

Société de secours mutuels des Suisses à Londres

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**SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISES
A LONDRES.
Founded in 1703.**



President: C. CAMPART.

An informal dinner was held on Thursday, May 8th, at the Swiss Club, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Over forty members and friends attended that monthly meeting, followed by an excellent "souper chocroute" served by Mr. & Mrs. Wyss.

Toasts to the King and to "La Suisse" started the after-dinner speeches; the president had then much pleasure of welcoming members and guests of members likely to join the Society at some future dates; he particularly thanked our treasurer and secretary, Messrs. A. C. Kuenzli and Willy B. Kilchenman, for their long and most valued services.

The secretary, Mr. Willy B. Kilchenman, gave a special meaning to his words when in the name of the members, he presented a valuable gift to their president, a kind way to mark the work done during 18 years of continuous presidency; he reminded the members of the work achieved by him, his numerous and constant efforts for the well-being of the society, the oldest in the Colony as we all know.

Mr. Willy B. Kilchenman recalled the fact that our late Minister, M. Walter Thurnheer, in order to honour the "Secours Mutuels" had asked to be admitted as a regular member, also, that on many occasions on Annual Dinners for instance our ex-Minister Monsieur C. R. Paravicini had been present; keen

interest had always been shown, and neither can the late Pasteur René Hoffmann-de Visme be forgotten; who does not remember our "Président d'Honneur" in the chair, the G. O. M. George Forrer?

The secretary mentioned further that in 1941 twelve members of the late "Schweizerbund Sick Society" joined us, also that in 1942, our affiliation to the "Friendly Societies" was decided with two-third majority.

Mr. Willy B. Kilchenman mentioned also that during the last (second World War) 14 members served with the Forces, two lost their lives, Victor Hug, as P.O.W. in a Naples Hospital owing to bad treatment, and Guy Martin, D.F.C., who died in Singapore.

Our secretary wishes to put on record the magnificent help given to members, when over £300 were collected within a few weeks and distributed to those unfortunate ones, who had suffered from the bombing in London, needless to say that the gifts proved extremely acceptable.

The presentation of a very useful and appreciated Brief case followed, engraved as follows in gold letters:

1703
OFFERT A NOTRE CHER AMI
CESAR CAMPART
DEVOUE PRESIDENT
SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISES
A LONDRES
1929 — 1947.

The secretary, M. Willy B. Kilchenman, in well chosen words, mentioned the president's good work, which no doubt, will long be remembered; our guest Mr. Ernest Luterbach ventilated his pleasure with a "for he is a jolly good fellow" everybody joining in as loudly as they could.

All enjoyed the humorous speech of old old members Messrs. Jules Joerin and Louis Chapuis, the latter thanking the president for the nice evening, so homely, just as in olden times, and he did not fail to mention the treasurer and the secretary for all that they had done; he strongly expressed the wish that many more of our compatriots should join this unique society and as already said the oldest of its kind, surely a very respectable age those 244 years! —

Mr. Ernest Luterbach's fine yodeling delighted young and old, and our member M. A. Gandon, always ready to give a hand, played on his accordeon the usual much appreciated folk-songs.

Many thanks to them, and . . . thus came to a close a very happy monthly evening. W.B.K.

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