

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 11 (1945-1946)  
**Heft:** 11  
  
**Register:** New member

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 25.01.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

contingent extended to three and even four (Messrs. Ador, Decoppet, Calonder and Motta). Since 1944 the political minority too, i.e. the Labour party, has its own representative in the federal executive.

How neatly the sentiment of respect for the other is developed becomes evident in the linguistic sphere. Every letter addressed to the federal administration in French is answered in French, those written in German receive a reply in this idiom. Travelling by train, say, from Zurich to Geneva, up to the limit line of the two languages - somewhere between Berne and Fribourg, - tickets are called for in German and in French, "Alle Billette gefälligst" first and then "Tous les billets s'il vous plaît" afterwards; a regulation that is generally accepted as a matter of course.

Not every country has been equally fortunate in settling its language problems. Whereas the Czechs were suppressed while part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, they in turn prescribed the use of German after Czechoslovakia had become a country of her own. At a bathing establishment in Prague, the Czechoslovakian capital with a German-speaking minority, a notice could be seen which made German-speaking an offence. Also, a German-speaking judge in the Sudets had to write to a German-speaking colleague in Czech, this being the official language.

Time and again a spirit of mutual understanding and tolerance manifests itself among the political parties despite the vehemence of their discussions. Though in important political debates, as is only natural, opinions may clash, quiet committee work behind closed doors will always bring these politicians together again. They may be seen, afterwards, socialists, liberals and conservatives all together, enjoying a drink at the "Bear" (a pub in the neighbourhood of the parliament building). This helps them, on meeting again underneath the federal cupola in Berne, to recognize in their opponents not merely an agent of an irritating adverse ideology, but the man and citizen who also has a respectable point of view; then they are less apt to talk past one another. "Let's talk it out" has become the democratic formula.

Sometimes it is a patriotic society, e.g. the "New Helvetic Society" or, more recently, the "Gotthard Federation", that unites the antagonists on occasions of political dissent, and prepares the ground for a free discussion of pros and cons, so that in the end the citizen may shape his own ideas.

"Our whole nature" a psychiatrist, trying to get to the bottom of the Swiss character, recently wrote, "is pervaded by a strain of mutual understanding and, at the same time, by an equally natural ability to retain our peculiarity". All these traits, based upon our character, our tradition or our constitution and statute, which manifest themselves in everyday life, make the Swiss pith, that unites us in spite of all variety. To paraphrase this in a few words would be difficult. Yet it is a reality, as inconspicuous and yet as true as the enlivening glorious feeling of liberty that moves the soul of every one on our mountains, and as real as the fresh air sweeping over them, a gift from heaven.

#### PROPOSED "ROLL OF HONOUR".

Further to our publication in the August issue, we again appeal to all those compatriots whose sons, or themselves, served overseas to forward names and the respective units. The Secretary received only a small proportion of these names, but we know there are quite a considerable number of others who should submit their names. The following have communicated with us so far: J.D. Beusher, Sergeant Air-gunner; A. Respinger, 34th Anti Tank Reg. & British Intelligence; E.A. Schicker; Aleis Schicker; Edwin F. Ungemuth, Sub-Lieut., H.M.N.Z.S. "Kiwi" & 'Scarpa'; Walter J. Ungemuth, Signalman, 2nd Div., N.Z.E.F., 6th Inf. Brigade; Werner G. Ungemuth, Signalman, 2nd Div., N.Z.E.F. 20th Arm. Regt.

We wish to point out that those parents or relations, whose sons paid the supreme sacrifice, are asked in particular to forward the respective names.

#### NEW MEMBER.

We have pleasure to announce the enrolment of Mr. Emil Schicker, 22 Vogel Street, Hawera.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

Mr. L. Leuthard, New Plymouth: Visit his "Hygienic Dining Rooms".

Mr. L. Zurcher, 212 Pattison Road, Hastings: 1945 Apple Cider, 5/- per gallon, in two gallon lots, plus freight; samples free of charge, in ordering state dry or sweet. Jars to lend. "Moscht Miends aim ghà."

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary, Mr. E. Merz, P.O. Box 85, AUCKLAND.