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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House, on Saturday, March 10th, was well attended and Mr. W. Meier, Vice-President was in the Chair. It was with deep regret that he informed the members of the death of Miss Bertha Boos, the President's daughter, who passed away earlier in the week. The funeral service was attended by a number of Council and Committee members and a letter of condolence, signed by all present at the meeting, was addressed to the bereaved. The Chairman further informed the meeting of the death of Mr. A. White, who in pre-war days was a frequent visitor to the College, in his capacity of chief invigilator at the examinations held under the auspices of the Institute of Commerce. The deceased was a brother-in-law of our Secretary, Mr. J. J. Schneider. The meeting then rose to pay a silent tribute to the departed.

Reporting on educational activities, Mr. Meier informed the members that with the coming into force of double summer time in April, a number of language classes and circles would be started. On the basis of applications so far received, classes in French elementary and Italian intermediate or advanced, as well as a French circle, were certain to be formed. Classes in other languages could still be arranged, provided sufficient applications are received. Will any Swiss who are interested please address their enquiries to Mr. W. Meier, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

After a short interval, during which the lady members by way of a surprise served coffee and biscuits (Swiss home-made variety), three most interesting films were shown by courtesy of the Amis des Volontaires Français. "The next time you see Paris," was the title of the first film, which was evidently compiled before the opening of the second front. It showed many of the familiar sights of Paris as we knew them before the war, followed by some episodes during the period of occupation. The second film, "Les actualités françaises" portrayed the magnificent spirit of the Free French movement in all theatres of the globe from the time of the occupation of France until its final liberation. The last and most vivid film, "Born in Britain" gave an account of a French engineer who escaped in a stolen plane from France to Britain, where he was shot down by anti-aircraft guns, how he was looked after by French volunteers during the period of recuperation from injuries sustained during the crash, eventually to join the Free French air force operating from this country. Like many allied soldiers, he married a compatriot who also served the cause of her country. The film showed how a baby daughter born to them was cared for by the French welfare services. The film had a happy ending, with the principal actors reunited after the airman had been shot down over the channel during one of his many sorties over France. The chief purpose of this film was to show the innumerable services rendered to their countrymen by the Free French voluntary services, assisted by many English friends and admirers.

In conclusion, Mr. G. Jenne, on behalf of the meeting expressed thanks to Mr. Charles Chapuis, who had been instrumental in obtaining the films, and Mr. C. Fer, for projecting them in his usual efficient manner. He also thanked the lady members for their contribution to a successful afternoon.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House, on Wednesday, April 11th, at 6.30 p.m. and will be followed by a lecture on "Indian Outcasts" by Dr. G. O. Taylor of the Nilgiri Medical Mission — South India. This should prove a most interesting talk and it is hoped that many members and friends will be present.

WB.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

The Swiss Club of Manchester was happy to welcome Mr. A. F. Suter, President of the London Group of the N.S.H. on Tuesday, the 20th February; 34 participants were able to answer the call to meet him at the Midland Hotel on the occasion of a business visit in the North.

Following a convivial reception in the Lounge and dinner in the Grill Room the party adjourned to a private room for a more intimate meeting.

In the course of a homely talk, in which Mr. Suter gave the members news from the Home Country and tendered the greetings of various London compatriots, he assured the Manchester gathering that there was a genuine desire in the London colony for a more lively intercourse with them, but that time was often a deterring factor; however, Mr. Suter was left in no doubt about the warmth of the welcome any London visitor would receive in Manchester.

Naturally the presence of Mr. Suter brought up the subject of what we call here for short "The Suter Fund"; it was enthusiastically started at his suggestion 12 months ago for the relief of our colonies as had been badly hit, and in many instances had lost their all, schools, churches and other property through the war.

The members agreed then to contribute regularly to the fund all the winnings of "Yass" parties and a substantial percentage of their Bar charges; as unfortunately under present circumstances it is difficult to arrange frequent gatherings, particularly well attended meetings, the fund grows only slowly; however, it had already been decided to take advantage of the very next important social event in the Manchester Club to launch a wide appeal to the Swiss Colony in the North; and as Mr. Kuebler, the President of the Club, suggested, the most appropriate event for the purpose would be the much hoped-for visit to Manchester of our Minister in London, who, unfortunately was unable to attend the present reception, for which he very thoughtfully apologised by telegram, which was warmly received by the meeting and greeted as an outward sign of the interest which the Minister is taking in our Colony.

L.G.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on Friday, April 27th and take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscription rates: Jos. Weber, H. Frutiger, W. Meier, A. Hinderling, M. E. Du Bois, J. A. Seiffert, Miss A. Hohlfield, Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico, A. C. Kaehlin, Swiss Club Manchester, H. Monney, F. Kreis, A. Kuenzler, G. Rutz, J. Scheiwiller, Miss R. Imhof, A. Paris, Mrs. E. Schedler, W. Graf.