahelin and W. Deutsch, who testified to the excellent services rendered by our late President, recalling some of the outstanding events of the long period during which they were closely connected with him in the Society's affairs, reminiscences which many of those present also shared to a greater or lesser extent. They also praised the support and steadfastness of Mrs. Boos during a very trying and strenuous period.

Finally, Monsieur E. De Graffenried, Counsellor of Legation and Commercial Attaché, expressed thanks on behalf of the Legation for all Mr. Boos had done to further the aims of the Society and particularly his work in connection with the re-opening of the College. He also referred to the excellent relations which he had always maintained with the Legation in a loyal spirit of collaboration, adding that he personally had

recollections of happy relations with Mr. Boos and the S.M.S. ever since his arrival in this country.

Mr. G. Jenne, on behalf of the members, then handed Mr. Boos a cheque for the proceeds of the collection as a contribution towards a Television Set which was prominently displayed, expressing to both Mr. and Mrs. Boos the Society's best wishes for their future health and happiness. Mr. Boos, deeply moved by the many expressions of friendship and gratitude, returned thanks and related some of the happenings in his long association with the S.M.S., of which he had the most vivid recollections.

### CONCERT PARTY.

As a fitting conclusion to a memorable evening in the annals of the Society, the Ladies' Group, under the able Chairmanship of Mrs. Meier, had arranged an informal Concert Party, the artistes being recruited entirely from amongst the members.

It was a happy idea to invite Mr. A. Stauffer, Hon. Member, to preside over this part of the evening. Apart from being Editor of the Swiss Observer and a past President of the S.M.S., which alone would have made him a suitable person for this task, he also revealed himself to be a humorist par excellence, in fact he proved to be one of the star turns of the Party through the jovial manner in which he acted as commentator and quizz master.

The programme opened with "Roulez Tambours," played on the piano by Mr. R. Senn and sung by the audience with great gusto. There followed two songs "S'Schwyzlerländli" and "Säg Maiteli," sung by a quartette consisting of Mrs. Foot, Miss Goesi, Mrs.



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Meier and Miss Vogel, all members of the Ladies' Group. They fully earned the hearty applause which followed the rendering of these homely tunes. The accordeon is always a popular instrument on such an occasion and particularly so when played by ladies, as proved the case when Mrs. Foot and Mrs. Meier entertained us to the strains of "Le faucheur du Jura" and a Ländler consisting of "Lustige Brüder" and "Tanz mit," the two tunes being played simultaneously. The colourful language of the South came to the fore in popular Ticinese tunes, sung by Miss Rita Abate and Mr. Haerri, accompanied on the piano by Miss Udenen.

The programme was interspersed with piano recitals by Mr. Senn and two comical recitations by Mr. Haerri, whose versatility as an entertainer was unfortunately only discovered so shortly before his leaving London.

The *pièce de résistance* proved to be a short sketch by F. Sladen-Smith, "Adult Education," produced and acted by the Ladies' Group (Miss R. Abate, Mrs. Foot, Miss Vogel, Miss Goesi and Mrs. Meier). Whilst all the actresses played their parts very well, Miss Abate must be singled out for her excellent performance of a difficult rôle, a "highbrow" and eccentric schoolmistress.

In conclusion, a Quizz, arranged by Mrs. Jenne, caused some headaches both to the Question-Master and the lambs being led to slaughter.

Mr. Stauffer, on behalf of all present, expressed thanks to the Ladies' Group for having provided so entertaining a programme and thus came to a close a most enjoyable evening.

Members are reminded that at the next Monthly Meeting, to be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, May 14th, at 7 p.m., Dr. V. Umbrecht, Secretary of Legation, will give an outline of the latest financial arrangements concluded between Great Britain and Switzerland. M. Paul Clottu, the newly appointed Social Attaché at the Swiss Legation, will also address the meeting and M. de Graffenried hopes to be present to introduce the speakers. Please, therefore, reserve May 14th for the S.M.S. W.B.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

A. Baker, Mrs. L. G. Iles, G. Bonetti, Miss Sophie Wyss, Z. L. Pirszel, F. E. H. Rittmeyer, W. Pellet, M. Bezencenet, A. Corbat, F. Bassi, F. M. L. Lewis, H. A. Giers, M. Heimo, F. Muhlemann, F. B. Tschudy, H. Nicole, G. Muller, A. Kern, Mrs. L. Hoch, Miss R. M. Abate, Mrs. F. Mc. Kenna, C. E. Seinet, A. H. L. Cuany, A. Schmid, J. P. Weber, H. Koch, Dr. H. Reveillod, J. Heimerdinger, H. Gattiker, Misses Studhalter, C. T. Lehmann, C. E. Wietlisbach, H. Meier, F. Togni, G. Laemlé, W. Huber, Ch. L. Chapuis, Mrs. E. May, J. Stettler.

### UNIONE TICINESE.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the "Thé Dansant" which is taking place, on Sunday, May 11th, from 4—10 p.m., at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Tickets can be obtained from members of the Committee or from Swiss House.

### SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting took place on March 31st, at Brown's Hotel.

In his presidential address, the Chairman, Col. A. Bon, welcomed the members and expressed the sympathy of the meeting with Mr. C. Berti in his recent bereavements. He then reported on the difficulties experienced in the 4th Quarter 1946, as the outlay on relief had gone up, while a great number of subscriptions had not yet come in. Fortunately, by leaving the subscription account open till the end of February, 1947, it was possible to eliminate the deficit of £700. Repeated applications to the contributors and the refund of Income Tax on the subscriptions guaranteed under deeds, achieved this result. The President exhorted the members present to send in their gifts early in the year and to induce their friends to do likewise.

The accounts, duly audited by a member of the Swiss Legation and one of the Swiss Bank, were accepted. The President and Executive resigned and were re-elected; also the Finance Commission and the Committee of Swiss Home. Mr. F. Magnin, Chancellor of Legation, was elected a member of the Committee. Four new names were added to the list of pensioners.

Mr. Berti, who considers 31, Conway Street, with its three stories as unpractical, suggested a house should be bought for the reopening of the Swiss Home for the Aged. The Chairman replied, that the present was not a favourable moment for purchasing house property. However, the main reasons for not reopening a Home are the following: As old age pensioners now receive 26/- a week under the National Health Insurance Act, they do not wish to enter a Home, as long as they are able-bodied. When ill, they are willing to do so, but the Society could not possibly undertake to run a Nursing Home. Mr. Baume, Vice-President, mentioned, that for the same reasons the National Benevolent Society of Watch and Clock Makers had to close their fine almshouses. Nevertheless, the care of the pensioners being the principal object of the Society, the Chairman said, the re-opening of a Home would be kept in mind by the Committee.

The Rev. Pradervand then proposed a vote of thanks to the President, who had kindly offered tea to the members; after which the Meeting was terminated.

*homo eques.*

### NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

#### London Group.

Mr. Peter Dürrenmatt, Editor for home affairs of the "Basler Nachrichten," who is on a short visit in England, has agreed to give a talk on "Swiss Political Life" to the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, on Monday, April 28th, at 7 p.m., at the Vienna Café, Baker Street, W.1.

Mr. Dürrenmatt, who belongs to the younger generation, has a very open and progressive mind, the talk should therefore prove of the greatest interest.

He will speak in his native tongue "Bärndütsch" an added attraction to many of us even though not from the same canton.