

News from the embassy

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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Reporting on meetings year after year may seem monotonous, and indeed it could well be so, if the valuable force behind the work were not felt every time a committee is called together to receive a report. Harassed businessmen and hardworked housewives sit in silent expectation to hear of what the previous three or four months have brought by way of problems. An organisation like the Swiss Benevolent Society where a lot of human suffering is dealt with has perhaps an easier task to bring home to its members what work goes on and how the money has been spent.

When the S.B.S. met on 25th August at Swiss House its President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, was in the chair. Then Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. Rothlisberger, read and explained the accounts. Nearly £400 more were spent during the first six months of 1958 on casual relief, a total of £1,159. How much hardship could be lessened by opportune help can only be imagined, but it certainly brought home to those present at the meeting how badly the money is needed. Old age thanks to pensions the S.B.S. pay out regularly (£1,749 in six months) is made less hard to about 70 pensioners. At every meeting we hear of old men and women joining the ranks of our pensioners, in fact, it is the meeting of the Society which elects them. Sometimes they include people at one time well known and liked in the Colony, people who have done a great deal of work in the interest of the Swiss Community and who have now fallen on bad times. For obvious reasons these names are not publicized, but at least it may induce one or another of us to increase his donation to the Society, knowing that such cases are taken care of. This is by way of paying back anonymously a debt we all owe to many men and women who have worked for the good of the Colony for years and whose names have never been made public.

In the accounts we also heard of a contribution towards repairs carried out at Libury Hall, the home for old people maintained at Munden, near Ware, Herts, by the "Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress". We have again and again had compatriots living at Libury Hall, though most of our old age pensioners prefer to live in rooms.

At the other end of the scale we heard of the Swiss Benevolent Society's help to the young. In the first place the Treasurer told of the Hostel for Girls which is filling such a need, and then of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls which the Society support every year with a large sum of money. Sometimes the criticism is heard, and quite justifiably, that the hundreds of young girls who are looked after one way or another don't form part of the Colony and that the Homeland should do more. Even if this is so, the work must be done if our compatriots are not to become a burden to the Country where we enjoy hospitality. Money is urgently needed — it is good work and charity can't wait. So please, if you have not already done so, send your contribution to the Swiss Benevolent Society, if you can by convenanted subscription which costs you nothing, but brings in several hundred pounds a year to the Society.

And now that winter clothes soon have to be taken out — even if we have not had much summer yet — let us remember that clothing and shoes and household articles in good condition will be gratefully received by the Swiss Benevolent Society. They work hard to lessen distress, but ultimately it is your generosity and ever loyal support which will bring success.

MARIANN.

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY.

The Swiss Military and Air Attaché, Colonel Th. Mosimann, and Madame Mosimann, gave a cocktail party on Wednesday, September 10th at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 26th 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. Steiner, F. C. Lichtensteiger (Geneva), J. J. Wetter, A. M. Themans, Mrs. M. Habersaat, Charles Valon, A. Spagnapani (Washington), M. F. Lindemann, W. Preiswerk (Basle), Anton Bon (Basle), P. H. Aubaret, (Wellington, N.Z.), L. S. R. Asch, Mrs. H. A. Clarke, O. Wüest, Mrs. Ellis-Daepf.



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