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SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER.

Report on the Annual General Meeting.

The Swiss Club of Manchester held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday afternoon, 6th February, at the Midland Hotel, following a voluntary luncheon in the Grill Room. It was the 90th *Anniversary* of the foundation of the first Swiss Society in Manchester and the 60th of the foundation of the Club in its present form. An ostentatious celebration being out of place in these troubled times, we gave ourselves the pleasure, in honour of the day, of raising four of our most meritorious and oldest members to the rank of honorary membership.

In the case of Mr. Hans Renold, D.Sc., the honour reverts to the Club by his acceptance of a humble tribute paid to a countryman who stands as the symbol of the noblest human qualities, industry, fellowship and generosity. Crowned with success in his industrial enterprise, Mr. Renold has done much for the advancement of science and technology. The University of Manchester honoured him by the conferment of the degree of D.Sc. To men of Mr. Renold's stamp the Swiss at home and in our far flung "colonies" owe the good name we enjoy wherever we go and especially in this hospitable land. He is now almost 91 and, after nearly fifty years membership of our Club, still a true and interested friend of the Swiss community.

Messrs. A. Bebie, J. R. Bickel and J. A. Steiner have well deserved of our Club by valuable services rendered in and out of office in the spirit that service blesses the giver as well as the receiver. Each of them has forty years or more of membership to his credit. May we have the pleasure of their company and their support for many years to come!

It was an exceptional pleasure to welcome among us the doyen and only surviving founder-member of our Club, Mr. R. A. Bosshardt, a venerable gentleman of 83, who has to his credit a record of sixty years unbroken membership and active service in the Club.

The longevity of our compatriots in Manchester testifies to the soundness of the stock and would seem to belie the tales about the atrocious Manchester climate. But let no one run away with the idea that the Swiss Club of Manchester consists of people beyond the allotted span of three score years and ten. We are still full of vitality and now and again we even succeed in catching a young recruit, so that we look forward with serene confidence to our Centenary and to the maintenance of the Swiss spirit in this part of the world so long as there is a Switzerland and a Manchester, which surely means time without end.

Let us now give the word to the Soul of our Club, the indefatigable and ever popular President, Mr. E. Kuebler. In the spirit of our time he addressed his fellow members and guests as "Comrades" in the following words:

It is with a special pleasure that I open the Annual General Meeting to-day, as this is the 90th anniversary of the founding of a Swiss society in Manchester and the 60th anniversary of the present Club risen from the ashes of two, at times antagonistic societies.

It is not often that a club can look back on such a historic past and in normal times this occasion would not have passed without a due celebration. Yet in the midst of all the war clouds around us we

feel justly proud of our Swiss Club and are glad that we have the honour to keep our flag flying in this friendly country where we have found a second home for so many years. Our number may be sadly depleted by the course of time, but we have been able to stick together without hindrance and the history of our Club within living memory is on the whole a pleasant one, full of pleasant and memorable occasions. We look to the future with courage and hope, feeling certain that in no distant future our Club will once more be able to steer a straight and smooth course.

We are therefore celebrating *Our Diamond Jubilee* with thanks to those who founded the Swiss Club, Manchester in its present form and trust that we shall be able to give it new life and prosperity when World Peace reigns once more.

To-day we have among us one who has seen the birth of the present Club. He is already an Honorary Member of whom we are very proud indeed and we salute him very heartily as the Father of our Society wishing him, and through him to the Club, "Many Happy Returns of the Day."

Sixty years membership is the achievement of Mr. Alfred Bosshardt, who was "Oberturner" and President of the "Turn-Sektion" for many years until 1914 when, at the outbreak of World-War No.1, that section of our activities ceased. Some of us well remember the days when, under Mr. Bosshardt's direction, our "Turn-Sektion" formed the peak of the Gruetlifeier," with little Allenspach literally on the top of the world (i.e. the pyramid). Quiet and unassuming, our bearded "Oberturner" was responsible for the precise executions performed by his comrades, a joy to the many who in those days crowded our Banquets from far and wide. I feel sure our friend Bosshardt could tell us many amusing and interesting stories of those early escapades of his "Turners."

Lucky man to be able to look back on sixty years history of our Club and feel that he has always been one of its members. Lucky the Club to count such a man still its member, for what better testimony to the life of the Club could be desired than such an unbroken record of friendship and goodwill? May friend Bosshardt remain among us for a long time still to come. He is sure that he will always be heartily welcome and we are proud of our "Guest of Honour."

Our Club, being concerned with the social life of the Swiss Community in and around Manchester, is like a caged bird; with clipped wings it hops about; its song, — well, we haven't had a song section for many a year. The dances are forgotten and even the "Grütlifeier" is a memory, one that will be revived. Evening gatherings are blacked-out and our kitchen gardens keep us mostly busy at week-ends. Nevertheless we had a few pleasant outings during the summer and autumn. If Manchester is not a paradise, its neighbouring countryside has fair claims to loveliness. Wandering about in it, talking "Schwyzerdütsch" and taking refreshment — even if it is only tea — in a homely rural inn, brings us together and into affinity with that great little land we love all the more because it seems so distant now. And so we manage somehow to maintain among us the friendship tied by our common heritage and to cultivate our pride in a land, our land, which stands as the symbol of racial harmony

pointing the finger of hope to the peace and concord which must surely be the destiny of all mankind.

A tangible proof of our attachment to the native land lies in our contributions to the "Don National" and the "Motta Memorial Fund." For the former our Vice-Consul, Mr. H. W. Hirs collected £468. 4. 8 in his Consular District (not including Scotland). For the "Motta Fund" the collection organised by the Club yielded £15 and would no doubt have done better had it been possible at that time to give an indication of the purposes of the "Motta Foundation."

The Club's finances are in excellent health, although nearly the whole of its income of the year, viz £25 was contributed to the "Don National."

The Committee was re-elected en bloc for the ensuing year and consists of Messrs. E. Kuebler, President; Dr. J. A. Schedler, Vice-President; H. Monney, Treasurer; F. Meyer, Librarian; and V. Tenger, Secretary. With the exception of the Secretary, who succeeded Mr. A. Spargnapani last year, all these members are well tried in the art of "Government" having held the reins for many years in succession.

In conclusion we record with pleasure the acquisition of four new members, all young blood, in the absence of any loss. *V.T.*

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Monthly Meeting.

The monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Saturday, February 6th, at Brown's Hotel, and was preceded by a Luncheon. Sixty members were present.

1 Admission, no resignation.

By the courtesy of Mr. Fer, a member of the Club, a Swiss sound film, depicting the canton of Appenzell, was shown, which was much appreciated.

The Committee proposed a donation of £100 to the Swiss Benevolent Society, this proposal was unanimously accepted. M. A. Bon, President of the Fonds de Secours thanked the City Swiss Club for their generous support.

A lively discussion about the future activities of the Club took place, and the members will be acquainted with some of the proposals made, in due course.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to mail our next issue on March 21st and have pleasure in gratefully acknowledging receipt of additional contributions from the following:— A. Strittmatter, A. Steiner, Miss Magron, R. A. Merz, F. E. Brunner, R. R. Schmid, Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, W. Graf, C. Baerlocher.

PERSONAL.

We just learned that Mr. Marius Martin, for many years Manager of the Regent Palace Hotel, also a Director of the Grand Hotel St. Moritz, died suddenly in Geneva where he was Director of the Hotel des Bergues.

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SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The Swiss Bank Corporation announce that the accounts for the year 1942 show net profits including the carry-forward from the previous year of Swiss Fcs.9,875,180 against Swiss Fcs.9,655,966 for 1941. The total assets at the end of 1942 amounted to Swiss Fcs.1,366,433,327 against Swiss Fcs.1,370,094,424. At the General Meeting which was held on the 26th February, 1943, a dividend of 4 per cent. was proposed same as for the previous year. The carry-forward amounts to Swiss Fcs.3,475,180.57 against Swiss Fcs.3,255,965.81 for the previous year.

SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON.

Every Sunday at 11 a.m.

SERVICE IN FRENCH at the Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

SERVICE IN GERMAN at "Oak Room," Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED by Swiss family with two children, 35 Minutes from London, CHILDRENS NURSE, COMPANION or MOTHERS HELP — Offers: Box 14, Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

WANTED. Domestic help. No Cooking, daily help given. Comfortable home. Mrs. Dodd, 7, Thornfield Road, Bishops-Stortford, Herts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, 6th March, 1943, at 1 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. (See Advert.)

Saturday, 13th March, 1943, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, followed by an address by Mr. G. J. Keller.

Saturday, 20th March, 1943, at 2.15 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by Mr. G. J. Keller's usual talk on "Current Events."

Saturday, 27th March, 1943, at 2.30 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.