

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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### CITY SWISS CLUB. (Annual General Meeting).

The Annual General Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Saturday, April 11th, at Brown's Hotel, in the presence of sixty-two members.

The principal business transacted was the election of the Committee for a further term of office.

Mr. Boehringer, a former President and a member of the City Swiss Club since 1905, was unanimously elected to preside over the elections. In taking over the Chair *pro tem.*, he expressed the thanks of the members of the Club to the outgoing President and his colleagues for the services rendered during their year of office.

After a rather protracted discussion, the following members were elected for the year 1942-1943:—

*President:* Louis Chapuis.  
*Vice-President:* A. Bon.  
*Treasurer:* R. de Cintra.  
*Assistant Treasurer:* W. Deutsch.  
*Secretary:* H. Binggely.  
*Assistant Secretary:* A. Stauffer.  
*Librarian:* P. A. Moehr.

#### CLUB HOUSE COMMITTEE.

*Members:* W. E. Gattiker, A. C. Baume,  
F. Zogg (Treasurer).

#### AUDITORS.

H. Pürter, G. Jenne.

The accounts were passed, and the financial position of the Club was declared as satisfactory.

On resuming the Chair, M. Louis Chapuis thanked Mr. Boehringer for having so efficiently presided over the elections, he paid a warm and sincere tribute to Mr. G. Marchand, who is leaving the Committee after a great number of years, during which he had rendered great services to the Club.

The General Meeting was followed by the usual monthly Meeting. Seven new members were elected, two members were taken off the members list, and one resignation was accepted.

A letter forwarded by the Swiss Minister and signed by Federal Councillor Celio was read, informing the Swiss living abroad that a Committee has been appointed, to collect Funds for the creation of a "Schweizerische Stiftung Giuseppa Motta" and for the erection of a monument in the Federal capital to the memory of this eminent Swiss statesman.

The Meeting decided to make a donation of £5 5s. on behalf of the City Swiss Club.

Close of the Meeting 4.30 p.m.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The April Monthly Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society was held on Wednesday, 8th April. As the days are getting longer, the previous Meeting decided to revert to the established custom of former years to have the Monthly Meetings again on the second Wednesday in each month.

Having taken leave of 34 Fitzroy Square at the March Meeting, the Members expressed their entire satisfaction with the new Members-room now situated on the second floor of No. 35. The set out of the room and the well-known pictures on the walls gave every-

one the feeling as if no change had taken place and it was indeed not surprising to find that at nine o'clock still four tables were busy at cards.

The next Monthly Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13th, when Mr. G. Keller, President of the Foreign Press Association has kindly consented to address the Meeting. Mr. Keller is well known to the Swiss Colony and his address "The Foreign Press in war-time England" should be of great interest. The Committee hopes that many members will take the opportunity of bringing along their friends and at the same time inspect the new arrangements made for their comfort.

Further details of next Monthly Meeting will be sent in the usual way.

J. J. S.

### CHAPLAIN FOR SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON.

For years past the desirability of having a chaplain for the Catholics in the Swiss Colony has been apparent and of later years has been deemed almost a necessity.

The colony was indeed fortunate to be able to call on the Rev. Father A. Lanfranchi (a native of Poschiavo, priest of the diocese of Chur, speaking our three national languages; — since 1936 by special request of H. E. the Cardinal attached to the Cathedral clergy where he was specially to look after the spiritual welfare of Catholics from abroad) for the most urgent services but his duties at the Cathedral were such that little time could be spared for apostolic work in the Swiss Colony.

Mr. A. Bon as President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, supported by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur W. Thurnheer, recently sent a petition to H. E. Cardinal Hinsley to release Father Lanfranchi for duties such as visits to aged, infirm, sick and poor and apostolic work amongst the Swiss Catholics in general, a request which the Cardinal immediately granted.

As the Cathedral duties could not be combined with those of Chaplain to the Swiss Colony, Father Lanfranchi will shortly be transferred to a suitable London parish where he will be Curate and after attending to parish duties will be free to devote his time to the needs of his compatriots. Further details will be given as soon as further arrangements have been made.

The Swiss Catholics will, as up to now, and in accordance with the universal practice, worship at their own parish church but it is hoped that from time to time, such as 1st of August, "Betttag," etc., special Swiss services will be arranged at a centrally situated church with Father Lanfranchi the celebrant and also to arrange certain social gatherings for young and old Catholics alike.

A general meeting of Catholics in the Colony will shortly be called and an appeal be made for moral and financial support for the cause; a provisional committee has been formed to assist the Chaplain in his task.

The Catholic Chaplain and the Committee formed will work in close collaboration with the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Eglise Suisse and the Deutsch-Schweizerkirche in the true Swiss spirit of tolerance and co-operation for the spiritual and moral welfare of the Colony.

J. J. BOOS.