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we were doomed to disappointment. Several London publishers wrote us to the effect that they considered Ramuz a "remarkable writer," but believed at the same time it would be somewhat difficult to make the English reading public realise he was worth their attention. Should economic conditions improve in the publishing line, it is more than probable we shall find a publisher here willing to take a risk which, at the present time, would evidently be too great from a financial standpoint.

In addition to the works of Ramuz, we have also tried to interest the publishers of the "Home University" and the "Nations of To-day" series to bring out a book on Switzerland, and we also submitted a most interesting work, "Ur-Ethnographie der Schweiz," to a London publisher, in the hope that an English edition of this book might be brought out. Unfortunately, in every instance the result was the same; the publishers were always extremely interested and would like to have seen their way to carry out what we suggested, only the present economic situation will not allow them to take any risks. However, although we have had no material results in this direction, there can be no doubt that we have aroused the interest of the most important London publishers in Swiss literature, and, more than that, there is no question but that, should economic conditions improve, we would be able to see one, if not more, of our ideas in this direction achieved.

(c) *Propaganda*: Our financial position has not allowed us to do very much in this direction, nevertheless, we have endeavoured to do what we could in this way, at the least possible expense. "The Swiss Observer" very kindly devoted the main part of its issue of March 10th, 1924, to publishing the last presidential report and Dr. Lang's farewell address to our Group. This was not only sent out to all our members, but we obtained a sufficient number of copies to distribute from time to time to different individuals with a view to interesting them in our work and movement. The Propaganda Committee also drew up a circular with the object of trying to induce members to take a more active interest in our meetings and work, and this was also sent out to all members.

(d) *Other Enterprises*: We ventured on an attempt to keep the Secretariat open once a week in the evenings in order to give members, working through the day, an opportunity of seeing our books and papers. However, after a month's trial, this scheme hardly proved sufficiently successful to justify us continuing with it, and it was accordingly abandoned. Our thanks are due to Mr. Bachofer for kindly attending on each of these occasions.

Another initiative proved more successful. In order to try and prevent the very frequent overlapping of social and other events, which has so often occurred in the London Swiss Colony, we arranged a meeting on January 8th of this year to discuss this point with the other London Swiss societies, and must thank all those of them which were good enough to send us a delegate to represent them and enable us to come to some sort of a working arrangement. The outcome of this meeting was that it was agreed that "The Swiss Observer" and the Secretariat of the N.S.H. should keep a register of the different social activities of the London Swiss societies, and that any society wanting to arrange some special meeting or function—i.e., one not taking place on one of the fixed dates usual for their meetings and known to the other societies already—they would only have to ring up "The Swiss Observer" or the N.S.H. in order to find out whether or not the date they had in view was already booked by another society. It was also agreed at this meeting that it would be an excellent thing if in future those societies interested in lectures should combine and give one or two lectures together throughout the year. There can be no doubt, I think, that these decisions should be beneficial to every society which arranges different lectures and other functions, and that we are entitled to look upon our initiative in this direction not only as having been successful, but also as being one which should prove of great advantage to the London Swiss Colony at large.

7. *Staff of the Secretariat*.—The Secretariat this year has consisted of a half-time Secretary, Dr. A. Kraft, and a full-time Assistant Secretary, Miss Crawford, from March 1st until August 9th, when Dr. Kraft returned to Switzerland. Since his departure Miss Crawford has carried on the work alone, our financial position, unfortunately, not allowing us to have even a half-time Secretary at present, and she is acquitting herself most admirably of her task, which necessitates constant attention, foresight and tact. Miss Crawford possesses all these qualities, which, added to her long experience of the work of the Secretariat, renders her assistance invaluable to your Committee. In fact, were it not for Miss Crawford's precious collaboration, the task of the Committee would be a heavy one, and I am glad of this opportunity to thank her for her untiring devotion to the affairs of the Group and the sterling services she is rendering us.

8. *Our Relations with other Groups & Societies.*

(a) *Groups*: As in previous years, we have been in constant touch with the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger in Fribourg, regularly receiving from them different circulars with regard to things of moment to the Swiss Abroad. These have always been discussed at our Council Meetings, and, when necessary, resolutions have been drawn up and forwarded to Switzerland. We, in turn, have kept the S.S.E. informed as to our activities by means of a report forwarded to them regularly every month. These monthly reports are also sent to all the other Groups of the N.S.H., and from many of them we receive reports and other communications in return, which are always read with interest.

(b) *Swiss Legation & Swiss Societies in London*: Our relations with the Swiss Legation are always of the best, and we are most grateful for the help we so often receive from it in many and varied ways. We are also, of course, in close touch with all the different London Swiss societies, each of them being entitled to send a representative to our monthly Council Meetings, and we should also like to thank them, too, for the help they are ever willing to give us when the occasion arises.

(c) *Other Institutions*: We are in constant touch with a number of associations, both English and Swiss, whose aims are somewhat similar to our own, and, whenever possible, we have done our utmost to help them in various ways. For instance, the National Union of Students of England and Wales organised a journey of thirty-six Swiss students to this country from July 29th to August 12th, and we arranged for one or two of our members—to whom we are most grateful for their assistance on this occasion—to show the students around London and the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley; we also sent the Union forty programmes for the 1st of August Celebrations, so that these might be distributed amongst the students. We have, too, distributed leaflets with regard to lectures on the Draft Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of Disputes for the Women's International League, endeavoured to interest our members in a sale arranged by the Swiss Circle of the Lyceum Club, distributed leaflets for the Swiss Society "Naturschutz," lent out our song books and map of Switzerland on several occasions for fêtes and lectures respectively, and from time to time have sent out copies of the "Bulletin universitaire" to various students' unions and the University of London.

9. *Correspondence and Visitors*.—As in previous years, the number of callers has varied greatly. Some days nobody calls at the Secretariat at all, whilst on others there may be as many as five or six visitors. As to correspondence, the number of actual business letters, i.e., letters giving information asked for and dealing with the different activities of the Group, remains much the same, but where there is a marked difference is in the number of circulars, invitations, etc., sent out to members. Up till a year or two ago our expenses for postage for such circulars were very heavy indeed, but we have gradually had to cut these down, and this year, although I personally do not know the exact figures, I know they must be very small when compared with those of some years ago. This cutting down of circulars, etc., has, of course, been due to necessity; we have had to cut our coat according to our cloth, and the material, as you all know, has been somewhat scanty of late years.

10. *Committees*.—During this last year the Propaganda and Entertainment Committees combined, and we have already remarked—under "Propaganda"—upon some of the work done by it. In addition, of course, it also arranged our dinner on January 13th. The Finance and Budget Committees also combined during this last year, and I need hardly tell you that the moving spirit in it has been our most able Treasurer, Mr. A. F. Suter. His is not a pleasant task, and I believe only the Committee realise how hard and unceasingly he works to endeavour to keep our Secretariat and its work going. Were it not for Mr. Suter's untiring energy, I'm afraid we might have no Secretariat at all to-day, and I should, therefore, like to thank him now most heartily, in the name of the Council and the Group as a whole, for all he has done for us. Those who have the interest of our movement at heart cannot but be sincerely grateful to him for his splendid work on our behalf. I would also like to say a few words on the work accomplished by our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Campart, on whom, since the foundation of the Group, has devolved the task of writing the minutes of all the Council and Committee Meetings. From rough notes taken at such meetings he produces the most accurate and clear account of all the proceedings, a task which must take the best part of many an evening after a hard day's work. He does it with an untiring good grace and, further, he never misses a meeting. In fact, Mr. Campart is a model Hon. Secretary, and I know I am voicing the feelings of the members of the Council and of the Committee in thanking him most sincerely for his devotion to a duty which requires much attention and a good deal of work.

Besides these two Committees just mentioned we have also had the Entr'Aide and the Press Com-

mittees to help us whenever the need arose. Unfortunately, the latter lost a very able member when Dr. Weibel had to resign from it owing to his leaving London permanently.

From all this it will be seen that our ordinary every-day activities have not decreased in any way, and that is, of course, due to the fact that they entail no extra outlay. Our members can therefore be assured that, though they no longer receive frequent invitations to lectures and other such communications, our work still goes on as before, and we are continually helping our young fellow-countrymen who come over here, continually endeavouring to make Switzerland and things Swiss better known and understood in this country—in a word, striving to work to the best of our ability for our dear homeland and for the Swiss Abroad. The present circumstances and our financial situation prevent us from developing a greater activity, but the feeling that our work, although forcibly limited in its scope, is useful work, must help us to mark time until the day comes again when we can go full steam ahead. Sentry duty does not appeal to the average fighting man, but for the safety of the army it is of the utmost importance. The rôle of the London Group of the N.S.H. is at present very similar to that of a sentry; we hold a position of trust, we must preserve intact the monument which, with patient love, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice we have erected on foreign soil to our dear country. We must be ever watchful and closely united in order to be ready to march forward should the call come again as it did ten years ago.

It is this readiness, this unity of purpose which has enabled the London Group to surmount all difficulties, to survive all criticisms, and to find itself 296 strong after nearly ten years of existence.

Let those who might have had some misgivings concerning the future of the Group take comfort from these facts. I hope they will show them that they must put more faith in the Ideal which has rendered them possible, and which is now at work all over the world. The dream of the founders of the N.S.H. has become a reality. Thousands of Swiss at home and abroad have made theirs the beautiful motto: *Pro Helvetica dignitata ac securitata*. In ever-growing numbers they come forward ready to consecrate some of their time, their money, their comfort to serve our beloved country. Thanks to the N.S.H. the Swiss abroad, who formerly have been left to their own devices, are now recognized as an asset to Switzerland. Through the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger they can make themselves heard at home, they are kept in touch with all that is going on there, they have their Parliamentary Group in Berne! This is what faith in an Ideal can accomplish, and I am proud to think that the London Group has been one of the pioneers of this great movement which, as long as it remains inspired by the Ideal of the N.S.H., cannot but grow for the benefit of Switzerland and all the Swiss, whether they belong to a group of the N.S.H. or not.

Members of the London Group, we have every reason to look to the past with a feeling of deep gratitude, and to the future with the fullest confidence.

SCHWEIZERBUND.

The hall of the Swiss Club Schweizerbund at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, was crowded to its utmost capacity on Thursday, March 26th, when members and friends assembled to celebrate the 47th anniversary with the traditional banquet and ball.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, was in the chair.

After the two loyal toasts had been duly proposed and honoured, Mr. Jules Tresch, the President, rose to submit the toast to the "Schweizerbund." He said he had no intention of making a long speech, but before talking of club affairs, he wished to express his great satisfaction at the presence of Monsieur Paravicini, who at considerable personal sacrifice had managed to be with them that evening; he assured the Minister that for him and his committee this was an encouragement which they fully appreciated. They had gone through some strenuous times and had had to swallow a good many bitter pills with a smiling face. He thought, however, they had succeeded in maintaining their old traditions and in providing a "home from home" for their compatriots; their success was due in a large measure to the support and advice they could always depend upon from their old members.

Mr. E. Forster, the Secretary, proposed the toast of "Our Guests"; he was most versatile, everyone profiting by his panegyrics. He regretted to notice that the Minister was not accompanied by Madame Paravicini, who was away in Switzerland, but he hoped that their distinguished guest would make up for it by staying with them till sunrise. The official guests included:—Mr. G. Colomb (Secours Mutuels), Mr. G. Marchand (City Swiss Club), Messrs. W. Notari and Biuchi (Unione Ticinese), Mr. E. Borgeaud and Miss Borgeaud (Union Helvetia), Messrs. Brand and Cornu (Swiss Mercantile Society), Mr. and Mrs. Peter (Swiss Choral Society), Mr. and Mrs. Schällibaum (Nouv.

Soc. Helvétique), Mr. G. E. DeBrunner (Swiss Rifle Association), Mr. E. Block (Swiss Gymnastic Society) and Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Boehringer ("Swiss Observer"). Mr. Forster also read out telegrams of felicitations received from Mr. F. Burgin (Glasgow), the late secretary, and from the Swiss Club in Manchester.

Mr. G. E. DeBrunner, in responding to this toast, said that up till now he had been passing the evening in a state of agony and had been consulting his encyclopedias in order to find words which could do justice to the occasion. All the same, he had enjoyed the excellent dinner, the menu of which he had already decided to reprint in the next standard work which his firm was about to publish. He admired, and was always ready to profit by, the keen competition in the field of the culinary art which was indulged in by this club and their sister society, the Union Helvetia. The Schweizerbund was justly renowned for their "chouroute garni," whilst the Union Helvetia had, since the installation of the new steward, acquired a unique reputation for their "Hasenpfeffer und Nudeln." He was creditably informed that the residents in the neighbourhood of that club were now enjoying unheard-of peace and repose, as the nocturnal minstrels had gradually vanished from their roofs.

Monsieur Paravicini also rose and said that, although he did not think he could improve upon the oration of the previous speaker, he felt he could not silently accept the hospitality and courteous reception he had experienced at the club. If the pills referred to by the President were anything like what they partook of that night, he could well understand that they swallowed them with smiling faces. He could not discover any traces of the strenuous times they affected to have been subjected to. He, of course, recognized that the club must suffer from the present restrictions which prevented our young compatriots from settling in this country. He assured the audience that this thorny question was receiving the constant attention of the Legation, and that he had justifiable hopes that in the near future a mutually satisfactory solution could be looked forward to. He regretted that a diplomatic engagement imposed upon him the necessity of vacating the chair. Before doing so, the Minister presented personally, with cordial congratulations, certificates of honorary membership to the following veterans of the club: Messrs. Rud. Keller, Eug. Lutz, Fr. Winkelmann, and F. Delaloy.

"The Ladies" were proposed by Mr. L. Pache, the Vice-President, who thought that their presence was essential to the success of the evening. He had recently attended a dinner of a local fire brigade, when the brave fireman who was in charge of this toast stated that the ladies were responsible for the only fire against which their skill and engines were utterly hopeless.

The usual dance, agreeably relieved by a few songs from Mrs. Aebersoll and Mr. Duthaler, followed the banquet. Though official mention was omitted, we should like to pay a tribute to Mr. and Mr. Christen, the stewards of the club, for the perfection of the catering arrangements under what seemed very trying conditions; also to the Committee, especially Mr. E. Forster, who spared no efforts to administer to everybody's comfort.

SWISS GYMNASIAC SOCIETY.

The constituent assembly of this society, which is an amalgamation of the former gymnastic societies "Schweizerbund" and "Union Helvetia" and to which, it is hoped, all Swiss gymnasts in London will belong ere long, took place on Saturday, March 21st, at 10.30 p.m., in the large hall of the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund" at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

About 45 gentlemen were present. At the outset, the chairman of the organising committee, Mr. E. Block, extended a hearty welcome to all present, especially to the honorary members, and outlined the events which led up to the foundation of the new society, in order to send a strong and well-trained team to the contest in Geneva in July next of the Swiss Federal Gymnastic Association (Concours Fédéral de Gymnastique).

Messrs. J. Sermier and A. Lampert, the presidents of the amalgamating societies, in very appropriate and hearty terms addressed the meeting; both emphasised the point that they were happy, after many futile attempts at amalgamation in the past, to see at last this problem solved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The Chairman thanked in warm terms, both the unsuccessful negotiators of the past and the successful deputations of to-day, for their great share in a very fine achievement, considering the great difficulties that were always in the way.

After passing a motion that all present be entitled to vote, the assembly proceeded to appoint the officials for the present term.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, having kindly consented to accept the honorary Presidency of the society, the announcement of which was received with acclamation and gratitude, the First Secretary of the Legation, Monsieur Walter De Bourg, was elected honorary Vice-President, also with acclamation. The following officials

were all unanimously elected:—Leader, Mr. W. Ehrler; Vice-Leaders, Messrs. W. Schneeberger and Weidmann; Wrestling Instructor, Mr. R. Jaquenoud; President, Mr. E. Block; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. Sermier and A. Lampert; Treasurer, Mr. J. Born; Secretary, Mr. E. A. Missle; Guards of Implements, Messrs. A. Brunner (for 74, Charlotte Street) and Schlaeppli (for 1, Gerrard Place); Assessor, Mr. J. Gallo; Auditors, Messrs. Forster and Manzoni.

The assembly then agreed, with very few alterations, to the rules proposed by the organising committee.

The Swiss Federal Gymnastic Association has nominated the new society an honorary section and will follow with great interest developments of Swiss gymnastics in London.

The society will have an active members' section, divided into squads, a veterans' section for Swedish drill and free exercises, and a juniors' section for preliminary training—application of prospective members to be made to the honorary Secretary, Swiss Gymnastic Society, London, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, and 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, where exercises and practice will take place on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, as well as on Friday evenings respectively, also on Sunday mornings in the open air.

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E. B.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle aura lieu le MARDI, 7 AVRIL au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h (5/6 par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal.

Admissions.

Démotions.

Rapport 1924/25.

Rapport des Vérificateurs des Comptes.

Elections.

Divers.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2 (Langue française.)

Dimanche, 5 Avril (Rameaux) 11h. et 6.30.—M. Hoffmann-de Visme. (Ste. Cène matin et soir.)

Vendredi Saint, 11h.—Service Spécial avec Communion.

Pâques.—Cultes de Ste. Cène.

Lundi de Pâques.—Promenade traditionnelle. Rendez-vous: Marylebone (Gt. Central) 9.45. Billet 3/11. Invitation à chacun.

MARIAGE.

Albert GERBER, de Schangnau (Berne), et Emma Bertha GEERING, de Zurich—le 30 Mars 1925.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Mountview 1798.) Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutsch-Schweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 5. April, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

Pfr. Carl Th. Hahn.

12 Uhr.—Chorprobe, zu der Sänger und Sänginnen herzlich eingeladen sind.

Pfr. Carl Th. Hahn.

Wegen Amtshandlungen bitte sich zu wenden an den Pfarrer, Carl Th. Hahn, 'Foyer Suisse,' 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.—Sprechstunde im 'Foyer Suisse': Mittwochs 2—4 nachm.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Apr. 4.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet at the Midland Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.

Tuesday, April 7th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual General Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Pagani's, 42, Great Portland Street, W. (See adv.)

Wednesday, April 8, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a "Souper Chouroute," at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Friday, April 17th, at 8 p.m.—CHARITY CONCERT in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

Friday, May 15th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Reading and discussion of a Lecture by Monsieur Ed. Recordon on "La N.S.H. et le problème de l'éducation nationale" at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 23rd, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.