

Swiss Benevolent Society

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Spring is the time of the year customarily chosen by our Swiss societies for holding their Annual General Meetings and the Swiss Benevolent Society is no exception. Its members gathered on Monday, 6th April, to receive the usual Annual Reports and to elect the Executive Committee for another period of twelve months.

The occasion was, however, a particularly happy one and this for two reasons. Firstly, those present were able to welcome again in the chair their esteemed president, Mr. F. G. Sommer, who had for some time been compelled for health reasons to curtail his activities. Secondly, the Meeting was graced by the presence of Monsieur Beat de Fischer, thus giving everyone present the opportunity of making the acquaintance of our new Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. To the words of welcome from the president, Monsieur de Fischer replied by telling the Meeting that our Swiss Authorities greatly value the work of relief carried out by the Society and he gave his assurance that both he and the London Embassy would continue to assist the Society in its activities. The Meeting heard with pleasure that Monsieur de Fischer had kindly accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Society and this was confirmed by acclamation.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. A. Rothlisberger, then presented the Society's Accounts for 1963. These revealed a deficit for the year of £4,440 due to increased grants of relief paid both to pensioners and casual callers and to exceptional maintenance and renovation work at the Society's premises at 9/11 Belsize Grove (Swiss Hostel for Girls). This adverse trend in the Society's finances has unfortunately been a feature of the last few years and the Hon. Treasurer made an urgent appeal for a greater effort on the part of the Society's supporters. It is felt that too many of our compatriots in London do not as yet share in this great work of relief which the Society carries out in the name of the Swiss Colony as a whole.

The remainder of the Meeting was occupied by the re-election of the existing Executive Committee and the addition of two new names to the already long list of compatriots in receipt of regular weekly grants.

M.A.R.

PERSONAL

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Jean Scheuermeier. An obituary notice will appear in the next issue.

PLEASE NOTE

We have been asked by the Swiss Rifle Association to inform readers of a change in date of the Annual General Meeting. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, this will not now take place on 22nd May, but one week earlier, i.e. Friday, 15th May. Time and place will be the same. (See Forthcoming Events.)

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The report of the A.G.M. of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the City Swiss Club will appear in the next issue.

FRAUENVEREIN (WOMEN'S CIRCLE)

Once again we had our General Meeting in form of a casual Luncheon at the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Hampstead. The excellent meal ended with the traditional "Schwarzwäldertorte", but what we enjoyed even more than the good food was the friendly chat, and much laughter was heard in the pleasant dining room.

Eighteen ladies attended the meeting, and we had the honour of having Madame von Fischer, our new Ambassador's wife, with us. I am sure she won all our sympathy with her natural charm. We also had two of our former Presidents with us, Mrs. W. B. Sigerist and Mrs. F. G. Sommer.

Mrs. R. Senn, our President, gave us a report on the activities of the past year. She encouraged us to do our utmost in the future in order not to disappoint our compatriots in need. I am sure the few excerpts read from letters of thanks sent to the Swiss Benevolent Society after Christmas, were so touching that they spurred us all on to do good work in the "Frauenverein".

We would welcome new members of any age, and there is no need to be an expert at knitting or sewing — every little helps. We meet every first Tuesday of the month (except August) at the Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2. (Underground Stations Tottenham Court Road, Holborn or Covent Garden). We start at about 1.30. Cakes and a good cup of tea are provided later in the afternoon by two of the ladies. This is done in rotation. We sew and knit garments which are put into the Christmas parcels of the Swiss Benevolent Society. There is no membership fee, but we do put something in a money box, and that pays for wool and material used.

For all of us it is a pleasant thing to be in touch with our compatriots and making new friends. It can be a highlight in a dull winter, and it breaks the monotony of housework.

May we also remind you that we are working for the Bazaar of the Swiss Church, which will be held on 31st October 1964. We need lots of helping hands.

Please join us as soon as possible — you will never regret it.

E. Weber.

SWISS ARTIST'S SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION

Raoh Schorr, the Swiss sculptor and painter brought a breath of spring to the Cooling Galleries in Bond Street with his Exhibition of Flower Paintings and Bronzes (6th to 18th April). In his drawings you felt the eye of a sculptor. The colours were so luminous, and with little imagination you could almost scent their fragrance. The orchids had the waxy texture, the pansies and the red roses the velvety touch, whilst the glossy ivy leaves reminded you of a Duerrer.

His Bronzes were mostly of young animals and had great charm and movement. The artist caught each individual animal in its most characteristic pose. His sculptures are already represented in many well-known collections.

C.