

# Assembly of Presidents of the Swiss Societies

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## ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES.

Two Meetings of the Presidents' Assembly were recently held at the Swiss Legation under the Chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Inebnit (Yorkshire — West Riding — Swiss Club). The Swiss Minister, who is Honorary President, was represented by Monsieur P. Clottu and Dr. E. M. Bircher.

The first Meeting, which took place on Friday, 1st February, was attended by Dr. E. Mörgeli, Joint Director of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, Berne. The chairman welcomed also Mr. E. Cottet, deputising for the President of the Swiss Club Manchester. — The chief matter for discussion at both Meetings was the welfare of the numerous Swiss girls who come to England temporarily, for the most part to take up some form of domestic service. Appreciation was expressed of the valuable work done for a number of years by the Swiss Churches and the Swiss Benevolent Society, but the seriousness of the problem was considered in the light of the first annual report compiled by Miss M. Wolfer, Secretary of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain. Colonel A. Bon (Swiss Benevolent Society) who was present at both meetings, being temporarily in London, explained the origin and constitution of the Welfare Office. A number of suggestions was discussed of how to warn these girls of the danger of unsuitable friendships and of how to provide a suitable meeting place, possibly by creating a Swiss Youth Centre.

The Assembly resumed its debate on Thursday, 21st February. In the meantime several Presidents had prepared detailed proposals and there were carefully examined. It resulted from the discussion that any warnings, to be effective, must reach the parents and the young persons in Switzerland before the journey is undertaken and that in order to deal with the problem effectively here, the work of the Welfare Office should be supported and extended. Further, that additional hostel facilities should be provided, especially for girls passing through London or being on a short visit here from the provinces.

A number of practical proposals is to be followed up by the Swiss clergymen, by statements to the Swiss press and radio. Other suggestions have been referred for further study to the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Committee of the Welfare Office. In addition, the Presidents were asked where practicable, to consult

with their members, in order that decisions can be taken at a later stage. In the meantime, all members of the Swiss Colony are urged to advise Miss M. Wolfer at 31, Conway Street, London, W.1, if they are in a position to care temporarily for any girl in need in the way suggested by "Mariann" in her article in the last issue of the *Swiss Observer*.

The next Meeting of the Presidents Assembly will take place on Thursday, 3rd April and invitations will be sent out in the usual way.

W.M.

## SWISS HOLIDAYS ON £25.0.0?

You will have heard that until the end of October, 1952, the Basic Travel Allowance for holidays abroad will be £25 for an adult and £15 for a child under fifteen. This is unwelcome news in spite of the concession that rail and air tickets to any holiday resort abroad and back can still be bought in sterling.

However, do not let us be despondent. The many thousands of orders which have reached British Travel Agents since January 29th, 1952, prove more emphatically than anything that, apart from the Travel Trade, even the Public realises that holidays on the Continent and especially in Switzerland are still possible.

There are literally hundreds of hotels in Switzerland where the daily inclusive rate (room, 3 meals, all tips and taxes) does not exceed £1 to 25/- per day. Even at 30/- per day a 10 days stay leaves £10 spending money. A glance at the summer programmes of the travel agents shows very clearly that a large number of the Inclusive Tours mentioned are within this category and are therefore an excellent proposition.

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