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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.
(London Group.)
An Active Winter Program.

The London Group of the N.S.H. has mapped out as rich and varied a winter programme for itself and the London Colony as it has carried out during the last nine months of its existence "under new management." Dr. Egli and his team on the new Council have not pitched their aims too high, nor have their hopes of making their open meetings the recognized platform for the discussion of all kinds of Swiss problems been deceived. The proposals and opinions submitted by the small London delegation at the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger in the name of the Colony aroused the liveliest interest. The London Group of the N.S.H. is well on the way of re-assuming the leadership of the entire Fifth Switzerland.

The "Open Meetings" of the N.S.H., to which all Swiss are invited and their friends welcomed, will continue as a permanent feature of its work. They are held every month on the third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., at the Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, Baker Street. The themes to be discussed are announced each month well ahead of the meetings in the "Swiss Observer" and by circular to the members. The first meeting in October was devoted to "The Marshall Plan and Switzerland," on which theme M. E. de Graffenreid, Commercial Councillor at the Swiss Legation, spoke so interestingly. The second meeting on November 18th will be devoted to "Old Age Insurance for the Swiss in Britain," introduced by M. P. Clottu, Labour Councillor at our Legation. The new Swiss Old Age Insurance enables all Swiss abroad to participate, while some are obliged to do so. A clear understanding of the situation, including the British Insurance which also applies to us, is necessary for safeguarding our interests. The third "Open Meeting" on December 16th will bring us a most intriguing talk on "Twenty Englishmen in Switzerland," including such classic figures as Shelley, Byron, Dickens and other great men of letters. It is given by Switzerland's best friend and admirer in Britain, Prof. de Beer, who has done so much to interpret Switzerland to the English-speaking world through his books. This will be a high literary event of our Colony.

The plans for providing *instructive lectures* on Switzerland to refresh our memories and introduce our foreign born wives and the younger generation grown up in this country to their far away home-land, begun

in a small way already last summer, are taking a more positive shape. A series of three lectures, followed by discussions, as an "Introduction to the Swiss Constitution, History and Culture" will be opened by Monsieur A. R. Lindt, Press-Councillor at our Legation, on December 2nd, at 7 p.m., at the Vienna Café.

To fill a long felt want, often expressed from various sides, the social activities of the N.S.H., and it is hoped, the Colony will be enlivened by *special monthly social evenings*. The first will be held on December 6th (Saturday) 6-11 p.m., at the Vienna Café. M. Gandon and companions will play the dance music on accordions, modern and traditional Swiss tunes. It is hoped that all participants possessing Swiss costumes will turn up wearing them. Some individual talents of the Colony will sing *Swiss songs*, joined by the whole company present to whom song books will be distributed. In addition there may be some *reading or reciting* of Swiss authors, in dialect or otherwise. Offers from amateurs to assist in both these respects will be gratefully received by the President of the N.S.H., c/o Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, W.1. If the interest warrants it, a *dramatic group* might be formed to produce a Swiss play. The N.S.H. is offering a *prize of five Guineas* for the *best* one-act play of amusement using Swiss languages and possibly English, and two consolation prizes in the shape of Swiss books. It is hoped to make these Socials the regular venue of all the young Swiss in London, boys and girls, as well as their elders who would enjoy a gay yet unpretentious Swiss atmosphere. To defray expenses a silver collection will be made.

A respectable *library* of the N.S.H. is in course of reassembly and being brought up-to-date under the care of M. Aubaret, Councillor at our Legation. It is hoped to make it soon available at all meetings at the Vienna Café on loan or for reading on the spot. Donations of surplus copies of Swiss books will be welcomed. Swiss periodicals and newspapers may also be included later for the enjoyment of those attending the meetings.

Helvetica.

XMAS GREETINGS.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the announcement in this issue.

In order to avoid any disappointment, we should be glad to receive orders, enclosing 6/- as early as possible.

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