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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in New Zealand

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WELLINGTON.
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THE FUTURE OF THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
IN NEW ZEALAND.

It has been the intention of the Editors to publish on the front page, as usual, an editorial article, but in the eleventh hour requests for publishing correspondence of members have reached Wellington, which at this moment, deserve first consideration. Ahead of the publishing of this interesting correspondence, we wish to express our lively satisfaction for the increasing interest taken by our fellow-countrymen in New Zealand in the development of the activities of the Swiss Benevolent Society. The suggestions made in the correspondence from members of our Society in Auckland and the Thames Valley fully coincide with the thoughts which have been uttered also by members of the newly elected Central Committee at Wellington. The active policy followed by the local Swiss group in Auckland in going ahead and setting up special local committees for different purposes no doubt is the right way to go about developing the activities of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand. The initiative for more activities of the Society must necessarily come from the local centres of New Zealand, where smaller or larger Swiss groups exist. It is not possible for the Central Committee at Wellington to create local interest for the Swiss Benevolent Society except by means of the monthly Bulletin and by correspondence with individual members or local groups. We, at Wellington, wholeheartedly recommend therefore to all members of the Swiss Benevolent Society in different parts of New Zealand to follow the example and suggestions given us by fellow-countrymen of ours in Auckland and the Waikato. They can rest assured that the Central Committee at Wellington greatly appreciate any initiative for the setting up of local committees in pursuance of the aims and purposes of the Swiss Benevolent Society. It is, however, important that all local groups keep in contact with the Central Committee at Wellington for the necessary co-ordination of all efforts and for the purpose of keeping all activities within the limits of statutes and by-laws of the central organisation, the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand.

DR. WALTER SCHMID.

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AUCKLAND LOCAL NEWS.

A representative gathering of some 25 Auckland Members was held on November 6th, to nominate executive district members and to elect a Social Committee, as well as "Hospital Stewards" and Scrutineers. The discussions were fruitful in many aspects, and will doubtless result in closer co-operation between our compatriots. New measures were taken, leading to more lively interest in matters concerning our Swiss Community, and, we hope, will also induce compatriots in other centres such as Taranaki, Wellington, Waikato, etc., to follow suit.

1. Executive District Members: Instead of having one executive as in the past, it is contended that in future all districts should be represented by two or three (or more) executive members on behalf of the Society. It seems obvious, that, say three active delegates can do more useful work for the Society than only one, particularly as far as the canvassing for new members is concerned. Our Funds are now gradually increasing, giving the administration more responsibility, which obviously is better shared by many than by only a few. Or, citing a specific example: If one day a member in any given district in New Zealand requires urgent and genuine help through our Society, it would be a distinct fallacy if the recommendation to the Central Committee could be made by one district executive only, instead of by three.

Auckland has therefore taken the lead to nominate two Executive Members, namely: Mr. M. Roth and Mr. T. Peyer as Deputy Member. Of course we first expect the Central Committee to give sanction to such a rule, which is necessarily to be newly incorporated in the Society's statutes.

2. Hospital Stewards: Experience has taught us in the past, that occasionally some compatriots are confined to Hospital and naturally would always welcome Swiss visitors. For this purpose, the meeting proposed to elect "Stewards", whose duty would be to visit patients in the name of the Society, no matter whether the patient is personally known to the steward or not. The steward would have the responsibility to purchase small gifts, such as flowers, fruit, etc., to be payable by the Society's funds. This is not only a charitable and benevolent action, but also is very useful propaganda for the Association. This is another step towards cementing closer relations between our compatriots, at very little expense to the Society. The following members have been elected in Auckland to act as stewards, pending approval of the scheme by Central Committee in Wellington: Mr. and Mrs. Peyer, Mr. and Mrs. Mossberger, and Mrs. Suter.
3. Another useful and important function for members would be the following arrangement: That addresses of 2 - 4 members in larger centres be submitted to the "Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft" in Berne, with the object that intending immigrants to New Zealand be able to contact countrymen and women immediately on arrival here. This scheme would, of course, be more useful after the war, when it is likely that many young Swiss would emigrate overseas. We could then help these "strangers" in many ways; doubtless leading to increased membership later.
4. Social Committee: In our August issue of the "Helvetia", we published a decision made by Auckland members to nominate a small Social Committee, who would arrange and organise future functions. At the meeting held on November 6th, a committee has now been definitely elected, and incidentally it was found advantageous to enlarge the size of the said committee. The following members are appointed:

Mr. and Mrs. Peyer; Mr. and Mrs. Steyer; Mrs. Brauchli,
Mrs. Suter, Mr. Merz and Mr. Ding.

Our past Secretary, Mr. Ungemuth, was unanimously elected
Honorary Member to the Social Committee.

5. Scrutineers: To put all future meetings, elections, etc. on a proper footing, it was decided to elect two scrutineers, namely: Mr. Steyer and Mr. Bonney.

We are glad indeed to report that the Auckland section of our Society is taking such active and progressive steps, which we feel certain will be generally beneficial for the welfare of our Society.
