

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1943)

**Heft:** 1011

  

**Rubrik:** Swiss Benevolent Society

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 30.03.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

greatly differ in each particular branch. Constant endeavours are likewise necessary to improve on our production, to find new ameliorations and new processes, as much will depend on our own abilities and initiative. Scientific research as well as testing stations and technical institutions are likewise playing a major part. These endeavours in the various industries and branches are being closely co-ordinated with the official government agencies, especially through the intermediary of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade and the "Vorort."

I could of course only give you a very rough outline of a few of to-day's pre-occupations and problems. If I have been able to show that all these questions are being dealt with in a sound and constructive way, in full co-operation between Government and private enterprise, this is all I could wish for."

In conclusion, Mr. W. Meier proposed, and Mr. Ch. Chapuis, seconded a cordial vote of thanks, which was passed with prolonged acclamation.

Mr. de Graffenried's debut at the S.M.S. was without doubt an unqualified success and we hope to see him at Swiss House on many future occasions.

WB.

### SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Society held its Annual General Meeting at Brown's Hotel, on Monday the 22nd March, in the presence of Hon. President, Mr. W. Thurnheer, our Swiss Minister.

Invigorated by a delicious tea, offered by their President, Mr. Anton Bon, members listened with much satisfaction to his opening address.

The Society, said Mr. Bon, is more active than ever. Thanks to the satisfactory financial position, the Committee have been able, some time ago, to increase the allowances granted to their old pensioners and a further increase will come into force on April 1st, so that those allowances have been fully adjusted to the higher cost of living. This affects 70 old pensioners who cost the Society £1,980 a year. In this connection, the speaker mentioned how they greatly appreciated the gift of £100 from the City Swiss Club, intended for the purchase of linen, etc., for the aged. The numerous letters received show how gratefully these gifts were received.

In 1942, assistance was given to 558 of our countrymen and of these 27, who, for urgent reasons, had to go back to Switzerland, were repatriated.

Mr. Bon added that in many countries the life of the Swiss Colonies was hard indeed and that we, here in England, should be grateful for the generous way in which we have been allowed to carry on, unhindered, our various activities. The experience of the Society is that all those who can work have had no difficulty in finding employment and that the greater part of the assistance given has gone to the infirm and the aged.

The Treasurers submitted their various accounts, giving at the same time a wealth of information on the activities of the Society. These accounts show a total expenditure of £5,996, and it is to the credit of all concerned, including the generous subscribers, that they managed to cover this large sum without drawing on

their reserves which may prove invaluable in the post war period when opportunities for regular employment may not be as favourable as they are at present.

It was resolved that the Relief Centre, at Hatfield, established as is well known, as an emergency war measure to hospitalize any of our countrymen who may have lost their home, be kept in being at least until next October when the position will be reconsidered. Some of the Society's pensioners reside in that spacious and comfortable home where they are extremely happy. Unfortunately, owing to the petrol rationing, very few of our Swiss friends have been able to visit the Centre during 1942 which is a pity as the old people look forward to such visits. The call kindly paid there by Mrs. Thurnheer was therefore all the more welcome and her charming ways and kindnesses (including the Brissagos she brought with her) have endeared her still more in the hearts of our old folk.

The Secretary, who received a well deserved ovation, treated the meeting to a witty narrative of some very special cases.

The Executive Committee was once again re-elected in toto. It is composed of:

*President*: Mr. Anton Bon;

*Vice-Presidents*: Messrs A. C. Baume, O. Gambazzi and F. M. Gamper;

*Stewards*: Messrs. R. de Cintra, W. E. Gattiker and A. Rueff;

*Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. M. Rothlisberger;

*Hon. Assistant Treasurer*: Mr. E. S. Favre;

*Secretary*: Mr. Theo Ritter;

*Hon. Assistant Secretary*: Mr. P. Hilfiker.

*Finance Committee*: Messrs. Dr. P. de Wolff, F. M. Gamper and M. Rothlisberger.

Our Home for Aged Swiss remains under the supervision of:

*Chairman*: Mr. F. M. Gamper;

*Vice-Chairman*: Mr. A. Schmid;

*Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. J. Zimmermann;

*Hon. Secretary*: Miss G. Muller.

Our Minister thanked the members and the Committee in particular for all they have done in the past and will not doubt continue to do. He expressed his delight at the friendly atmosphere which always surrounds the work and the meetings of the Society which he attributed to the fact that all members have collaborated so long in this charitable undertaking. He added that he was in full agreement with the policy followed by the Committee and with their views on post-war conditions. Fully realising the tremendous amount of work involved he was doubly thankful, as if the Society was not in existence, this task would fall upon his Legation, already severely tried at the present moment. Besides, said he, this kind of work was so much better carried out by private individuals than by an official body, however well disposed it might be.

Mr. Bon expressed his appreciation of Mr. Thurnheer's kind words and repeated that although the expenditure is a large one, it is, at all times, most carefully scrutinized.

In closing the meeting he stated that in his opinion the way a country looks after its poor is a safe guide of its culture and development and he hoped that Switzerland would never be found wanting in this respect.