

Nouvelle société helvétique

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J. EMMENEGGER. 82 Years Old.

Heartiest congratulations are tendered to Mr. Josef Emmenegger, of 75, Queens Drive, N.4, on his forthcoming 82nd birthday (April 22nd). He was born at Schüpheim (Canton Lucerne) in 1874, and came to this country in 1897. Mr. Emmenegger's activities in the Colony date back to the years 1910-1923, when he was President of the Union Helvetia, and when this Society had a membership of over 500; the Union Helvetia, and the "Genferverband" were at that time the only two organisations of the employees in the catering trade. He represented his Society on many occasions, and was successful in bringing in the "shop hours act", which came into being in 1911. He was also instrumental in securing a weekly day off and holidays for the hotel trade staff. When the National Health Insurance act was introduced in 1910, Mr. Emmenegger succeeded in incorporating the Union Helvetia with the catering trade approved Society, of which he became its Chairman for many years.

Owing to his initiative, the members of the Union Helvetia were able to acquire a plot of land at the Hendon cemetery, where many of their members have found a last resting place.

Besides his work in many large catering establishments in this country, Mr. Emmenegger, was for 20 years, until its closing down, receptionist at the Quebec Government Office in London.

Amongst the many trials a human life is beset with, was the one, when he recently lost his wife, who for 58 years was his life's companion.

All who know this quiet and unassuming man, will join with me in wishing him many more years of happiness.

A.B.

SWISSAIR SELLS CONVAIR 240s.

Swissair has sold its seven Convair 240s to Mohawk Airlines, an American domestic carrier operating in the North East of the United States.

They will be replaced on Swissair's short and medium stage routes by the eight Metropolitans which the Company has on order. The first of these will be delivered in Switzerland at the beginning of June.

The Convair 240s will be flown to New York in the course of the coming summer and autumn at the rate of arrival of the new Metropolitans.

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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

Some years ago when I attended a meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the then President called this Society the "Mother of all Swiss societies", that sounds quite homely, but is hardly "according to facts" as most of her children had been born before the mother, which makes things a little awkward; a more adequate name, if there is one needed, would perhaps be "the spiritual home of the Colony" this may sound somewhat preponderous, but is not far wide of the mark.

This Society has for the last few years been very active, as can be seen from their annual report, which will be found in another part of this issue.

The General Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 20th, at the "Schweizerbund", 74, Charlotte Street, Dr. H. W. Egli being in the Chair. After the Minutes of the last General Meeting were read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Gretener, the Council's annual report was presented, followed by the Hon. Treasurer's statement concerning the finances of the Society. Mr. R. Weist went through the various items and reported a deficit of £54.14.7. The auditors, Messrs. M. A. Rothlisberger and D. E. Bonnet declared that they found the accounts in good order, and the Hon. Treasurer received his discharge with thanks for his labours.

During the Council's election for the year 1956, Mr. A. F. Suter, a former President of the Society took the Chair *pro tem*. He voiced, on behalf of the members, his appreciation to the outgoing Council for their stewardship, and said that all the members were willing to carry on for a further year, as an additional member Mr. M. Wiesendanger was proposed, he, and all former members were duly elected.

Dr. H. W. Egli consequently resumed the Chair, thanking the assembly for the confidence shown in him and his colleagues on the Council. The subscription to the Society remains as hitherto (15/-), and the auditors were re-elected. Professor J. Inebnit, and Mrs. C. Campart were elected Honorary Members of the Society. The General Meeting was closed at 7 p.m.

* * *

After an Aphéritif was served, the members and guests, numbering about 80, sat down to an excellent dinner, for which the stewards of the "Schweizerbund", Mr. and Mrs. K. Caluori deserve full marks.

The usual Toasts were proposed by the President, who then welcomed the various official guests, namely the Swiss Minister, and Madame Daeniker, Professor J. Inebnit, President of the Swiss Club, Leeds, Mr. and Mrs. W. Fischer, President of the Swiss Presidents Assembly, Lt. Colonel St. and Mrs. Townend, Director of the Anglo-Swiss Society, Mr. O. Ernst, General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways and the Swiss National Tourist Office, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", Pasteur C. Reverdin, Pastor and Mrs. H. Spörri, and Father A. Lanfranchi. Dr. Egli also extended a special welcome to Mr. A. Delaloye, President of the "Schweizerbund" and Mr. Louis Chapuis.

The Swiss Minister, in thanking for the invitation extended to him and his wife, referred to the splen-

did work the N.S.H. is doing in the Colony, especially in the field of co-ordination. He praised the achievements of the mother society in Switzerland, saying that no other institution could take its place, he also paid a tribute to the "Echo", the organ of the N.S.H., and the "Swiss Observer" for their good work done for the Swiss abroad, and Mr. W. Renz for arranging again the Swiss children's holiday. Finally he voiced his personal satisfaction that Professor Inebnit was elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

Professor Inebnit, who on rising received a cordial ovation, thanked the President and the members for the honour bestowed on him, and in moving terms referred to the many activities besides his academic work, which have taken him to various countries, where he has undertaken refugee and flood reconstruction work with his young collaborators. For his work the French Government wished to bestow on him the ribbon of the Légion d'Honneur, which, in his modesty he refused to accept.

Mr. W. Fischer, in his capacity of President of the Presidents Assembly referred to the splendid schemes of the Swiss children's holidays and the Hostel for Swiss girls, now nearing its realisation.

The last speaker was Mr. A. F. Suter, Honorary Vice-President of the N.S.H., who thanked the Minister, and Madame Daeniker for the continued interest they are showing in the Society; he also expressed his appreciation to the President, Dr. H. W. Egli, and Miss A. Gretener for their devotion to the Society's welfare. He referred to the splendid services the "Echo" and the "Swiss Observer" are rendering to the Swiss abroad, and concluded with the wish that the annual "Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger" which are held in Switzerland should be better frequented by the members of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

This annual gathering proved again to be a very successful affair, and we are tendering this patriotic Society our best wishes for their efforts to still closer unite the Swiss abroad with their mother country.

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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

(London Group)

Council's Annual Report for 1955/56.

The last Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 15th March, 1955, at the Schweizerbund, followed by the Annual Dinner. Since then the following Open Meetings were organised by the London Group of the N.S.H.:

Talks and Film Shows.

- 1) April 18th, at Londonderry House, jointly with the Anglo-Swiss Society: "Ascending the Matterhorn", a talk in English by Dr. Josef Zihler, illustrated by lantern slides.
- 2) May 17th, at the Schweizerbund: "Other colonies and problems of the Swiss abroad" a talk in German by Dr. H. Christ, Berne Auslandschweizerwerk. The talk was followed by films.
- 3) June 28th, at the Schweizerbund: "Auslandschweizertagung and our Colony". Discussion introduced by Dr. H. W. Egli, President N.S.H. London.
- 4) October 18th, at Londonderry House, jointly with the Anglo-Swiss Society: "Swiss Experience in Active Neutrality", a talk in English by M. Armin Daeniker, Swiss Minister in London, illustrated by two films from Korea.
- 5) November 9th, at Londonderry House, jointly with the Anglo-Swiss Society: "The Grisons", films shown by Mr. Simon Rähmi, Mountain Guide and Skiing Instructor of Pontresina.
- 6) November 29th, at Londonderry House: "La position de la femme en Suisse" a talk in French by Mademoiselle Antoinette Quinche, Barrister of Lausanne, President of the "Association vaudoise pour le suffrage féminin", Vice-President of the "Association Suisse pour le suffrage féminin".
- 7) December 17th, at Conway Hall: "Journal parlé", "Meet my Family", "Fête des Vignerons".
- 8) February 28th, at Bush House Restaurant: "India, Siam and Nepal", a causerie and film show by Madame Armin Daeniker.


At the A.G.M. our new Minister, M. Armin Daeniker, was unanimously appointed Honorary President in succession to M. Henry de Torrenté. The Council's Report and the Treasurer's Report were duly agreed to by the Meeting. It was decided to leave the Annual Subscription for 1955/56 unchanged at 15/- p.a. which figure we believe to be the lowest subscription of any Swiss Society in England, although the London Group of the N.S.H. can proudly look back year by year on such an extensive list of interesting lectures and film shows provided entirely free of charge to members and their Swiss and English friends. Unfortunately we have again incurred a deficit in the course of the year, which we were compelled to cover by drawing on our slender reserves. It is a recurring problem which can only be solved by either obtaining more members or increased subscriptions or curtailing our activities. We are most anxious to avoid the last two alternatives, hoping that our membership may continue to increase as during the last year and that perhaps donations may also increase.

Council Affairs.

All the outgoing members of the Council were re-elected by the A.G.M. with the addition of Mrs. Mariann Meier at the proposal of the Council. The 15 Council Members are: Mrs. A. Bachofen, Mr. Jack Bachofen, Mr. P. Bessire, Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. A. Boller, Mrs. A. Boller, Dr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Mr. Th. Haller, Consul J. Huber, Mr. A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. R. Schneider, Mr. R. Weist, Miss M. Wolfer.

In the course of the year since the last A.G.M. the Council has held five meetings which were also attended usually by our Honorary Vice-President, Mr. A. F. Suter and Mrs. Suter, and on occasions by Mr. J. E. Schneider as delegate of the S.M.S. We are very happy to record that the new Minister, M. Armin Daeniker is continuing the traditional support of the N.S.H. for which both he and Mme. Daeniker show a very particular interest. This interest is most tellingly evidenced by the fact that both Monsieur and Mme. Daeniker have this year contributed an address to our programme of meetings. Mr. Jakob Huber, Swiss Consul in London, whose lively and active interest in our work is gratefully acknowledged, represents the best possible continuing contact between the Legation and the London Group of the N.S.H.

We express once again our gratitude also to Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and Mr. O. Boehringer, its Publisher, for the continuing help and support given by the "Swiss Observer" to



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our activities. The extenso reproduction of the Minister's address on "Swiss Experience in active Neutrality" and of a detailed report on Maître Quinche's lecture on "La Position de la Femme en Suisse" deserve a special praise.

As always we continue to enjoy the ever ready help of the Swiss National Tourist Office in the arrangements for the showing of films. Our warm thanks go to the Manager, Mr. H. O. Ernst, Mr. A. Kunz and Mr. Brown. On the last occasion Mr. Charles Fer of Cinex Ltd., has helped us out most generously.

We record with great satisfaction that our relations with other Societies continue to develop encouragingly. We like to share as many functions as possible with our Fellow Societies bearing in mind the desirability of reducing the total number of functions in our Colony in view of its continuing process of shrinkage. We have been able to run three of our meetings jointly with the Anglo-Swiss Society who deserves the Colony's fuller support. Our cordial relations with the S.M.S. were exemplified by the fact that on one occasion the latter Society spontaneously gave up its own monthly meeting in order to assure a fuller attendance at an N.S.H. Film Show which could not be shifted to another date. The Council feel that the process of co-ordination and joint meetings could and should be further developed between all the Societies to the great advantage of the Colony. The question of a closer federation between all our Societies with a joint technical Secretariat and possibly a single joint subscription to simplify the work and facilitate the co-ordination of all functions might be well worth considering.

Children's Holiday Scheme.

For the fourth time, our Vice-President, Mr. W. Renz, and Mrs. Renz have carried through the exacting labour of love of organising the annual children's holiday trip to Switzerland. As usual the project was also supported by "Pro Juventute" and the "Stiftung Schweizerhilfe" in Switzerland and the Swiss Benevolent Society in London, regarding the transportation. 26 children, transported by Swissair, have enjoyed the advantage of this scheme last year, some of them with the help of the Swiss Benevolent Society. The Colony's thanks are due for this to all the organizations concerned as well as to Mr. and Mrs. Renz, and to Mrs. Boller who has received the chil-

dren back in London on their return. This was the 10th time that our Society had the honour of carrying through this excellent scheme.

Journée des Suisse à l'Etranger.

This annual "Landsgemeinde" of the Swiss abroad, organised unfailingly and untiringly by the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne, was held last year at Zürich on August 21-23. Our Colony was represented by Dr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Consul J. Huber, Miss Inebnit, accompanied by Mrs. Inebnit, Mr. Kübler (Manchester), and Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter. Full reports of the proceedings at these meetings are usually published in the Swiss Press and also in the "Swiss Observer" so far as our Colony's interests are concerned. A more active participation of other Societies apart from the N.S.H. at the Auslandschweizertagung would prove well worth while.


Membership.


Once again we have to record the sad loss of four more of our members who died in the course of the year: Mr. Ch. E. Isely, Mr. G. Jenne, Mr. P. Moehr, and Mr. A. Schaerer. Seven other members resigned mainly owing to departure from London. Fortunately we secured eleven new members of our Group. Mrs. C. Campart and Prof. J. P. Inebnit have been appointed Honorary Members of our Group. The three clergymen and their assistants have also been made free members of the N.S.H. London Group. The Yorkshire Swiss Club has been welcomed in affiliation to our Society. Our paying membership has increased from 180 to 184.

On behalf of the Council

H. W. Egli. President.

March, 1956.



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