

The editor's letter bag

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Annual Report of the above-mentioned Society has just been sent out to its members, and it gives us great pleasure to report the splendid record of the London Section of the Société Suisse des Commerçants.

We think it is hardly necessary to mention the popularity of this institution, as the increase of 200 members in one year speaks for itself. The members' list of the Society shows the following figures:—

14 Honorary Members,
77 Contributing Members,
426 Active Members.

Ever since the Swiss Mercantile Society was founded its chief aim has been to provide young Swiss residing in this country with an opportunity of attending classes for languages, book-keeping, and other commercial subjects at moderate fees, and during the 33 years of its existence an amount of approximately £5,000 has been spent on the Education Department alone, which receives an annual subscription from the Swiss Government.

During the last financial year over 200 students have followed the 36 courses held, and the expenses, including teachers' fees, rent, etc., amount to £298 5s. 8d., of which the pupils subscribed £82 19s. 6d.

The Society is greatly handicapped through not being able to find suitable premises in which to hold the different classes, and with the rapid extension of the Society this deficiency becomes a matter of serious concern for the Committee. We understand that an amount of £100 has been placed on a separate account in order to assist the Education Department in their endeavours to secure suitable accommodation.

In spite of the heavy expenses the financial position seems to be a very satisfactory one. The balance brought forward on the new account amounts to £329 1s. 11d. The annual subscriptions and donations represent an item of £161 10s. 6d., and it is hoped that this amount will be surpassed this year in spite of the general trade depression. A sure proof that the work of the Society is appreciated generally in the Colony is shown by the fact that subscriptions and donations from contributing members have increased from £30 in 1915 to £125 in 1916, and £150 in 1917 up to £161 last year.

The library consists of 500 volumes, including Swiss, English, French, and German literature, and a large number of business handbooks. We are glad to report that 140 volumes have been in circulation, a sign that this department is appreciated by the members.

During the last few months several dances at the Midland Grand Hotel have been held, with an average attendance of 180 members and friends; the adequate arrangements made by the Entertainment Committee under the very able leadership of Mr. J. Pfaendler have largely contributed to the success of these gatherings.

The meetings held at the Union Helvetia, under the presidency of Mr. E. Werner, have not been attended as well as one would wish, which is greatly to be regretted in view of the very interesting agenda which always comes up for discussion. A special effort has been made recently to bring increased numbers to these meetings, and we are glad to be able to state that these efforts have proved satisfactory.

At the Society's last Monthly Meeting, which took place on Wednesday, January 11th, we had the honour of the attendance of H. Excel. M. C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, as well as M. H. Martin, Counsellor of Legation

Prof. RODOLPHE GAILLARD

has returned from Milan and will recommence his tuition on January 12th, at his temporary Studios,

35, Artesian Road, Bayswater, W. 2.

Voice production, modern & classic school, opera, &c.; pupils prepared for concert platform. Voice trial by appointment.

(both gentlemen being Honorary Members of our Society); also a fair number of Contributing Members were present.

The newly founded Football Section has a membership of 22, and several victories stand to their credit. We shall deal with this new venture in a special article.

We have tried to give the readers of the "S.O." a short resumé of one of the most active Swiss Societies in London, an institution which can boast of having done a good deal for our compatriots in this country, and great credit is due to the way in which the president, Mr. Werner, and his Committee are fulfilling their heavy task. We sincerely hope that the New Year will be as prosperous as the old, and that the Swiss Mercantile Society may find the generous support which they fully deserve. A. S.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BAG.

H. V.—Thanks for subscription, which, however, was not due until issue No. 35.

We are afraid that the number of capitalists and financiers amongst our subscribers is rather small, so that your suggestion of printing at regular intervals the prices of the Geneva, Zurich and Basle stock exchanges would appeal to a very limited circle only. We shall be delighted to add to the short list which we publish weekly if you will indicate to us the names of the stocks which interest you particularly.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. Georges Dimier will be leaving London for Switzerland on Sunday next. We wish him joy and exhilaration in his customary participation in the winter sports.

We learn that Mr. Werner Geilinger (eldest son of Mr. J. Geilinger), C.S. Officer of Excise, unfortunately met with a very serious accident during the execution of his duties at a distillery in Deptford. He was found unconscious and bleeding from wounds in the head, and had to be removed to the Greenwich Infirmary. Owing to his delirious condition it has not yet been possible to ascertain the causes of the accident.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Jan. 14th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's.

Friday, Jan. 20th at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture by Dr. Paul Lang on "Modern Tendencies in Swiss Education and Instruction" at Steinway Hall.

THE SWISS SPORTS Meeting has now been definitely fixed and will take place at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds on the last Saturday in May, i.e., 27th May, 1922.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell Street, W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 15 Janv. à 11h.—Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
à 6.30.—Pfarrer Wildbolz.

BAPTEMES.

Yolande Alice DE CINTRA, née le 3 Sept. 1921, fille de Raoul et Augusta née Dimier, de Genève—le 7 Janv. 1922.

René Eric DISERENS, né le 11 Juill. 1920, fils d'Alexis et Ethel Margaret née Caton, de Lutry—le 8 Janv. 1922.