

# La nouvelle société helvétique

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## NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

Father Bossard was the speaker at the June open meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. His theme was "Problems and Pleasures of Swiss Dialects" and was centred on the life work of his father, Hans Bossard, who was a school teacher and compiled, over thirty years, a dictionary of the Zug idiom.

Father Bossard read us works and poems in this earthy language and let us hear a recording of his father reading some of his works. Father Bossard told us that there was a strain for teaching in his family, starting with his grandfather Joseph Bossard, who was a strong character and the hero of the short tales read to us in Zug German. The writings of the teacher Hans Bossard tended to have a didactic purpose, and his own five brothers and himself were all connected with teaching.

Father Bossard told us that the ambition of his father was to fix a rich dialect in writing and establish a lexicon of local expressions. It was only by the use of print that Swiss dialects (and our President had heard it said that there were over 700 of them) could be conserved for posterity. In the course of the discussion that followed many members expressed their surprise at seeing Schweizer-

deutsch sustain the onslaught of time so well. Why didn't Gaelic last out as well, somebody asked. One of the answers suggested lay in the German imperialism of the past, which secured the will of identity of the Swiss. There was also a consensus of opinion that the numerous local dialects are becoming increasingly the same and fusing into one Swiss-German language.

### THE "BUNDESFEIERSPENDE"

The annual 1st August Collection will be devoted this year to health organisations and charities in Switzerland. The badges can be obtained by applying at the Embassy and will be on sale at the forthcoming National Day celebration at Wimbledon. Therefore, if you want a chance of helping the needy and the disabled in Switzerland, come to Wimbledon on Saturday, 31st July!

Last year the Swiss of Great Britain gave £330 to the *Bundesfeier-spende*. Your money this year will be devoted to the following organisations: the Cancer League, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Rheumatism League, the Tuberculosis Association, the Central Office for Combating Alcoholism, the Society for Preventive Medicine, Pro Infirmis, Orthopaedic Clinics and the Invalids Society.

## FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

Sunday, 4th July, Birmingham Art Gallery, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 7th July, International Eisteddfod, Llangollen. Thursday, 8th July, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, 8 p.m. *Folk music* concerts by the Locarno choir *I Ticines da Minüs*.

Monday, 12th July, Royal Festival Hall 8 p.m. Concert by the *Berne Choir* (Berne Male Voice Choir and Berne Teachers' Choral Society), the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and distinguished soloists, conducted by *François Pantillon* (Beethoven: Mass in C *Sutermeister*: Missa da Requiem).

16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th July, 1st, 3rd August. Glyndbourne Festival Opera. The tenor *Hugues Cuènod* a soloist in *La Calisto*.

24th July to 7th August. Kettles Yard Gallery, Cambridge. Paintings by *Cuno Amiet* (1868-1961) and *Giovanni Giacometti* (1868-1933).

Sunday, 1st August. Festival Club, Fisher House, Guildhall Street, Cambridge, 6 p.m. Four films featuring the artists *Ferdinand Hodler*, *Bernhard Luginbühl* and *Alberto Giacometti*.

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