

Nouvelle société helvétique meetings

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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE MEETINGS.

Since our Minister's most interesting lecture in October on Swiss neutrality in action, which attracted a record crowd under the aegis of the N.S.H. and the Anglo-Swiss Society, two more highly successful N.S.H. meetings have taken place at Londonderry House.

"The Grisons".

An amateur film of the Grisons was shown by the well-known mountain guide, skiing instructor and "Alphüttenwirt" above Pontresina, Mr. Simon Rähmi, whose fame again brought an even larger attendance to the charming Library of Londonderry House. Unfortunately it proved too small to accommodate all late-comers. Apart from the occupants of the 120 chairs, at least 50 people had to stand, yet none of them left before the end of the two hours' show! What a well deserved compliment both to the personality of Mr. Rähmi and his film. We have rarely seen a more entertaining and humorous documentary or more lovely scenic film than that shown by this burly guide from Pontresina. He made it entirely on his own by simply taking shots of every view he loves and of the fun and frolics to be had in summer and winter in and around our famous resorts of the Engadine. But it was Mr. Rähmi's commentary, explanations and humorous stories and asides in a delightful mixture of English and Engadinerish which kept the audience both spell-bound and in stitches. Those who were present and those who missed the fun will be pleased to hear that Mr. Rähmi has other films up his sleeve and that the N.S.H. and the Anglo-Swiss Society will try next year to bring him over once again for a show in a much larger hall. The Grisons has never had a finer propagandist.

A Swiss Suffraget.

On November 29th an Open Meeting of the N.S.H. was given over to a lecture in French on the position of women in Switzerland by the most prominent feminist in French Switzerland, Maître Antoinette Quinche, barrister of Lausanne and Vice-President of the "Association Suisse pour le Suffrage Féminin". With all her feminine charm the lecturer revealed herself as a really tough fighter for the women's vote in Switzerland and the complete equality of women in every other respect. She surprised many of her audience and shocked not a few with the revelation

of the numerous inequalities in law Swiss women still have to put up with, quite apart from the denial of all political rights and the inequality of pay. Mademoiselle Quinche may have presented a rather one-sided picture, as was pointed out in the discussion that followed, but her review of the situation deserves a fuller summary than could be given in this notice. It is hoped to publish one in the next issue of the "Swiss Observer". The chairman assured the lecturer that probably most male Swiss in England would vote for the women's voting rights in Switzerland if only they could. It was a great enterprise on the part of the London Group of the N.S.H. to invite Maître Quinche over to give this important lecture. She had a good audience amongst which, however, most of her "engeren Lands- und Sprachgenossen" were, most regrettably, conspicuous by their absence.

We draw our readers' attention to the "Film Show for Our Colony" offered by the N.S.H. this Saturday afternoon at Conway Hall, featuring especially the annual selection of News Reels from Switzerland. *E.*

**BANQUET ANNUEL.
REUNION DES GASTRONOMES.**

Although this well-known Society has no direct connection with the Swiss colony as such, we wish to mention this Banquet, which took place at the Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1, on December 1st, as it is one of the outstanding events in the catering world, and also for the following reasons: firstly, because our compatriot, Mr. Paul Lehrian, Manager of the l'Ecu de France, is the President of this Society, and as such was in the Chair, secondly, Mr. Etienne R. Cottet, a former President of the Swiss Club, Manchester, is also intimately connected with the "Réunion des Gastronomes", and thirdly, the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" was courteously invited to this evening.

The principal guest of the Society was Lord Mancroft, M.B.E., T.D., Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs, and amongst the 200 participants were many prominent personalities in the catering trade.

COCKTAIL PARTY.

The Swiss Military and Air Attaché and Madame Werner Koch, gave a cocktail party at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Tuesday, November 29th.

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