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many decades, and whether the College win or lose – as in 1973 – the event is always a happy one.

Welcome as always were the Ministers of the Swiss Churches, this year the Rev. U. Stefan and his wife, and – a newcomer – the Rev. M. Languillat and his sister.

The Society was happy too, to have the presidents of at least two other Swiss societies present, Mrs. Mariann Meier of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and Mr. E. Tangemann of the City Swiss Club. Whilst it was a new experience for the latter, Mrs. Meier attended for the ninth time, also as a member in her own right and wife of the late Walter Meier, President and Hon. Member. Mr. Jaccard welcomed her as delegate on the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, representing G.B. South.

Pride of place in the President's welcoming address was rightly given to the various members of the Embassy, above all the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. A. Weitnauer. Mr. Jaccard expressed appreciation of the ready help always given by the Embassy, and he welcomed the Economic and Labour Counsellor Monsieur B. von Tschärner, present with his wife. He congratulated Mr. F. Adams on his promotion to Consul-General and mentioned the two Consuls Reutlinger and Keller, both present with their ladies.

Right at the beginning of his speech, the President had referred to the Ambassador's masterly lecture at the Nouvelle Société Helvétique the previous week. In his speech as Guest of Honour at the S.M.S., the Ambassador again showed his gift of oratory when he enumerated the important features of the S.M.S. College. He said that the Society could justly be proud of the School's wonderful achievements. He envied the young people who had a chance of spending some time during their formative years in London. What a wonderful experience! The Ambassador then praised the College as a fine Anglo-Swiss venture, the staff being British, the students Swiss. For

once an undertaking relating to the two countries, which had nothing to do with tourism, gnomes or mountains. It enabled the teaching staff to get a realistic picture of the young Swiss, and in return they were able to provide the pupils with a part of English life so often neglected in Switzerland – one hardly ever thought of Britain as a centre of learning.

Dr. Weitnauer also praised the part the S.M.S. College played in the general context of European co-operation. He stressed that that could only be done through human contacts. The organisations were there, but what was really essential was that young people could travel in order to see what other European countries could offer. All this the S.M.S. College provided in an exemplary way. It was with pride that the Ambassador gave the toast to the Swiss Mercantile and its College.

Dr. H. W. Egli, as President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K., answered for the guests. He had earlier been welcomed by Mr. Jaccard as the "elder statesman" of the Colony. Nobody agreed with him when he said that the Federation and therefore he himself had failed when the Swiss Cultural Forum came to nothing. The reasons for failure were manifold, but certainly not due to lack of effort on Dr. Egli's part. Nevertheless he announced his wish to retire as President. In his wise, ponderous way, Dr. Egli referred to a possible future task of the Federation and expressed pleasure that such an important Society as the S.M.S. should be part of it.

The applause accorded to the three speakers was well-deserved, and a happy contented party of men and women left the dining room only to return later to a few happy and animated hours of dancing. Arthur Salisbury and his band provided the attractive music as they had done for many years – another pleasant feature of the S.M.S. Annual Dinner and Dance. It came to an end at midnight with the traditional "Auld Lang Syne", and all present showed their appreciation of the successful evening when they gave a special hand to the Jaccards. Bless them, and the best of luck to the S.M.S.!

MM

#### Yorkshire Swiss Club

It was on Tuesday, 12th February, 1974 that the members and some friends of the Yorkshire Swiss Club assembled at the Leeds Council House and Social Centre in St. Mark's Avenue, Leeds, for the Annual General Meeting.

Our President opened the proceedings by welcoming everybody present and gave then a short review of the events which had taken place during the past 12 months, on the whole a very pleasant, active and interesting year, auguring well for the future of our Club. He thanked his Committee for all the work they had done, the main burden lying as usual on our "Twin-Secretariat" represented by Mrs. Edith Lerch and Mrs.

Ruth Leathly and, of course, also our Honorary Treasurer Mr. Karl Kaegi.

Before proceeding to the election of the new Committee, the President wished to inform everybody present that for family reasons he may be absent in future from England for periods of up to 5 months, mainly during the winter months, and that this should be taken into account when choosing new officers. He then asked Mr. J. M. Lowe to act again as our election chairman and under his tactful lead and to the satisfaction of everybody present, the whole past Committee, including perhaps a part-time President, emerged re-elected.

It was now for our Honorary Treasurer Mr. Karl Kaegi to inform us of the financial situation and how this could affect, to a certain degree, some of our future activities. Thanks to two donations received during the year, the Club's funds have further risen which is quite an achievement in times of severe inflation and he was duly thanked for his very efficient work. We are also very much indebted for the generous help forthcoming from Messrs. Sandoz Products Limited in Horsforth, to Mrs. Pauline Hill, Secretary and to Mr. Weber for the preparing and printing of our circulars which for any Club could mean a heavy expense.

The President informed the Club, that owing to the absence of our Consul-General Mr. R. Born, our presentation to him will be forwarded through the good services of our new Vice-Consul Mr. Wegmueller. He concluded by stating that our future activities may move in a very similar way as in the past, the success of any particular function or effort depending on the support of our members.

This year's "Landsgemeinde" will pose some special problems for the organisers, firstly for the changed status of the Town of Hebden Bridge, being now part of the new Calderdale Metropolitan District, based in Halifax, and last but not least the financial aspect of it.

A most interesting evening was concluded with the serving of the traditional coffee and biscuits, and our good resolve to see us in good number at our Dinner-Dance, on Saturday, 2nd March, 1974, at the Mansion Hotel in Roundhay Park, Leeds.

E.B.

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