

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 27 (1964)
Heft: [4]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

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Democracy in a Small Way

The decision which we made some years ago to change the venue of the annual general meeting of the Swiss Society so that each Club has got the chance to hold it once every five years has no doubt proved to be a step in the right direction. It is in accord with our inherited democratic feelings which we so highly cherish, whether we are away from our Homeland, often called the cradle of democracy, for just a few weeks or a few decades.

For a member to have the opportunity to attend the meeting sometimes gives him a sense that he belongs to an organisation where every member plays a vital part in helping to carry the burden of responsibility to look after any unfortunate compatriot should the need arise.

Democracy is not only for us to enjoy, it is also a responsibility.

"Care for my wife and my children" were Arnold von Winkelried's last words before he broke the enemy's line with his body at the battle by Sempach.

I also read and admire a more recent definition of Democracy: "Parliamentary institutions, with their free speech and respect for the rights of minorities, and the inspiration of a broad tolerance in thought and its expression—all this we conceive to be a precious part of our way of life and outlook and I ask you now to cherish them and to practice them, too."—Elizabeth II.

W.R.