

Alec H. Smith

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"FROM THE HISTORY OF OUR COLONY."**Prof. Lätt's N.S.H.-Lecture.**

Professor Arnold Lätt, whom many of our Readers well remember, is returning for a few days to his old fields of activity. He came here originally during the first World War in 1917 to be the first full-time secretary of the newly formed London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. He remained at this post till 1921, having also been the first Editor of the "Swiss Observer." Those old enough to have seen him at work and to have experienced his inspiring example have never ceased to regret his early departure from our Colony.

Since then he has stayed in the forefront of the movement in Switzerland seeking to establish and develop closer ties with the Swiss Abroad, to look after their interests, to care for them when in distress and to cultivate the spiritual bonds between us and the home-land. While teaching a full generation of scholars at the "Kantonale Handels-Schule" at Zürich in the English language, Prof. Lätt found time to edit the monthly "Echo", a periodical devoted to the Swiss Abroad, to guide the mother society in the care of the Swiss Abroad, to influence the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger, to help in the running of PRO HELVETIA, to edit a long sequence of "Jahrbücher" and other publications.

On June 20th Prof. Lätt will give a talk on "Some Chapters from the History of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain" at an Open Meeting of the N.S.H. This subject matter has always been nearest to his heart, based on close studies he made during his stay in London. He may yet write a book about it. In the meantime, however, we shall be privileged to hear Prof. Lätt talk on it, casting his eyes back through the centuries for important Swiss visitors to the United Kingdom.

The lecture and discussion will take place, as usual, at the Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, Baker Street, at 7 p.m. (June 20th). Those wishing to join his friends for a meal at 6 p.m. at the Café should let Mrs. Dubs know a day beforehand to facilitate catering. It is a matter of satisfaction to record that the Anglo-Swiss Society is associating itself with the N.S.H. in inviting its members to this lecture which will be of interest also to our British friends.

Dr. E.**ALEC H. SMITH.**

We extend our congratulations to Mr. Alec H. Smith, well-known to many of the Swiss Colony in London, on his election to the Urban District Council of Caterham and Warlingham.

Mr. Smith is best known to many of our readers as Chief of the Statistical Department of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London. He is incidentally responsible for the periodical booklets and other literature for which the Bank is noted in City circles and beyond. He is, we understand, a newcomer to local government but can safely claim to have considerable experience of administration in many spheres, since after a University career he served as an officer in the Royal Volunteer Reserve at sea and ashore throughout the 1914-18 war and then after twenty years with the Swiss Bank Corporation, returned to Naval Service during the recent hostilities. He held appointments in Iceland, North Africa and in Italy.

As a resident of many years standing in the Caterham district, Mr. Smith can safely claim to be a representative of his neighbourhood and we wish him luck in his new venture.

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