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### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The March Meeting was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 9th March, 1955.

The President opened the proceedings by extending a warm welcome to the lecturer, Mr. Max Schneider who for a number of years before the war, had been the Society's Honorary Secretary and a Member of the Council. Mr. Schneider had been a well-known and popular figure in the Swiss colony, and many of his former colleagues had turned up looking forward to an interesting evening.

Mr. Meier reported the loss of another Member through the death of Mr. J. Woodtli, and those present rose to pay the usual last silent tribute.

Applications for Membership from Miss Y. Erard and Mr. A. Lurashi, a transfer from the Chiasso section, were approved. The resignations of Mr. M. Altherr and Miss M. F. Beranek, who had returned to Switzerland and had been transferred to the Geneva and Neuchâtel sections respectively, were reported.

The President also reported a few items of general interest. The Fête Suisse was to be held on Thursday, 21st April, 1955, and the Swiss Sports on Saturday, 4th June, 1955. It was hoped that Dr. Faessler, Counsellor of Legation, would address the Society on some commercial or financial problem at the April Meeting. Mr. Meier also mentioned that at a recent meeting of the Assembly of Presidents, it had been suggested that it might be a good idea if some Societies combined in holding joint annual functions. This proposal would be studied by the Society's Committee in due course.

Mr. Max Schneider's address was on his impressions of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden during recent travels. It was a most interesting and ably delivered lecture, well illustrated by a large number of beautiful colour slides. Those who had anticipated an enjoyable evening had not been mistaken.

*J.E.S.*

### SWISS SCIENTISTS IN LONDON.

Two of the most distinguished Swiss Chemists spoke recently in London. First Professor Gerold Schwarzenbach (now successor to Professor Treadwell at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich) gave a lecture on "Complexones" at the Royal Institute. The investigator of Complexones (which have now a wide application in analytical chemistry) gave an interesting summary of his work in this field.

Professor Paul Karrer of the University of Zurich gave two lectures on "Curare Alkaloids", his most recent work. The lectures were held in the Senate House of the University of London. Another lecture was given on "Carotenoids", his classical work, at the Imperial College. Professor Karrer, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1937, was introduced as one of the greatest Chemists of the present century. Great applause was extended to him for his interesting lectures and his friendly visit to London University.

*Dr. J.*

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