

# The Swiss hostel is ten years old

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Information and advice was given to students and other young compatriots seeking commercial employment in this country. This service was again provided in accordance with arrangements made with the Swiss commercial Employment Service (S.K.S.A.) and resulted in 70 applicants being able to obtain clerical employment for which the necessary Ministry of Labour Permits had been granted. The figures for the preceding three years 1964-1966 were respectively 40, 43 and 69.

#### Swiss House

Mr. Jaccard then briefly reported on the activities of the House Committee, which had been chiefly confined to repairs and renewals. With the accommodation at Swiss House taxed to capacity during the whole of the past year, the wear and tear had accordingly been greater.

The vexing problem of unsatisfactory blackboards had at last been solved when a new type of revolving surface chalkboards was installed in all the classrooms last year. These had proved to be very suitable.

Apart from the Society's own meetings and educational activities, Swiss House had continued to provide accommodation in the evenings to various other Swiss societies for their meetings and again served as a centre for the external examinations of Cambridge University.

In conclusion, Mr. Jaccard gratefully acknowledged the annual subsidy received from B.I.G.A. in Berne, whose financial support ensured the continued existence of the College. He also expressed appreciation of the assistance and encouragement received from the Central Secretariat in Zurich, whose efforts had contributed a great deal towards the excellent attendance at the College. He further thanked the donors and subscribing members for their continued support of the Society's endeavours.

#### Elections

Under the temporary chairmanship of Mr. M. Rothlisberger, the meeting proceeded with the elections. He thanked the President, as well as the members of the Council and the Committees for their devoted services and congratulated them on a most successful year of office. He proposed the re-election of Mr. Jaccard as President and Chairman of the Council, which was carried with acclamation.

After Messrs. J. Frei and J. Weibel had been nominated members of the General Purposes & House Committee and Mr. L. A. Simon a member of the Education Committee, and there being no further nominations, the Council and the Committees for the financial year 1967 were declared duly elected and constituted as follows:

**Council:** Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Trustees: Messrs. J. J. Boos, H. Knoll, L. W. Krucker, F. G. Sommer; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, J. F. Carlen, R. Chappuis, O. Grob, E. M. Huber, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn, F. Streit.

**General Purposes and House Committee:** Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. F. Carlen; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. E. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Senn; Members: Mrs. M. Meier and Messrs. H. Andrea, J. Frei, W. Schedler, J. Weibel, E. Zwicky.

**Education Committee:** Chairman: Mr. J. F. Carlen; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, F. O. Häusermann, G. Hediger, O. Luterbacher, M. Schneebeli and L. A. Simon.

Press Reporter: Mr. W. Burren.

Delegate to the N.S.H.: Mrs. M. Meier.

W.B.

#### THE SWISS HOSTEL IS TEN YEARS OLD

The Council of Management of the Swiss Hostel for Girls held a special dinner at Belsize Grove on 27th January to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the institution which, under the Wardenship of Miss Preiswerk and more recently of Miss Siegrist, and with the help of the Swiss Benevolent Society who own the premises, has so far given shelter to over 12,000 Swiss girls studying or working in and around London.

Mrs. M. Daeniker, Honorary President of the Swiss Hostel, who had come especially to London for the ceremony, recalled for the benefit of the newest members of the Council some of the thoughts expressed on Inauguration day by the Swiss Minister, as he then was, Mr. Armin Daeniker:

*"In this hour of dedication, let us therefore rejoice in the birth of this our youngest member of our Colony. Before it came into the world it caused considerable trouble to its sponsors, but it is blessed with the highest patronage, and great hopes have been put on it. We all want to see this infant live up to our expectations; but — let us not forget it — it needs more than the good wishes of us all. In order to grow, put on strength and to stand on its own legs, it needs the willing support of our Swiss community here as well as of the sponsors at home. Thus only it will justify our hope that it should contribute to the good reputation of our country, and be a shining token of the goodwill and spirit of social service which has always distinguished the Swiss Colony in Great Britain."*

These words are as significant to-day as they were in 1957. The infant has grown and will soon be a teenager, bringing new problems to those responsible for its well-being and behaviour. May it be blessed and, with the support of the Colony, prosper for many years to come.

Congratulatory telegrams were received from Mr. Max Petitpierre who as Swiss Foreign Minister headed the first list of sponsors, from Dr. Amstad, Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Berne and from Miss Prieswerk who taken by new voluntary duties had been unable to accept the Council's invitation.

The gathering was the occasion for the Council of Management to take official leave with grateful thanks of Mr. J. P. Christen who gave eight years of devoted service to the Hostel, first as Treasurer, then also as Chairman of the Company.

Looking back on these first ten years of the Hostel our grateful thoughts go to all those who have helped us with the launching and through the difficult early period: Among them the ladies of the House Committee as well as two former members of the Council of Management, the late Mr. Walter Meier and Mr. F. G. Sommer who both had the interest of the Hostel especially at heart.

F.A.

#### "SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLISHING DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 24th March. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Tuesday 14th March. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The next issue but one will be published on Friday, 14th April. For that number we shall require articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 4th April.