

Nouvelle société helvétique

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

Recent Activities

The Swiss Hostel for Girls was the venue of yet another film show on 6th October, when the audience was entertained by three films on Swiss architecture sent by the "Pro Helvetia" Foundation. Three more films on Switzerland were shown by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

On 20th October, Desmond and Marjorie Parish gave a slide lecture entitled "From Zermatt to the Glaciers", showing superb wild alpine flora and scenery pictures. The lecturers are both enthusiastic mountaineers and botanists and co-authors of the lovely book "Swiss Mountain Magic" which is now available in the book trade at 50/-. Copies may also be obtained from the U.K. distributors, Bamerlea Books Ltd., Annandale, North End Road, London N.W.11 (telephone 01-458 4341). A German edition is available with the title "Magisches Bergland".

J.S.

CITY SWISS CLUB

The monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, 18th October at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane.

It was a great pleasure to see the numerous response to the invitation to this October meeting, and it is certain that one of the main reasons for this was the interesting subject of our guest speaker. Monsieur M. G. Franel, Legal Attaché to the Swiss Embassy in London, conveyed to us the meaning of the new Article 45 *bis*, which has just recently been passed in Switzerland by the electorate with a decisive "Yes" and by all the Cantons.

He spoke warmly of this historic date which is bound to further the relations between the mother country and the fifth Switzerland.

Mr. Edgar Bonvin, the President of the Club, thanked Monsieur Franel for his address and also welcomed H.E. the Swiss Ambassador Monsieur de Fischer who was present on this occasion.

The meal had its customary refinements, and we were also reminded that the Annual Ball of the Swiss Club would be held shortly at the Dorchester Hotel. It is thanks to Mr. G. Ronus's efforts that under his guidance we shall enjoy this wonderful event once again. The members of the club all agreed that they would give it their full-hearted support. We hope to be represented in large numbers on Friday, 18th November.

R.G.

(Press Reporter, City Swiss Club)

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We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners: Mrs. J. Caulfield, Comtesse Ch. de Diesbach, Mrs. A. T. Ehrsam, Mrs. G. Ellison, Mrs. J. Jenne (Andeer/Grisons), Miss M. C. Riley, Mrs. L. H. Turner, Monsieur le Consul A. Spargnapani (Casablanca) and Messrs. E. Eha, H. O. Ernst, J.-C. Eyer, V. Gay, G. Gysi, L. Jaeggi, J. Sieber, F. G. Sommer, F. B. Tschudy, E. Weiss. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S NEW CHAIRMAN



Dr. H. B. Knuchel

As was reported in our last issue, the Swiss Economic Council has elected Dr. Hans Benedikt Knuchel as the new Chairman in succession to Mr. J. P. Christen.

Dr. Knuchel was born in Basle on 28th November 1922, citizen of Basle and Baetterkinden (Berne). His father was Editor of the "Basler Nachrichten", and Dr. Knuchel had his schooling at Binningen (Baselland) and at the *Humanistisches Gymnasium* in Basle. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Basle where he graduated in 1946. He then went to Edinburgh for some post-graduate studies in economics and subsequently held various posts in Germany, France and U.S.A. In 1951, he joined the chemical firm of J. R. Geigy, S.A., in Basle and was transferred to Geigy in Manchester two years later, first as Assistant Company Secretary of Geigy (Holdings) Ltd., and in 1959 as Secretary and Director of various subsidiary firms. In 1962, he became a Director of Geigy (Holdings) Ltd., and since July 1965, he has been Deputy Managing Director of Geigy (U.K.) Ltd.

Dr. Knuchel takes a keen interest in the Swiss Colony in Manchester, and he was President of the Manchester Club from 1959 to 1961. In 1964, he was elected delegate to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, representing Great Britain North.

In 1952, Dr. Knuchel married Miss Denise Schindler from Neuchâtel, and they have two children, François born in 1953 and Catherine born in 1956. The Knuchels live in a lovely house at Bowden in Cheshire.

Dr. Knuchel has been a member of the Swiss Economic Council since 1959 and on its Committee since 1961. He is eminently qualified for the office of Chair-