

Lucien Lauchheimer †

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LUCIEN LAUCHHEIMER †.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Leopold Lucien Lauchheimer, of 75, Cholmei Gardens, N.W.6, who passed away suddenly on Saturday, the 26th inst. practically on his 45 birthday.

Mr. Lauchheimer was born in Riehen (Basle) and after passing through the local schools and the Ecole de Commerce in La Chaux-de-Fonds he was apprenticed at the Swiss Bankverein in Basle. In 1906 he was transferred to the London Office of this institution, his special department being the Documentary Credits. He left London in 1919 to take up an appointment in Germany, and later on in Switzerland, representing a London commercial house which latter, however, went into liquidation as a consequence of the after-war crisis. This disappointment was severely felt by Mr. Lauchheimer. After a short time of forced inactivity in Basle he was offered a responsible position in London with Messrs. Seligman Brothers. He found here great opportunities to employ the wide experience he had gained previously. He was an assiduous and extremely conscientious worker, but the difficulties and continued disappointments in banking business in later years, brought little satisfaction to his mind. In addition, the death of his mother, about three years ago, had greatly affected his mental outlook. Though advised by his friends to take a long rest he insisted to continue with his arduous work. Preparations had been made for him to recuperate in Switzerland, but his mind gave way before the realisation of his intention.

Mr. Lauchheimer was cremated at Golders Green on Tuesday, the 30th inst., the ashes being taken away by a relative for interment in his native town in Switzerland. A large gathering of personal and business friends to whom he was greatly endeared were present at the funeral service, the chief mourners being Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller (cousin).

Amongst those present were: Messrs. Vincent Seligman, Leon Rueff, Fritz Brandenburger, S. Brandenburger, Ch. Valon, Grumbach and Seymour (Seligman Bros.); Messrs H. Jenne, Dr. P. de Wolf, Steiner, Luterbacher and H. Schofield (Swiss Bank Corp.); G. Marchand, J. Zimmermann, P. F. Boehringer (City Swiss Club); A. Rueff, Georges Dreyfus, Sylvain Dreyfus, E. Bonesi and Mr. and Mrs. Armand Levy and their son; Dr. Rast, O. Travers-Tauss, Schulz, Israel, H. Baldwin, R. Kaufmann, Joseph W. Beckmann and E. Block. A large number of flowers were sent.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS OR REPORT READ AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT SWISS HOUSE, FEBRUARY THE 24th, 1932.

The short survey of the life and activity of the London Group of the N.S.H. during 1931, which I propose laying before you to-night, will reveal that our expectations at the end of 1930 have quietly come true. I am pleased to state that we appear to be now fairly in the stride for the realisation of a good many of our earlier hopes. There has been no setback in our regular progress, just as there has been no extraordinary demand upon our strength to combat the difficulties in our path. Considering the extreme depression through which we have passed in 1931, it is a matter for congratulation that the membership is within one member of that of a year ago, 159 against 160. Death has robbed us of three very good friends and members, among them in particular Mr. T. de Sonnenberg, whose memory will always remain fresh with us.

Before I speak of the activity of the Group, I would quote verbatim a paragraph out of my report of last year, for the simple reason that it is as true to-day than it was at the time. "The majority of our membership appear to regard themselves evidently as honorary members, since they do not in the least wish to participate in the active life of the Society, but pay their subscription with commendable regularity. Some may stick to us in memory of greater times; others may regard it as good taste to be a member; others again may do so out of regard for a friend, or because they have been recommended to belong to the movement. Yet this abstention from active participation, needless to say, is a serious point of weakness and produces a curiously anomalous state of affairs in our Group. We are almost like a Mexican army, all generals and no privates; for it is the Council and the Council alone who takes an active interest in the affairs of the Society." It is not that we are not grateful to

these members as such, but their abstention from attendance of the monthly meetings is a loss to them as to the Group which could so easily be obviated.

The Group held eight monthly meetings at this address during the year under review, on the third Wednesday in each month, which were attended with commendable regularity by the council. The activities, other than administrative, of the Group during the year may suitably be described under four headings, viz:

- (a) Causeries
- (b) Film Shows
- (c) Official participations
- (d) General activity.

a) Five causeries and one demonstration of photographic slides in natural colours were presented to the Group, all by members. They proved to be of great educational value, being given by distinguished experts in most cases, and were followed by interesting discussions. It is more than refreshing to know that we may rely upon such valuable co-operation and performances among our own members.

April. Reminiscences of Constantinople, by Mr. H. Joss.
May. Question of the Zones and Proposed Custom Union Germany-Austria, by Mr. L. Micheli.
June. Origin and activity of the Order of St. John, by Dr. W. Mons.
November. Aspects of the present Crisis, by Mr. L. Micheli.
December. Reminiscences of Athens, by Mr. Rothlisberger.
January. Lantern slides in natural colours, by Mr. Talamon.

b) There have been not two, but three, Film Shows falling within the year under review, in March and October 31, and in February 32, all at King George's Hall, each one being attended by an audience estimated at between 1,200 and 1,300 people. There is no need to enumerate the films which were shown at these performances, but I would again refer with the deepest gratitude to the wholehearted co-operation and appreciation of our Minister and the Legation with and of this particular activity of our Group. We have to be equally thankful to the S.S.E. in Berne for their constant and ready disposition to forward us suitable films at an extremely low cost.

c) We further participated as per long standing custom in the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill, where our three representatives are engaged in the general duties of administration. Special mention should also be made of a new venture which took place at Conway Hall on February the 17th, 1932, in the shape of a combined literary and musical evening in conjunction with the Swiss Orchestral Society, when Mr. Jean Bard, professor of elocution at the Conservatoire de Genève, gave an exquisite recital of poetry. This venture, owing to the smallness of the audience, in spite of particularly intensive propaganda, will involve us in a not inconsiderable deficit.

d) Our general activity during the year followed much the usual course of events, but it is worthy of note that the correspondence in particular has greatly increased. It would lead us too far to mention in detail the various interests and occupations, but I can assure you that more and more time and work is involved in these matters, month by month. The intercourse between our Group and other Groups abroad is steadily becoming more active as a direct result of our Christmas Greetings to all Groups. We have also remained in closer contact than ever with the Secretariat in Berne and with our very staunch old friends, Mr. Jean Baer, Geneva, and Prof. A. Latt, Zurich. Since the departure of Dr. Job, previous Secretary of the S.S.E., who has been selected as Director of Broadcasting at the Zurich Station, and has now been replaced by Dr. Meyer, we have had the most pleasant relations with his colleague at the Secretariat, Mlle. Briod.

Apart from the very considerable amount of work created by the Film Shows, our service to the Colony at large is constantly increasing in such matters as the provision of Swiss Calendars, books, informations and recommendations. Something like 1,500 letters have been handled for England alone during the year.

That our relations with the Minister, the Legation and our sister societies continue to be of the most friendly character, I need not again assure you. The encouragement and co-operation which we have received during the past year from the Minister himself and Mr. de Jenner, the successor of Mr. de Sonnenberg, is treasured by us with sincere gratitude and will not fail to evoke in us, I am sure, a greater enthusiasm for our cause and a deeper patriotism.

I would not omit to express our thanks for various publications and printed matters sent to us by a number of Associations and Institutions.

From the foregoing you will perceive that we have just cause to look back with satisfaction upon the past year, however much more, we might have had it in our minds to perform. The ever-present crisis, although it has handicapped us sadly in some respects, has not sapped our



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