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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

LECTURE BY NAT. COUNC. SCHMID-RÜDIN

National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Rüdin, Central Secretary and President of the Zurich Section, who paid a short but very welcome visit to the London Section, gave on Wednesday, the 1st inst., at Swiss House, a highly interesting lecture on the Life and Work of the S.M.S. An unusually large number of members and Friends were present, a proof that the personality of our guest, as well as the subject of his lecture, was a universal attraction. And surely nobody present was disappointed.

Mr. Schmid-Rüdin, who is a speaker *par excellence*—no wonder he is a Swiss M.P.—explained how the S.M.S. was founded in 1861 in Zurich, when it consisted of only 13 Active Members. To-day, this number has increased to over 26,000 and the S.M.S. is now the largest professional union in Switzerland. He then enumerated the two objects of the Society, i.e., firstly, the promotion of commercial and general knowledge, and secondly the placing of numerous welfare institutions at the disposal of its members. To succeed in the former, the Society has instituted numerous day and evening schools, holds regularly examinations of apprentices, higher examinations with award of diplomas for book-keepers, correspondents and stenographers, lectures, summer courses for special subjects and repetition classes for languages, keeps well-stocked libraries, and publishes its own paper, the *Zentralblatt*.

The S.M.S.'s activity in the second direction is not less pronounced. Members are in a position to avail themselves of the Society's Insurance Organisations against Sickness and Unemployment. There is a very efficient Employment Department with foreign branches in London, Paris, Barcelona and Milan, also an Office which offers loans to members in need, whilst those who have lost their positions through old age can make use of the Old Age Pension Schemes. Further, there exists a Law Office, where members can obtain advice free of charge, and which in many instances takes charge of the whole case. Last but not least, special arrangements have been made with well-known Swiss Insurance Companies for granting special rebates on premiums to our members.

To conclude, Mr. Schmid-Rüdin displayed several lantern slide pictures, some demonstrating the business and social life of our Swiss Sections and others giving a good idea of their fine Club Houses.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin in a few words thanked our illustrious guest most heartily on behalf of the Assembly, reminding the latter that it is chiefly due to the efforts of Mr. Schmid-Rüdin that the Swiss Government agreed to grant a special subsidy to young and deserving compatriots, to enable them to visit our School in London for a few months.

ANNUAL STUDENTS' EVENING.

The Annual Students' Evening, arranged by the Education Department, took place on Thursday, the 2nd inst. at the First Avenue Hotel, there being a record attendance of 190.

After a good and well served supper, Mr. B. Bretscher, Chairman of the Education Committee, proposed the toasts to H.M. the King and Switzerland. These were followed by the opening speech, Mr. Bretscher extending a hearty welcome to Nat. Counc. Ph. Schmid-Rüdin, Dr. Cl. Rezzonico, Secretary to the Swiss Legation, Messrs. G. E. De Brunner and W. Gamper, two of the Trustees, and all the other guests. He made mention of the continual prosperity of the School and of the Committee's appreciation of the untiring efforts of the teachers.

Mr. Ph. Schmid-Rüdin, who spoke next, expressed how very gratified he was to be amongst his compatriots in London, and paid a high tribute to the work done by the School and to the great strides made by the S.M.S. as a whole.

The Assembly was then addressed by Dr. Cl. Rezzonico, who dwelt chiefly on the important part played by Swiss merchants abroad and their general aim of exchanging merchandise.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin, as President of the London Section, particularly brought to the notice of those present the thanks due to Mr. Bretscher who, for the last seven years, has served untiringly in some capacity or other on the Society's Committees, and expressed everybody's regret at his forthcoming retirement.

Mr. O. Masterman-Smith, Headmaster of the Day School, spoke of the welfare of the School, which he has very much at heart, and of the great advantage it holds for young Swiss to come over here to learn the English language and business methods.

Mr. A. Levy, Teacher at the Evening Classes, paid a special tribute to the Committee for all their efforts, made mention of the congenial relationship he had now for over 15 years enjoyed with them, and concluded by saying that in his opinion no other country in the world had its citizens' welfare more at heart than Switzerland.

Lastly, Mr. G. E. De Brunner briefly reviewed the progress of the S.M.S. in the last 20 years, during which period he had been President three

times, and hoped that the prevailing good fellowship and give-and-take spirit would always be maintained.

At the conclusion of these speeches, at about ten o'clock, Mr. Wolff and Mrs. Laurence gave a very pleasant musical interlude on the violin and piano. The banquet room was then cleared, and dancing enjoyed to the strains of a very able and lively band, until midnight.

ANNUAL BANQUET.

On Saturday last, the 4th inst., the Annual Banquet and Ball was held at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1, over 180 members and friends participating. At 7.30 p.m. the Company sat down to dinner in the Venetian Room, where the Orchestra was already in evidence.

After a splendid repast, accompanied by the high spirits of everybody, the Chairman, Monsieur G. H. L. Micheli, First Secretary of Legation, proposed the toasts to H.M. the King and Switzerland, which met with the usual hearty response.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin then gave his Presidential Address, as follows:—

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.—Once again I have the pleasure of expressing to you a hearty welcome on behalf of the Swiss Mercantile Society. The Annual Banquet is always a pleasant day for the Committee, because it makes us happy to see how generously you respond to our invitation, and also because it signifies the end of another year of work and worry. And we are human enough to start each new year again with fresh hopes and confidence.

"I wish to tender a special welcome to our Chairman, Mr. L. Micheli, First Secretary of Legation. This is his first contact with our Society, and I hope that he will retain such a pleasant memory of the few hours he spends with us that he will look forward to further dinners of the S.M.S. as events not to be missed at any cost.

"A further distinguished and very welcome guest is with us to-night in the person of National Councillor Schmid-Rüdin, Central Secretary of the Swiss Mercantile Society in Switzerland. I am sure he will note with pleasure the large attendance to-night, and that he will tell the Central Authority that—whatever the London Section does or does not do, according to their opinion—it enjoys a good measure of support from the Swiss Colony in London. We hope that Mr. Schmid-Rüdin will be kind enough to present the London Section's compliments to the Central Headquarters.

The past year has been chiefly remarkable for the fact that it was the first year in our own home at Swiss House. The Committee found itself in the position of a newly-married woman, who is suddenly faced with a big house and wonders all along whether anything has been overlooked: but thanks to the splendid efforts of our House Committee, we have managed to wriggle through. I am glad to say we seem to have settled down now, and with your support, and with goodwill on all sides, there is no reason why we should not continue to wriggle through smoothly.

"The oldest undertaking of our Society in London, and in years gone by the most prominent, is the Employment Department, in the charge of Mr. J. Pfändler. This Department continues its struggle in the face of almost overwhelming odds, and it is gratifying to know that the results for the past year have not turned out quite so badly as Mr. Pfändler had reason to fear earlier in the year.

"The same restrictions which handicap the Employment Department also handicap the development of our Evening Classes. Yet 243 members have attended 40 Classes in 1927, and we must not forget that all, or practically all of them, work during the day for their living. Our Evening Classes have again been represented at the examinations of the National Union of Teachers. Eight students have entered the examination for English for foreigners. One of the principal conditions of that examination is that no entrant must have stayed in the country for more than two years before entering. All have passed, with the following results:—1 Bronze Medal, 3 First Class Certificates with Distinction, 4 First Class Certificates. This is an achievement which reflects great credit on their industry and on Mr. Levy, our English master at the Evening School.

"You all know the saying 'It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good,' but the exception to this rule is happily proved in the case of the Day School which, in part at least, owes its success to the restrictions in force. There are about 200 Students attending the School, and we must certainly express our appreciation to all the teachers for the energy and the enthusiasm they put into their work.

"Thus we go on from day to day, and we look forward into the future with courage. The Section itself also continues its work, and I am glad to be able to announce that on December 31st, 1927, we show a net gain of 14 active members.

"Before I conclude, I wish to say a few words about that wider association, that chain of which our section is but a link, the Swiss Mercantile Society in Switzerland and its branches abroad in France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. "Sixty-seven years ago, a handful of young and enthusiastic men banded themselves together, guided by lofty ideals,

and formed the first section. The seed which they planted has to-day grown into a sturdy oak, with branches spreading ever wider, a shelter for members who fall on evil days. If there were anything fundamentally wrong in our endeavours, then the S.M.S. would not have survived that test of time of more than half a century. Yet, how often do I hear: "Yes, the S.M.S. is all right; but what do I get out of it?"—Is this present age really so utterly stripped of all idealism that we will only support that which shows an immediate and visible return?

Surely, Ladies and Gentlemen, we owe it to those pioneers, who braved ridicule and tribulation, to see that our oak never lacks new and vigorous sap, and I appeal to you to continue to do that for which we are very grateful to you; to support us and to encourage our sons and daughters to follow in your footsteps and to support us wholeheartedly, not for our own benefit, but for the ultimate benefit of our little homeland, Switzerland, so small and yet so dear to all of us!"

Mr. G. H. L. Micheli followed with a short speech, in which he expressed Monsieur and Madame C. R. Paravicini's regrets at their unavoidable absence owing to being under the sunny skies of Egypt, and said with what interest the Legation follows the success of the S.M.S. and how much it appreciates the work of the Society.

National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Rüdin next addressed the Assembly in his usual eloquent manner. He mentioned the good impression he had received on this first visit to the London Section and conveyed to them the compliments of the S.M.S. in Switzerland. Referring to the School, he said that it fulfilled a patriotic task and reflected great credit on past and present Committees. It would take too long to enumerate all the worthy members who in the past had sacrificed so much time and energy in the Society's interest, and he would therefore only mention the names of De Brunner, Boehringer, Pfändler and Stahelin. Although not all of our compatriots were privileged to remain in the dear homeland, it was gratifying to see that their loyalty and love for Switzerland did not falter. The speaker concluded with a patriotic appeal, quoting Goethe's famous words: "Was Du ererbt hast von Deinen Vätern, erwirb es um es zu besitzen!"

Mr. B. Bretscher tendered the Society's hearty welcome to all the Guests, and mentioned especially Dr. Cl. Rezzonico as Representative of the Commercial Division, Swiss Legation, Mr. G. E. De Brunner, Mr. W. Gamper and Mr. A. Schupbach, accompanied by Mrs. Schupbach (Trustees), The Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, accompanied by Mlle. Jacob, and The Rev. Ch. Hahn, accompanied by Mrs. Hahn (Swiss Church), Mr. and Mrs. M. Gehrig (City Swiss Club), Mr. and Mrs. Campart (Nouvelle Société Helvétique), Mr. and Mrs. Favre-Bulle (Société des Secours Mutuels), Mr. R. Dupraz (Swiss Benevolent Society), Mr. J. Manzoni and Mr. E. Bommer (Swiss Choral Society), Mr. Jules Trench and Mr. F. Bernhard (Swiss Club), Mr. E. S. Block (Swiss Gymnastic Society), Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Strubin (Swiss Rifle Association), Mr. and Mrs. P. de Maria (Unione Ticinese), Mr. P. F. Boehringer (*Swiss Observer*), Mr. J. Halperin, London Correspondent of *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, and Dr. H. W. Egli, London Correspondent for *Der Bund*; and then suddenly remembering Venus, also toasted in his usual genial manner all her sisters present.

Mr. R. Dupraz, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, gave thanks on behalf of the Guests, mentioned how much all the other Swiss Societies in London watched the progress of the S.M.S., and congratulated the latter on its achievements, as he maintained, it would be no exaggeration to say that thousands of our countrymen benefited by the S.M.S. School. He also thanked them, in the name of the Fonds de Secours, for accommodation granted in Swiss House, and then proposed the toast to the President and Committee of the S.M.S.

To Mr. J. Pfändler fell the task of addressing the gathering on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society, which he fulfilled so admirably that the collection which followed totalled £37 15s.

Before the company adjourned to the Ball Room, Mr. R. Chappuis proposed a special toast and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stahelin, to the former for his endless energy, hard work and devotion to the Society, and to the latter for her forbearance on the many evenings she is deprived of her husband's company through the Society's work.

It was just 10 o'clock when all moved to the Ballroom and there danced and made merry until 1 o'clock.

Among those present and not already mentioned were the following:—Mr. C. A. Aeschlimann, Mr. and Mrs. Baumann, Miss Bell, Mr. and Miss Berger, Mr. Beyli, Mrs. P. F. Boehringer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Boos, Mr. R. Brand, Mrs. B. Bretscher, Mr. and Miss Byfield, Mr. T. Carroll, Mrs. R. Chappuis, Mr. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. Costella, Mr. H. Diener, Mr. and Mrs. A. Despond, Mr. and Mrs. W. Deutsch, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Golay, Mr. O. Grob, Mr. Hafter, Messrs. Hilfiker, Hediger, Mr. and Mrs. Hungerbühler, Mr. and Mrs. Ibbotson, Mr. G. Jenne, Mr. A. Jufer, Mr. A. Keller, Mr. W. Keller, Mr. W. L. Kruckner, Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann, Mr. and Mrs. Lötscher, Mr. and Mrs. Lunghi, Mr. P. Mathys, Mr. M. A. Mauch, Mr.

H. C. Meili, Mr. and Mrs. Millns, Mr. and Mrs. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. Nodes, Mr. I. Nüsch, Mr. and Mrs. Nüssele, Mr. and Mrs. A. Oberlé, Mrs. J. Pfändler, Mr. Pfirter, Miss D. Pfirter, Miss H. Pfirter, Mr. Ridmann, Mr. Scheidegger, Mr. A. Schutz, Mr. J. Semadeni, Mr. H. Senn, Mr. Siegfried, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sommer, Miss O. Stoll, Mr. Suter, Capt. and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Weist, Mr. and Mrs. Wetter, Mr. E. Werner, Mr. A. Wymann and Mr. and Mrs. F. Zogg. O.J.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:

Mr. R. Gimmi, Zurich: "Adventures and Experiences Abroad." Mr. H. O. Mauerhofer, Langnau i/E.: "Taylorism and Its Advantages and Disadvantages as regards Switzerland." Mr. Leopold Amacher, Interlaken: "Bernese Oberland." Mr. H. Nikles, Berne: "From the Landsgemeinde to a Modern Democracy." Mr. F. Hagmann: "My Trip to the G.W.R. Works at Swindon." Miss Alice Leuthold, Horgen: "A Visit to the Souks of Tunis." Mr. Magnus H. S. Wehrli, Lausanne: "Life Before and After Death." Mr. Emile Perretti, Lausanne: "Lyon's Corner House." Dr. H. v. Waldkirch, Basle: "Some Facts about Scotland Yard." Mr. Albert Kuhn, Langenthal: "Beni, the Tramp."

On Friday last one of the students, Mr. Schnell, gave a most interesting Lecture on "Optics," with illustrations. In his lecture he compared Modern Photography and the Construction of Lenses with the Eye of Man. A happy social evening concluded our long day of work and pleasure.

On Saturday the Students to the number of 120 went to the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square.

A BURGLARY.

General sympathy will be felt with Mr. Marius Paschoud, of 60, Fosco Road, Hendon, whose residence was visited by burglars last Saturday. They cleared every item of jewellery in the house, and got away with a haul of approximately £250. Entrance was gained through a small window into the pantry, about 12 inches wide and 2 feet high, and every wardrobe in the house was forced. Fortunately the loss is covered by insurance, but as the bulk of the missing jewellery consisted of old family treasures no money can replace it.

VACANCIES IN SWITZERLAND.

At the request of the Federal Labour Office (Eidgen. Arbeitsamt, 8, Bundesgasse, Bern) we are publishing, at regular intervals, lists of special vacancies in Switzerland for which suitable candidates are not available at home. Whilst it is intended to fill these vacancies, whenever possible, with Swiss from abroad, applications are considered from foreigners possessing the necessary qualifications. Offers, stating date of publication and reference number, should be addressed to the Swiss Consulate in whose district the applicant resides, and will then be forwarded to the proper quarter in Switzerland. We publish the list in the original text as received from the Labour Office.

- E 476 **Pelzfärber**, erfahrener; für mechanische Pelz- und Fellzuchterei im Kanton Aargau.
- H 598 **Glasbläser**, der auch Kenntnisse im Füllen von Glühlampen mit Gas hat; für Glühlampenfabrik im Berner Oberland.
- J 389 **Walker-Vorarbeiter**, selbständiger, für grössere Tuchfabrik im Kanton Luzern.
- J 497 **Werkführer auf Dekorations- und Möbelposamenten**, mit gutem Farbensinn und Kenntnissen der Hand- und mechanischen Webstühle, sowie der übrigen Hilfsmaschinen; für Posamentenfabrik in Zürich.
- I 568 **Vigogne Spinnmeister**, Krepelmeister; nach dem Kanton Glarus.
- L 391 **Werkführer in Zellulose- und Papierfabrik**; nach dem Kanton Solothurn.
- M 569 **Seifensieder**, Spezialist zur Herstellung von flüssigen Seifen aller Art; für Geschäft von chemisch-technischen Produkten in Zürich.
- M 612 **Werkmeister in chemische Fabrik**, der über Rezepte verfügt, zur Fabrikation moderner, flüssiger Schuh-Creme und Putzmittel; nach Zürich.
- M 613 **Vorarbeiter in Farben- und Lackfabrik**, für die Einführung und Herstellung neuer Artikel, wie Fassadenfarben und Nitrocelluloselacke; Befähigung zur Anlernung des nötigen Personals; nach dem Kanton Aargau.
- N 376 **Werkmeister in Aluminiumwarenfabrik**, mit Kenntnissen aller vorkommenden Arbeiten der Aluminiumwarenfabrikation, zur Stütze des Werkführers; in die Nähe von Basel.
- N 485 **Waffenschlosser** wöglichst lediger, mit mindestens 5 jähriger Tätigkeit in der Versuchsabteilung einer Waffenfabrik für Maschinengewehre und Kanonen, Kenntnissen im selbständigen Zusammensetzen und Zusammenpassen, sowie Einschnessen neuer Waffenmodelle, in der Handhabung und Reparatur von Motortraktoren, landwirtschaftlichen Pflügen und deren Ausprobierung; für Werkstätte in St. Gallen.
- S 434 **Hütteningenieur-Betriebsleiter**, mit langjähriger Spezialerfahrung auf dem Gebiet der Verhüttung und Aufarbeitung von Metallrückständen und abfällen, zur Herstellung technisch hochwertiger Legierungen aus Eisenprodukten und Einarbeitung von technisch nicht vorgebildeten Arbeitern; ver-

- antwortliche Leitung des gesamten technischen Betriebs der Hütte und Neueinführung von Produktionsmethoden. Wünschbar sind gute Kenntnisse im Einkauf, in der Beurteilung der Materialwerte, sowie auf dem Gebiete der Metall-Analytik und Werstoffkunde; nach dem Kanton Basel.
- S 545 **Textiltechniker - Disponent**, als Leiter der technischen Abteilung einer Zürcher Firma für Textilprodukte.
- S 581 **Maschinentechiker oder -zeichner**, mit Technikumsdiploms; für Patronenfabrik in Solothurn.
- V 439 **Maitre d'armes**, professeur breveté, capable de donner des leçons de fleuret, épée et sabre; pour société d'escrime dans le Canton de Neuchâtel.
- D 15 **Dragist**, der auch mit den Confisarbeiten bewandert ist; für Confiserie-chocolaterie in Casablanca (Marokko).
- J 16 **Stickermeister**, speziell auf 10 Yard-Pantograph (Saurer) und Handmaschine geübt; Kenntnis des Englischen nicht erforderlich; für Stickereifabrik in Birmingham.

PUBLICATIONS

of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften" and "Lectures Populaires."

- 147 (C). Meine Kindheit, von Jakob Stutz ... 6d.
- 147. Auf der Walz vor fünfzig Jahren, von Werner Krebs 5d.
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- 2/8. La Fontaine d'amour, par Charles Foley 6d.
- 2/9. La Batelière de Postumen, par Eugène Rambert 6d.

*Das Januarheft des Basler Vereins für Verbreitung guter Schriften bringt drei Erzählungen aus einem der letzten Bände von Auguste Supper betitelt "Holunderduft." Die gemütreichen, schalkhaften und grundgescheiten Geschichten aus dem Leben der schwäbischen Schwarzwaldbauern klingen dem Schweizer so vertraut wie den engern Landsleuten der Verfasserin. Es ist erfreulich, dass Auguste Suppers Kunst durch dieses Heft weiten Kreisen auch bei uns nahegebracht wird.

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THE TWELFTH ANNUAL
SWISS SAMPLES FAIR
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BÄLE
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CITY SWISS CLUB.

CINDERELLA DANCE
at NEW PRINCE'S RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, at 6.30.

Tickets, Gents 12/6, Ladies 10/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from Members of the Committee.

Divine Services.

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

Dimanche, 12 Fév., 11h.: "La compassion du Christ," Mat. ix., 36. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
6.30: Ste. Paul: Une vie changée.
7.30: Répétition du Choeur.

MARIAGE.
Erwin GUND et Hilda WALTER, de Mannheim—le 7 Février 1928.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.
Madame Henri COMOV, née Julie Anna Beausire, de Grandson (Vaud)—décédée le 1. Février, à 76 ans—le 4. Février 1928.

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
(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 12. Feb. 1928.—11 Uhr vorm: Gottesdienst; 7 Uhr abends: Predigt. 8 Uhr: Chorprobe.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse. Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telephone Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Feb. 15th, at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Monthly Meeting of the Group, followed by a Causerie on "Quelques aspects de l'après-guerre en Suisse," by Louis Micheli, Esq.

Wednesday, Feb. 15th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting.

Saturday, Feb. 18th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance. (See advert.)

Friday, Feb. 24th, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at First Avenue Hotel, W.C.1.

Tuesday, March 13th, 1928.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet & Ball at Café Monico, Piccadilly, W.1.