

Nouvelle société helvétique

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

"Friedenswille, Wehrbereitschaft und ideologische Selbstbehauptung der Schweiz" was the title of a talk given to members and friends of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique at their meeting on 26th June, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, Belsize Grove, N.W.3. Dr. H. Egli, the President, was in the Chair.

The Lecturer, Oberstdivisionär Dr. Karl Brunner, in his civil life lecturer in law at the university of Zürich, in a powerful oration reviewed the spiritual and ideological dangers which face western man. Our generation experiences a time of surging changes, both national and international. There is the danger that we become too accustomed to the general trend and thus unable to appreciate fully the dangers inherent in it. We are apt to look backwards for guidance instead of forward to the future.

Dr. Brunner then dealt with the idea that went to bring the United Nations Organisation into being, the aims and work of that organisation, and the reason for its failure with the tensions in international relations, the cold war, co-existence and the rest. Supported by quotations from the writings and speeches of Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev, the speaker's contention was that there could not be real peace and co-operation between the West and the (Communist) East. And those who wanted to foster "Ost-West" trade might well become the grave-diggers of political freedom. Switzerland was affected just as much as the rest. The facts must be faced as they are. We have to be ready to defend our freedom, if necessary as soldiers.

Prolonged applause told the lecturer of the appreciation of his listeners. A number of questions from the audience were then answered by Dr. Brunner, whereupon he was thanked by the Chairman, who also expressed the hope that we might have the pleasure some time in the future to have Dr. Brunner again as our guest.

(We hope to print the text of the lecture in one of our next issues. Ed.)

At the May meeting of N.S.H. Mrs. Clara Wehrli, a world traveller of repute, told members and guests present of her visit to the "Easter Island" in the South Pacific. By friendly influence — amusingly recounted by her — Mrs. Wehrli was able as one of the few privileged travellers to visit the island by the yearly boat. The way of life of the 300 or so islanders, the impression on her of the more than hearty reception they received from the people lining the water front, a description of the Mohais, the bird-man obelisks, the care for the rather large leper colony (about 8 per cent of the population), were all recounted in a lively style mixed with humour, for which audience and Chairman expressed well-earned thanks.

J.H.B.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the N.H.S. the following members were elected to the Council: Mr. L. S. H. Ash, Mr. R. Baumann, Mr. P. Bessire, Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. A. C. Boller, Mr. P. Bringolf, Mr. J. H. Büchi, Mr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Mr. M. Homberger, Mr. A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Mr. H. Mock, Miss R. Preiswerk, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. J. Revilliod, Mr. M. Schneebeli, Mr. M. Wiesendanger.

At the subsequent Council Meeting the offices were distributed as follows:

President, Dr. H. W. Egli; *Vice-President*, Mr. M. Schneebeli; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. P. Bringolf; *Assistant Secretary*, Miss A. Gretener; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. L. S. R. Ash; *Press Reporter*, Mr. J. H. Büchi.

A LADIES' LUNCHEON

For the first time in its long existence the Women's Circle of the German-speaking Swiss Church has come together outside its monthly meeting, in order to give a Farewell-Lunch party to Mrs. Ribi and to Mrs. Mosimann. During their stay in London these two members have taken a most active part in the work of our circle and the Church Bazaars which take place every other year.

Mrs. Ribi has even brought mechanisation to our efforts by using her knitting machine and thus increasing the pile of vests and simple pullovers.

Mrs. Sommer thanked the two ladies who are about to leave us, with a few appropriate sentences for all their ready help and cheerful presence at our meetings, and wished them good fortune in following their husbands to their new appointments.

We had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Ribi replying to Mrs. Sommer with a few words of thanks, followed by a cordial invitation to all to visit the Dalmation Coast and, of course, the Consulate in Zagreb; there was only one reservation: not to come all at once, as this might strain the possibilities of accommodation, even though a caravan would be ever ready.

It was a very lively party, at which most members were present. It took place in the nice rooms of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, and Miss Hagenbuch saw to it that it was a success from the catering angle, too. Her invitation to the Circle to come again will certainly be considered.

To those who may read this and might feel they would like to join us, we extend a cordial invitation to do so. Our purpose is, of course, to help the Swiss Benevolent Society. The times and venue of our meetings can be looked up on the front page of the "Gemeindebote."

GERTRUD KELLER.

A RETIREMENT

Mr. Max Heilingner has retired from the Swiss Bank Corporation, where he had spent 41 years of his working life. He was well known for his extensive knowledge of investment matters and was in charge of the Investment Department at the bank for many years.

In 1921 he joined the Swiss Mercantile Society, and became a member of the General Purposes Committee in 1936. He was a member of the Council from 1939 until 1953, when he retired for reasons of health. As Hon. Treasurer of the Society he did good work from 1939 till 1950.

Mr. Heilingner has already left for Switzerland, where he intends to spend his retirement at Bellach near Solothurn. His colleagues and friends wish him many years of happiness and well-earned leisure.