

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:	- (1945)
Heft:	1039
Rubrik:	Our next issue

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

As in former years, the Society did not meet in August and after this short recess will resume its activities on Wednesday, September 12th, when the Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House at 6.30 p.m. After the official business has been dealt with, members will be afforded an opportunity of having a game of cards, table tennis, etc. and the Committee hopes that a large number will be present, particularly as the programme for the coming winter session will be discussed, viz. lectures, educational matters, socials, etc.

The Society having suspended its social functions during the whole of the war years, the Council and Committee feel that with the complete cessation of hostilities the time has now arrived for the Society to revert to some of its peace time functions, even if in a modified form. A luncheon has been arranged for Saturday, October 20th, at 1 p.m., at the Dorchester Hotel, to be followed by tea and dance. It will be the 57th anniversary of the Society and it is intended to honour some of the veterans who have been members of the Society for 50 years or more. Will members and friends kindly reserve this date. Full particulars will be announced in the Swiss Observer and circularised to the members.

W.B.

THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, 7th August, the full committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society met for their quarterly meeting. It was held at the Society's offices at 31, Conway Street, W.I, and its president, Mr. A. Bon, was in the chair. As usual attendance was very good and some 20 members were present. A newcomer was welcomed in the person of Dr. Escher, Counsellor of Legation, who also deputised for the Minister.

After dealing with some routine matters the accounts were presented by the hon. treasurer. It is of special interest that owing to the satisfactory response to the appeal for the 75th Anniversary Fund a small victory donation could be made to some 180 people who are on the Society's books. The hope was expressed

that donations would continue to come in towards that fund. Expenses for relief have been rather higher lately, and the secretary's report gave examples of the varied shapes in which such relief is given. In one instance it consisted of assistance to a middle aged woman who was unable to work for nearly five months owing to a bad accident. In another case help was given to a cripple who could not attend to his own affairs any longer and had handed his savings to the Society for administration. It was possible later to repatriate him. In a third instance the Society is acting as collecting agent for a retired nursery governess who is paid small sums by some of her former employers. The Swiss Benevolent Society still acts for the Swiss Government in paying out military allowances to families whose menfolk have been serving with the Swiss Army.

The meeting elected six new pensioners as the same number had recently died. There are now again 70 pensioners drawing regular allowances.

It was decided to make enquiries as to the feasibility and cost of journeys by air to Switzerland for poor Swiss people suffering from tuberculosis and similar complaints.

Mariann.

1st OF AUGUST CATHOLIC SERVICE.

St. Peter's Church in Palace Street, S.W.1, by now well known as the place of the Swiss Catholic Services, was nearly crowded out for the special National Day Service on July 29th.

In the presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, and Colonel Anton Bon, the President of the Swiss Catholic Committee, the Chaplain, Father Lanfranchi celebrated High Mass; the choir under the direction of Mr. Hyde, from Westminster Cathedral, sang the full choral service and led the national hymn and anthem at the beginning and at the end of the Mass.

In his short address, Father Lanfranchi reminded the faithful to be grateful to Almighty God that the war in Europe has at last finished, that He had spared us and held the ravages of actual warfare from our Homeland, and to pray incessantly for a just and lasting peace.

He promised to make a pilgrimage to Einsiedeln, on his visit to Switzerland, and offer thanks there for all Swiss in this country, just as thousands of Swiss are making similar pilgrimages, singly and in parties to our Lady's Shrine in Einsiedeln and to the Shrine of "Blessed Niklaus von der Flue" in Sachseln, now the war has finished and our country been saved.

The next special Swiss Service will be on the "Bettag", on September 16th at 11.45 a.m., at the same church.

J.J.B.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on Friday, September 28th, 1945, and take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscription:—J. W. Frick, W. G. Haag, J. J. Boos, G. Miller, C. Landau, E. Devegney, J. C. Nussle, H. Pfirter, E. Krapf, L. Musy, G. Berenger, E. A. Tisdale, Mrs. Iles, Dr. G. C. Bucher, C. A. Aeschimann, J. Hausermann, J. Muller, A. R. Tissot.

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