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## SILVER JUBILEE MEETING OF THE N.S.H. (London Group).

Saturday, June 21st, saw the 25th anniversary of the first meeting of the N.S.H. (London Group) — in short, its Silver Jubilee, held on a matchless summer day. In spite of brilliant and very warm weather, a great number of members and well-wishers, both Ladies and Gentlemen, gathered at "Swiss House" for this important occasion. In fact, the attendance book showed a list of nearly 60 names, a record for several years, at least.

The meeting which had been called for 1.30 p.m., was opened by the President, Mr. A. Fred Suter, at about 2 o'clock, the President remarking that he would not make any lengthy apology for a late start, since, by doing so, a good many from amongst those present, might wish to apologise in turn for their late arrival.

The President therefore at once started the proceedings, by saying how happy he was at being able to welcome such a large and representative gathering and he expressed his particular pleasure at seeing so many of the original members, to whom individual invitations had been sent and whose names he would read out when dealing briefly with the history of the London Group.

Mr. Suter's first official act was to read out a letter he had received from the Swiss Minister, M. Walter Thurnheer, in which he expressed his regret at being unable to be present, owing to a long-standing, previous engagement. The Minister heartily congratulated the N.S.H. and stated that he had followed the Society's endeavours and achievements with interest and appreciation. He referred to the bond formed by the N.S.H. between the mother country and the Swiss Colony in London, as well as to the stimulating lectures, held at the monthly meetings which, especially at the present time, did so much to substitute the lack of up-to-date news, furnished in normal times by newspapers and periodicals. Lastly the Minister kindly mentioned that, during his recent visit to Switzerland, he had called upon the Secretariat of the N.S.H. and stressed the pride of that body in the invaluable activity of our Group for the benefit of the Colony as a whole.

After the reading of this letter, which was followed by an appreciative burst of applause, the President called upon the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Campart, for the minutes of the previous meeting, which were produced and attentively listened to; Mr. Campart, the one and only Secretary the London Group has ever had, during the 25 years of its existence, has certainly brought his task to a fine art and his minutes will form a source of most useful material to any future student of the Colony's history in respect of the period between the last world war and the present catastrophic times. The minutes were accepted unanimously and with the President's thanks to the Secretary.

Under the heading of "Admissions and Resignations," one new member was enrolled and, as there were no resignations, the active membership to-day stands at 182.

The President then gave a brief, but most interesting survey of the early history of the London Group and in particular recalled its inception and foundation. He stated that on May 12th, 1916, Prof. Dr. G. Bonard, of Lausanne University, came to London and

addressed a meeting of some 200 compatriots at the Swiss Institute, to arouse interest for the work and aims of the N.S.H. The following leading members of the Colony at that time were the first to show sympathetic interest, viz: MM. Jean Baer, A. Baume, Georges Dimier and E. Roelrich. Unfortunately, all these gentlemen have since passed from our midst.

Prof. Bonnard's lecture was followed by the formation of a Comité d'Initiative, composed of the Presidents of seven of the Swiss Societies in London, a representative of the Consistoire of the Eglise Suisse and a few prominent members of the Colony. This Committee held a meeting on June 8th, 1916, when the London Group was formally constituted and pleins-pouvoirs were given to Mr. Jean Baer, as President; Mr. C. Campart, as Secretary, and Mr. H. Joss, as Treasurer. The first General Meeting of the Society was held on July 7th, 1916, and the first meeting of the Council on July 13th, both under the chairmanship of the newly elected President, M. Jean Baer.

The other original members present, at last Saturday's meeting, besides Messrs. Campart and Joss, to whom the President extended a special welcome, were Messrs. Wuthrich, Weber, Ritter, Steiner, Pfaendler, Gambazzi, C. Chapuis and Deutsch.

The President, Mr. Suter, then gave the meeting a few details about himself and his connection with the N.S.H. Having been elected to the Council by the General Meeting of January 16th, 1920, he was immediately asked to join the Committee of that body, at its next meeting only a few days later. Mr. Suter was elected President of the London Group at the General Meeting of January 18th, 1928; he is, therefore, only the second President the Society has had in 25 years and has thus occupied the chair for well over half of that long period.

Mr. Suter, having dealt with the part played in the Society by himself, with characteristic brevity and modesty, the Secretary asked permission to add a few words and gave a glowing account of the great devotion shown by the President to the London Group, at all times and, through his office, to the Colony as a whole. He thanked him, on behalf of all the members, for his devotion, as well as for all the hard work, so willingly performed and the time sacrificed for the good of the cause. The meeting was very sensible of this expression of warm thanks and appreciation towards its President and showed its feelings in unmistakable terms.

There followed a pretty interlude, during which the popular Secretary, Mr. Campart, was presented by Mme. Clara Muller, on behalf of the Council, with a small bouquet of carnations, in the Swiss national colours and a basket, draped in red and white silk, containing an assortment of fruit and vegetables. A really suitable (if slightly inadequate) war time present to the Society's indispensable Secretary who, however, was as pleased and gratified as if it had been a silver tea service.

The President announced that he still had to deal with items under "Divers" and "Correspondence," under which he imparted to the meeting sundry communications. In particular, he read out the text of a congratulatory telegram, received from Mr. Paul Walser, likewise one the President proposed sending to the S.S.E. at Berne, indicating the special character of the meeting. Mr. Suter's announcements gave

great satisfaction to everyone present and were punctuated by applause.

The President next called on Mr. G. J. Keller, for his usual Comments On Current Events. These talks (which really are first class lectures) are such a great feature of the monthly meetings of the N.S.H. now, that they form in themselves a considerable attraction. Mr. Keller, in his easy and fluent style, covered a very wide field with technical skill and the best part of an hour went by like 5 minutes. At the end of the talk, Mr. Suter gave out that the lecturer would be pleased to answer questions during the remaining 15 minutes, a privilege of which several members gladly availed themselves. The President thanked Mr. Keller warmly for his highly interesting exposé, which the meeting endorsed by long applause. The London Group is certainly much indebted to the new President of the Foreign Press Association for being ready to give at most of the monthly meetings these highly interesting lectures, which contain so much valuable information, gathered at first hand. Mr. Suter stated expressly that he hoped we should have the pleasure of Mr. Keller's visit again at the July meeting.

This brought the proceedings to a close, in the course of which Mr. Suter also read out a Sonnet he had received from an old member, dedicated:—

Two decades and a half, since first we met;  
At times 't would seem it was but yesteryear,  
At others ages, torn 'twixt hope and fear . . .  
And much that passed between we can't forget.

The last Great War—its long and constant threat—  
Closed our ranks, taught us to persevere  
How best the new craft N.S.H. to steer,  
For in uncharted seas the course was set.

Our Captains proved supreme, the Bos'n true,  
In weather fine or foul they pulled us through.

We should have loved this day to celebrate,  
But for this fresh war and its tragic fate.

Clear lies our duty — though the Heavens fall —  
Loyal to England and yet SWISS withal!

This effort, the President revealed, bore the signature of  
"GALLUS."

### LETTER BOX.

**G. H. — and several others.** The 650th anniversary will not be forgotten; a new organising committee has been formed and is having the matter in hand.

**C. F. —** No, these talks were not promoted by "Swiss Clubs." Over a month ago it was stated in the House of Commons "that British broadcasts to Switzerland were started as an experiment, and it was represented both officially by the Swiss Government and otherwise that the reaction to them in Switzerland was unfavourable. In these circumstances, and for the reasons already stated, the broadcasts were discontinued as from May 7th."

We are greatly indebted to the following subscribers who have kindly added to the ordinary rate various amounts towards the increased costs of production: A. Paris, Miss F. H. Ruch, J. Keller, J. J. Eberli, H. Epprecht and F. Egger.



### DR. ARNOLD SCHEDLER †.

(*"Manchester Guardian,"* 24th May, 1941.)

By the death of Dr. Arnold Schedler, a director of the Clayton Aniline Company, Ltd., and Swiss Consul in Manchester, the dyestuffs industry in this country has lost one of its leading personalities.

Born in Switzerland in 1873, Dr. Schedler was educated in Basle and graduated from the university there in 1897. His first post was with the firm of Gerber and Co., Basle, manufacturers of dyestuffs, and on the absorption of that company by the Society of Chemical Industry in Basle Dr. Schedler's activities were transferred to the latter company, in whose service he remained until his retirement in May, 1937.

Shortly after the Great War he was transferred to the works of the Clayton Aniline Company, Ltd., Manchester, which had been purchased by the Society of Chemical Industry in Basle in 1911. He was appointed technical manager of the Clayton Aniline Company in 1916 and a director in 1928.

Dr. Schedler's first few years were spent mainly in increasing the output of war materials manufactured by the company. In spite of great mechanical and technical difficulties he enabled his company to make substantial contribution to the country's requirements, and at the same time paved the way for the great development of the dyestuffs side of the company's business in later years.

Although Dr. Schedler lived in England for the past twenty-six years, he maintained a very close association with his native country, which he has served as Swiss Consul in Manchester from 1924 to the time of his death. At the same time he always showed warm regard for this country, and perhaps the best proof of that was that although he was in Switzerland at the outbreak of the present war, he returned to continue in his duties as Swiss Consul in Manchester. On two or three occasions he was elected president of the Manchester Consular Association.

Dr. Schedler always took a deep interest in the scientific life of Manchester and served on the council of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, as well as being chairman of the local section of the Society of Chemical Industry during the years 1933 to 1935.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, July 5th, at 1 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street (see Advert).

Wednesday, July 9th, at 6.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting — at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, July 19th, at 1.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, to be followed by Mr. G. J. Keller's *Comments on Current Events*.

UNION CHRETIENNE de langue française (French speaking Y.M.C.A.), Kingsway Hall, 3me étage, Kingsway, W.C.2. Chaque mardi à 6.15 p.m.

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