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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

on Wednesday, December 19th, 1923,

1. The Treasurer had neither admissions nor resignations to report, and the membership is, as in the previous month, 357.

As regards the accounts, the Treasurer expects that, after payment of all outstanding accounts to the end of the year, he will be able to carry forward something like £200 into the new year.

2. The President read a few communications: (a) Dr. A. Kraftt has sent a letter of farewell to the Groups, in which he declares that he will follow the development of the Auslandschweizer movement with great interest and also give all the help he can in the future. In accordance with these feelings Dr. Kraftt has kindly consented to address the Group on January 18th, at 28, Red Lion Square, on "La quatrième Suisse d'aujourd'hui et de demain." (b) The Manchester Group has been wound up and has forwarded its balance to the Auslandschweizer secretariat. (c) On February 15th, at 8.30, we shall have a lecture in conjunction with the Swiss Mercantile Society, at the Union Helvetia, on "Sunshine and Health." The lecturer is the famous specialist, Dr. Saleeby. The Annual Meeting will take place at the Foyer Suisse on Friday, February 29th. In May the members will be invited to a lecture by Mr. Gooch on the Political Situation, arranged by the Swiss Institute. (d) Dr. Lang has resigned his post as Secretary and will leave London on the 1st of March. (e) The following Resolution was adopted unanimously. It will be forwarded through the offices of the Auslandschweizer Secretariat to the Federal Council:—"The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, grieved by the painful impression which the delay, in the ratification of the Opium Convention by Switzerland has caused in the United Kingdom, and very much hurt by the seemingly justified criticisms which an influential section of British public opinion is addressing to our country in this connection, and considering that the moral prestige which Switzerland has hitherto enjoyed abroad was and will be her most efficient ally in international conflicts, calls upon the Federal Council to use all its influence with a view to bring about, at the earliest possible moment, the ratification of a convention which is of the highest importance to humanity."

3. After some discussion it was decided that all the meetings of the Council should take place in future at the Secretariat, 28, Red Lion Square. Thanks were expressed to the Swiss Club, which hitherto has so kindly put a room at our disposal.

4. The Secretary made a few communications concerning his activity: (a) An article on the Zones Question for a leading English Review is being prepared and also a survey of Switzerland in 1923 for the political handbook, the "Annual Register." (b) He repeated his lecture on the "Schweizerische Tenselspiele," which he gave to the Group on Dec. 14th, on the following day to the German-Swiss Y.M.C.A. (c) Attention was drawn to different articles which have appeared in connection with the Swiss Chamber Music Concert in *The Swiss Observer*, the *Musical Herald* and the *Morning Post*. (d) As from January 1st onwards the *Echo Suisse* will also contain the Consular Bulletin. The last number of the *Echo Suisse* contained a few notes on the London Group. (e) The new President of the Auslandschweizer Commission in 1924 will be Mr. R. Hofmann, who will succeed Mr. Schurch. (f) A special credit for the Auslandschweizer Secretariat, which National Councillor Dolfus had demanded at the sitting of the National Council, was unanimously voted.

Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Another Red-Letter Day for the Swiss Mercantile Society, and one that will be long remembered, was last Saturday, the 5th inst., when the eagerly anticipated Fancy Dress Dance was held within the friendly walls of the Midland Grand Hotel, King's Cross, the usual rendez-vous and scene of these very delightful dances. If anything, it was even better than the previous one, and the evening was just one long success. One cannot but be grateful to the management of the hotel, for agreeing to the dance being extended until one o'clock. Whether anyone had the tiresome job of wearing out their knees to obtain this permission, is not known; but, if they did, hats off and three cheers to them!

There were very few "en retard," and out of the 220 present the vast majority arrived before 7 o'clock. Considerably more tickets could have been disposed of had there been sufficient accommodation, and not a few were disappointed at the last moment at having to be refused admission. It only proves how extremely popular these monthly winter dances are becoming, and that in future all those desirous of being "whirled into happiness" for at least one night a month, should apply early for tickets.

About fifty per cent. of the "femininity" added even more grace to their presence by wearing fancy dress, lending yet more colour and curiosity. It was amusing to note that several of them were garbed in

the "breeks," evidently intending to compete with the males and for a few hours to be quite their match. This appeared no hard task, and they wore their "rig-out" with the greatest ease and full advantage, without showing the slightest uneasiness. It would be a long task to detail all the different fancy costumes, but among the many there were the usual very charming Pierrot, Pierrette, Columbine and Spanish Girl, who are always very popular at any Fancy Dress Ball. Music struck up for the first dance about 7 o'clock and continued until about 8.30 p.m. Here there was an interval, for the express purpose of judging the Fancy Costumes, when the parade commenced and lasted about twenty minutes. One could not help sympathizing with some of the "victims" who were undoubtedly nervous under the battery of eyes fixed upon them, and who must have been experiencing that dreadful "swallowy earth" feeling. To compete in these parades it is better to have the calling of a mannequin. The "Butterfly" well deserved the first prize awarded her by the judges; the "Harem Lady" making a very good second. A further prize, intended for the most original costume, was awarded to a lady disguised as a "Chinaman"; it was decidedly the most unique in the room. The men were much lazier, and only about four of them had the audacity to depict something or other. Two received prizes (it must have been a very trying moment for the judges to choose from such a vast number!). The first-prize winner illustrated the Underground Railway, and surely this very worthy concern could not have found a representative to show more deportment, of which he seemed entirely aware. The only pity was that, despite his "high office," he could not assist his fellow-revellers in the scramble of getting home, whereas, owing to this, several of them must have perforce taken taxis (chaperoned?). The second on the list was dressed as a Courtier; he was also very good indeed. A few suggestions for the men at the next Fancy Dress Dance are the following: The "Jungfraubahn," or, one better, the "Atlantic Ocean" (within the 12-mile limit!).

After two more dances the supper room was taken by storm. It was very beautifully laid out, and a Christmas tree added an even more festive appearance. Crackers were in great demand and suggested the 25th of December once again, but the most encouraging sound of all was the popping of corks and the ever-rising spirits of the guests. Mr. C. Chapuis spoke a few words of thanks to the Entertainment Committee (which they well deserved—thanks to them once again!), but no set speech was made. Towards the end of the repast all were provided with prettily coloured streamers, which immediately started a battle of paper chains and a series of both girls and men being tied up in knots. Luckily, with all this frivolity, no one was known to come "unput"—well, at least not seriously. Of course, everyone sang, although there were scarcely two of the party who sang the same song at once. It is fully expected, after this brave attempt, that many overtures will be made from the management of the Albert Hall. We hope that the chosen few may have a "singing job" for a lifetime!

Music in the distance brought all from the ridiculous to the sublime, and the room was quickly vacated for the further delights of the ball room. The band was really splendid (its usual reputation) and could not have been better. It must be mentioned that, during certain of the dances, coloured flashlights were substituted for ordinary lights, making the scene very entrancing.

The time provided for all the dances allowed 26 out of the 28 on the programme to be enjoyed, and it was only the third and fourth extra that could not be fitted in. One o'clock was looked forward to with the reverse of pleasure, but, after all—all good things must come to an end.

It is a pity that some are never satisfied "mais tout vient à point à qui sait attendre," so those who are anxious for the next Dance must possess their souls in patience until February 2nd. —THE FAN.

SWISS NATIONAL RINK HOCKEY TEAM.

Under this heading we published in our issue of Nov. 24th a short report, dealing with the visit of this team to this country. We have now received, from a correspondent who dubs himself "Anglo-Swiss Hockey Expert," a somewhat belated reminder to the effect that our report was incomplete in not giving the result of the last match, played on Nov. 8th at Herne Bay, which he humorously surmises "was, no doubt, due to the postal pressure of the Whitstable Oyster Season." We must apologize to our enthusiastic correspondent for having so long kept him in suspense, and are publishing below the official report, by courtesy of the *Athletic News Agency*:—

The Montreux (Switzerland) Rink Hockey team, which came over to this country on Nov. 4th, made the return journey on the following Friday, via Dover. They have played six matches, including the International against England on the Tuesday, and have, by coincidence, exactly halved matters. Two games were won, two lost, and two drawn, while they netted an average of two goals a match, and had twelve points registered against them. Their best performance was probably on the Wednesday night, when two games were played, one against Lava and one against Ilford. They won the former by two clear goals, and drew, neither side scoring, with Ilford. Considering that the tourists were not accustomed to the type of floor on which these games were played, their performance was quite creditable. Complete results of the matches were:—v. Southend (at the Kursaal) drew 3—3; v. Chatham Hill (at Manchester) won 3—1; v. England (at Forest Gate) lost 4—1; v. Lava (at Forest Gate) won 2—0; v. Ilford (at Forest Gate) drew 0—0; v. Herne Bay (at Herne Bay) lost 4—3.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS

The Hon. Treasurer extends his thanks to all members who have so readily responded to his appeal for the payment of the subscription. He is confident that those who, at this hour, have not yet paid, will do so without further delay and thus help the Committee, who are hard at work, to meet the heavy installation expenses.

SHOOTING PRACTICE HAS NOW BEGUN.

The 25 yard Miniature Rifle Range at the Polytechnic Institute, Regent Street, has been secured for the use of our members on Saturday afternoons, from 3 o'clock onwards.

The Committee, who went last Saturday for inspection and practice, find the Range, etc. very comfortable, and hope that the members will avail themselves of the opportunity to put in plenty of practice and become thoroughly efficient by the time our own Range at Hendon is completed.

There are a few "hot" shots on the Committee—Members, come and beat them if you can!

PLEASE NOTE.—Next Members' Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, on Wednesday, January 23rd, at 9 p.m.

Swiss Mercantile Society.

MONTHLY MEETING

AT

1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Ave., W.1

(First Floor).

ON

Wednesday, January 16th, 1924,

At 8.30 p.m.

PERSONAL.

In reply to enquiries we wish to state that Mr. G. Dimier's illness has proved of a graver character than was originally anticipated. A consultation of specialists has diagnosed the case as one of acute anaemia with biliary trouble, which, at his age, is always serious.

All the kind messages and enquiries have been communicated to the patient, who wishes to express his sincere thanks to his many friends and well-wishers. Mrs. Dimier, however, wishes us to mention that the doctors are not allowing any personal visits at present.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

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EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C.2.

Dimanche, 13 Janv., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Dance at Regal Rooms, Regent Street, W.1.
Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.
Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.
Friday, Jan. 18th, at 8.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Causerie, Dr. Agénor Kraftt: "La quatrième Suisse d'aujourd'hui et de demain," at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, first floor.
Saturday, Jan. 19th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.
Saturday, Feb. 2nd, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at Midland Hotel.
Thursday, Feb. 14th, 1924.—UNIONE TICINESE: Celebration of 50th Anniversary: Dinner, Cabaret Show, Ball, at Monico's.
Thursday, Feb. 21st, at 7.30.—UNION HELVETIA: Banquet and Ball at Victoria Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.
Thursday, March 20, at 7.30.—UNION HELVETIA: Charity Concert for the benefit of London hospitals, at Steinway Hall.

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