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S. S. S. AND S. S. M.
AMALGAMATION OF TWO OF THE OLDEST
SWISS SOCIETIES IN LONDON.

On August 25th, 1879, some 40-odd Swiss Citizens founded the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY with the object of assisting its members financially in times of sickness and distress. On October 1st, 1887, this Society was duly registered under the Friendly Societies Act with its address at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, the home of the Schweizerbund Swiss Club. According to its rules, Swiss Citizens residing in the U.K. and between the ages of 16 & 35 were eligible for admission on introduction and recommendation by an existing member of the Society.

During the past few years the founders and many of the older members passed away and in consequence the membership gradually decreased to half. Owing to present circumstances, the prospects of obtaining new members within the stipulated age limits are indeed considered very slender, so that the chances of counter-balancing further losses in members, notwithstanding the present abnormal conditions, are remote. It is an eloquent tribute to the good management of the Society ever since its inception to record that in spite of the very small annual subscriptions imposed and the liberal weekly sick allowances made, a reserve of over £800 has been accumulated during the past 60 years. This achievement testifies at the same time to the good health its members have enjoyed; as an example it can be stated that one of its present honorary members has never drawn a week's benefit during the whole of his 50 years' membership.

Since a large percentage of this reserve has been subscribed by the founders and senior members of the Society, the remaining few of whom can hardly be expected to survive many more years, it was decided at the half-yearly General Meeting held on July 5th to investigate the possibility of expressing to the latter materially the members' appreciation for their untiring efforts and financial sacrifices. Thus, in order to obtain for them greater benefits in times of sickness, old age, or even at death, the Secretary of the Society was entrusted with the task of negotiating with the "SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES A LONDRES" (which was founded in 1703) with a view to arranging suitable conditions for an amalgamation of the two Societies. Details were prepared and laid before the monthly meeting of the "SECOURS MUTUELS" on September 6th and it is a pleasure to report that the proposition was warmly welcomed and accepted in principle, unanimously. Owing to the fact, however, that the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY was governed by the Friendly Societies Act, whereas the "SECOURS MUTUELS" is not registered under this Act, an amalgamation pure and simple could not take place. To comply with the regulations in force it became necessary to dissolve the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY to enable its members to join the "SECOURS MUTUELS" individually. Draft proposals to this effect were submitted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies, which were duly approved by him. The negotiator was gratified to find that the extra-ordinary General Meeting of the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY held on September 20th returned a 100% vote in favour of adopting the project on the lines prepared and the instrument of dissolution was duly registered with the

Registrar of Friendly Societies on October 14th as advertised in the London Gazette on October 17th and the St. Pancras Chronicle on October 24th, 1941.

The extra-ordinary meeting of the "SECOURS MUTUELS" held on November 1st, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, unanimously ratified the proposals of September 6th, so that the scheme will become operative as from January 1st, 1942, as originally intended.

Whilst this fusion regrettably denotes the cessation of existence of a not unimportant though little heard of Swiss Society in London, the decision thus taken is greatly appreciated by all concerned and particularly by the older Society, whose membership will thereby enjoy a substantial increase.

In brief, the effect of this procedure is that — according to the arrangements made — 12 of the present 19 members of the dissolved Society will be admitted as members of the "SECOURS MUTUELS" as from the date they joined the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY, for which privilege the entrance fees and all subscriptions for the period concerned will be paid out of the S.S.S. Funds. The remaining 7 members, who have all along been members of both Societies, will receive from the S.S.S. Funds a refund of their entrance fees and all subscriptions paid by them to the "SECOURS MUTUELS." In addition all the 19 members will receive by way of a share-out a fixed bonus for each complete year of subscriptions paid to the S.S.S. Finally, not forgetting the less fortunate compatriots in the Swiss Colony, it is the desire of the S.S.S. members to live up to their motto "UN POUR TOUS, TOUS POUR UN" and for this purpose a donation will be made to one of the Swiss Institutions as soon as the funds are ready for distribution. This — it may be stated — is the express wish of the members of the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY and will accordingly be recorded in the closing chapters of the minutes of the final meeting to be held on January 17th, 1942.

For the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY:
 ERNEST A. NUSSLE.

(Hon. Secretary and Treasurer).

* * *

Referring to the preceding report in connection with our extra-ordinary meeting of November 1st, 1941, it is with the greatest pleasure that we accept the 12 members of the SCHWEIZERBUND SICK SOCIETY on the conditions mentioned and agreed upon.

We take this opportunity to express to all members of the said Society our highest appreciation and admiration for the noble principle which prompted them to join forces with us, an action which well deserves to be placed on record in the annals of the history of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

Indeed we greatly appreciate these arrangements, which are progressing towards a successful conclusion and we look forward to welcoming the new members early in the New Year.

Compatriots who wish to find out if they are also eligible for membership should communicate with us — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1 — in order to ascertain the advantages we offer to them and their dependants.

On behalf of the
 SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES
 A LONDRES:

C. CAMPART,
 President.