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that Mr. von Tobel is not particularly associated with an organisation of the Swiss abroad and that therefore the idea has come from a party not directly interested in legislation on the Swiss abroad. Support for Mr. von Tobel's suggestion has been given by equally disinterested people. This seemed to all of us to be quite important.

"In general, it was recognised that so far the Swiss abroad have not been forgotten by our Federal Authorities. Help and assistance have been given so far even in the absence of a definite legal basis, but we found that it would be desirable to create legal certainty instead of relying on friendly interpretation of Federal legislation.

"The idea has been put forward that the Article should not only define the rights but should also mention the obligations of the Swiss abroad towards their country. This is no doubt an opinion of high moral importance. It was, however, felt that it might be difficult to find appropriate wording for an Addendum to the draft Article. If, however, a solution could be found satisfying the legal minds, we would be for it.

"As an immediate practical recognition of such obligations on our side a strong appeal was made by several members to join the Solidarity Fund and not to accept the probable forthcoming Federal Guarantee without a renewed strong effort made by the Swiss abroad to strengthen the Solidarity Fund and thereby to help themselves.

"As to the wording of the various paragraphs, approval in principle was widely given. However, as far as the German text goes, we should like to be referred to as 'Schweizer im Ausland' and not as 'Auslandsschweizer' in Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6. Paragraph 1 correctly says 'Schweizer im Ausland'. The French text appears to be in order; the Italian text was not available to us. To sum up, it was felt that our gratitude was due to our friends in Switzerland both unconnected and connected with the organisations of the Swiss abroad, and particularly to the Zentralsekretariat of NSH for having gone deeply into the problem of strengthening the position of their compatriots abroad."

The text of the summary was unanimously accepted as a resolution to be passed on to the Swiss Embassy and the Secretariat of the Society in Bern.

At this meeting members and friends were also entertained by a film, "Selection 1961", of the Montage Ciné-Journal Suisse. The film found universal applause, and rightly so. It was very well edited and contained some extraordinarily well done items. Thanks are due to the manager of the Swiss Tourist Office for providing, and to Mr. Brown for operating, the projector.

J.H.B.

#### SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

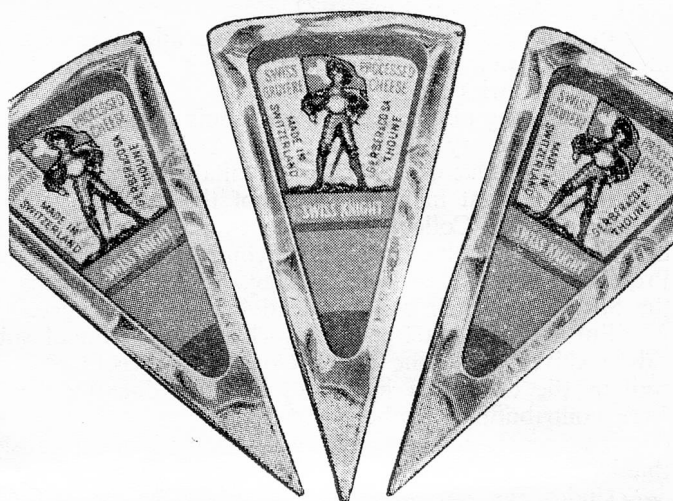
On 22nd February Dr. R. E. Keller, Professor of German Language and Medieval German Literature at the University of Manchester, and a member of the Swiss Club Manchester, gave a very interesting talk on "Traugott Vogel: A Zürich Dialect Writer".

Traugott Vogel, although he has been awarded the "Literaturpreis der Stadt Zürich", is not very widely known. After discussing the problem of literature in dialect in general and stressing the enormous danger to which *Schwyzerdütsch* is now exposed owing to modern means of communication, e.g., radio and television, Professor Keller characterized Traugott Vogel as an outstandingly gifted story-teller. In his stories Traugott Vogel

depicts men and women striving for love and understanding and meeting adversity and suffering and hard-heartedness in others with a moral consciousness which is decidedly pre-Freudian. His sense of pathos prevents him from allowing facile triumphs and easy victories of good over evil. The stories are told in a realistic language diffused with subtle irony and frequent flashes of dry humour. His use of symbolism gives the stories a depth which must come as a surprise to those who believe that dialect literature in *Schwyzerdütsch* is an inferior kind of literature. It is hoped that Traugott Vogel's two volumes of "Gschichten us em Züribiet", "De Läbesbaum", 1952 (Büchergilde Gutenberg), and "Täilti Liebi", 1961 (Sauerlander, Aarau), will find an ever increasing readership and that the threatened *Schwyzerdütsch* will get the strong support it so desperately needs and deserves. After analysing one of the short stories, "De truurig Umwääg", in greater detail, Professor Keller ended his talk by reading "Zwo Muettere", a story which was greatly enjoyed by the audience and which left everyone convinced of the vigour and incisiveness of *Züridiütsch* as well as impressed by the talent and humour of Traugott Vogel.

In the absence of the President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. Berner, Vice-President. A vote of thanks was very charmingly proposed by Madame E. Bebié and seconded by prolonged applause. All agreed that we had had an outstanding and interesting evening, and many expressed the hope that Dr. Keller will favour us again with such interesting and instructive talks.

H.M.



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