

Swiss of the North

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Pastor Pradervand elected to honorary function

Pastor Marcel Pradervand, who was minister of the Swiss Church in London during the war, has recently been elected as President of the *Rassemblement des Eglises et communautés chrétiennes de Geneve*. This organisation groups the churches of every denomination in the

canton. Until recently, pastor Pradervand was Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Those who remember Pastor Claude Reverdin, who was minister in London for some fifteen years after the War, might be interested to know that he is the actual president of the council of Genevese ministers. Pastor Reverdin succeeded the Rev. Pradervand at Endell Street.

SWISS OF THE NORTH

At our monthly meeting on the 6th February we were informed of the sudden illness of our dear friend and good member Mr. Paul Lerch and everybody joined in sending him our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. Our President then announced his wish to retire after this year's Landsgemeinde. This was indeed sad news for the many who have known him for such a long span of time, always so devoted for the well-being and progress of our Club. He informed us also of the whereabouts of the Landsgemeinde Model, originally exhibited at the 1972 Auslandschweizer Tagung in Bern and now in the hands of the "Migros Genossenschaft" where it is busily making money for the refugees.

This meeting was to be the last one at the British Council House – for many years our headquarters – and in future we shall meet at the premises of the Council of Social Services, St. Mark's House, 196 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds.

On the 9th March we met again, this time at the Foreign Circle, 10 Eldon Place in Bradford; an evening arranged for us by our friend Mr. J. Lowe. A fairly large audience turned up to enjoy a most interesting and colourful film-show about the Lake District in all the four seasons, then on a long journey to the Dolomites and into Switzerland, stopping at such famous places as Zermatt and the National Park and finally down to the far South into Italy, admiring the sights of Sorrento, Capri, Naples, Pompei and the smoking Vesuvius.

During a short interval when coffee and biscuits were served, our President welcomed everybody present and in particular our member Mr. Emilio Lanfranchi, for whom it was the first visit to the Swiss Club after his very serious accident. It was a great pleasure for us all to see how the "Joie de vivre" had returned to him.

The most important function in this series of activities was, of course, our Annual General Meeting which took place on the 3rd April at our new headquarters in Woodhouse Lane. Our Consul General, Mr. Rolf Born, was invited and along with him came his wife and Mr. Peter Senn, who is the Manchester Swiss Club's President. It was a very special occasion aimed to honour our President, Professor J. P. Inebnit, who wished to retire after many years of devoted service to the Club which he founded shortly after the war.

Mr. J. Lowe, the Acting Chairman, opened the proceedings with a few words of welcome, after which our two Hon. Secretaries (Membership and General) gave us a short report of the year's activities. They were followed by our Hon. Treasurer – our financial wizard – who gladdened our hearts by announcing an overall increase in the Club's funds; quite an achievement if we consider the ever-rising costs but somewhat static income.

Mr. R. Born was then invited to speak and present Professor Inebnit with a cheque for £30 from our members and friends. Our Consul General had been able to collect a lot of information about our President's life and work and conveyed to us some of its highlights. I feel that it would not be his wish that I enter into any particulars so more so that his work is well-known in many circles here and abroad and that his many activities – some of an eminent humanitarian character – certainly are still pursued by him with his well-known dynamism and faith and he does not intend to put any brake to it yet. Although residing in this Country for over 53 years, his moral and material attachments to Switzerland are unbroken and as strong as ever and this allowed him to bring to our Club time and time again this fresh air from our Home Country, keeping our contacts alive and active. In this he is a master.

Mr. R. Born proposed a toast to Mr. and Mrs. Inebnit with a "Vin d'honneur" of true Swiss origin brought by him from Manchester and a most beautiful bouquet of flowers in a basket to Mrs. Inebnit. Mrs. Leathly followed with a further bouquet, this time from the Yorkshire Swiss Club. Professor Inebnit was evidently very touched by these testimonials of affection and appreciation and later told the writer that . . . "his house, with the magnificent bouquets offered to his wife, was for nearly the whole month, reminiscent of a big floral exhibition".

Mr. Peter Senn, President of the Manchester Swiss Club, brought the greetings and good wishes from the members and friends beyond the Pennines; and finally Mr. Lanfranchi, for us all, thanked Professor Inebnit for all he has done – adding that there were too few people like him.

True to his spirit and personality and putting his feet quickly on firm ground, Professor Inebnit thanked every-

one for the cheque for £30 and told us to what use he shall put this money. It is the year of "tree planting" and he shall ask his friend, the Director of Leeds City Parks, to plant a number of white chestnut trees in the Golden Acre Park, the modest Kew Garden of that City. The ceremony of the planting next Autumn will be attended by the Members of the Yorkshire Swiss Club and their friends as a symbol of our appreciation for the many happy contacts we have made in this Country. From what money is left, he wishes to plant a couple of fruit trees in his own garden as an ever-present reminder of the presence of his many friends.

He ended his well-received words by proposing a toast to the Yorkshire Swiss Club, the Manchester Swiss Club, to Switzerland and the Swiss all over the world.

Finally Mr. Leathly suggested that we sing Mr. Inebnit's favourite song: "La haut sur la montagne . . ." This concluded a most impressive function, after which coffee and biscuits were served and soon, alas, it had to be again good-byes and au-revoirs.

For the year 1973 the following Committee was duly elected:—

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. Ermanno Berner | President |
| Mr. Arthur Fluck | Vice-President |
| Professor J. P. Inebnit | Immediate Past President |
| Mrs. Edith Lerch | Joint hon. Secretary (Membership) |
| Mrs. Ruth Leathly | Joint hon. Secretary (General) |
| Mr. Karl Kagi | Hon. Treasurer |
| Committee Members | Mr. J. M. Lowe and Miss J. S. Shaw |

E.B.

Forthcoming Events

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE:
Open Meeting at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, NW3, on Thursday, 21st June, at 7 p.m.
Talk in English by Dr. Carlo

ROTARY WATCHES
63/66 HATTON GARDEN
LONDON E.C.1.

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