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# HELVETIA

Monthly Publication  
of the Swiss Benevolent Society  
in New Zealand.

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AUCKLAND, 1st. JULY, 1937 :

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The welfare of our Society is a problem which always gives us much thought. It is an easy thing to step into another man's shoes, pick up his books and pen, and continue with the good work. But the formation of a new Society like ours entails not only a good bit of work, but offers quite a number of problems to be solved. As you know, our Society embraces at the present time the whole of New Zealand. To put the management of the Society's affairs on a proper working basis it is desirable that the Committee should be composed of members from various districts where a considerable number of countrymen are found. At the present time, Messrs. E. Merz, President, W. Ungemuth, Secretary, G. Kerler, Executive member, are all domiciled in the city of Auckland, while Mr. John Steiner, Eastport Rd., Waihou, is the only Executive member who represents Swiss outside of Auckland. To remedy this defect, we wish to awaken more interest amongst our members. An energetic committee-member is urgently needed in the Taranaki district, which so far has been without proper representatives. It is our desire that a new committee be elected and that nominations for membership should rest with our members. We propose that Auckland, Waikato (including King Country), Whakatane (including Opotiki and Rotorua), Taranaki, Wellington (including Palmerston North, Napier and South Island) should each be represented by one Executive member. We request you to fill in the "Voting List" on the 4th. page of this periodical, cut off the portion, and forward it to the Secretary within a week's time.

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## SWISS PERSONALITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Amongst the many Swiss who have, thanks to their untiring energy, attained high honours in their respective countries of adoption, we find Dr. Emil Hassler of San Bernardino, Paraguay. For about 52 years he has lived in South America, most of that time residing in Paraguay. There he has found fame not only as a Physician, but also as a Botanist and Explorer. For over 40 years he explored Bolivia as far as to the Amazon River. He is a great authority on South American flora and many plants bear his name. In San Bernardino where he has been residing for many years he founded a school which bears the proud name of "Pestalozzi School". Dr. Hassler is an Hon. Doctor of the Assuncion University as well as an Hon. Colonel of Paraguay, and Hon. Member of various Societies of South America and Switzerland.