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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The quarterly meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society which took place at the Swiss Home, 31, Conway Street, W.1, on Monday, 10th November, 1947, was a record in several ways. It had seldom been so well attended (there were 35 members present), and hardly ever had it been as short. Unfortunately there was also a record number of resignations. The hon. assistant treasurer, Mr. Favre, who has been doing a great deal of valuable work for many years, Pasteur Pradervand, who, as clergyman of the French-speaking Swiss Protestant Church, has closely co-operated with the S.B.S., and Mr. Oboussier, are all returning to Switzerland. The president, Col. A. Bon, who was in the Chair, wished them success in their new spheres of activity.

As usual at this time of the year the accounts showed a deficit which, it is hoped, will be made up by a generous response to a last appeal to donors and subscribers. One high spot was a donation of £100 given for the welfare of Swiss children by an unknown Englishman in appreciation of the care his wife had received in a Geneva nursing home.

The number of only 58 pensioners is at the lowest level it has been for many years. Casual relief has also been less than last year.

To end the meeting the Swiss Minister, Monsieur P. Ruegger, said a few words in recognition of the Society's great work, and he supported the President's appreciation of Monsieur Ch. Paravicini, a former

Swiss Minister and Hon. President of the Society, who recently died on the lake of Thoune.

May this short report end with an appeal to the Colony once again to remember the poor compatriots at Christmas time. All gifts in cash or kind should reach the S.B.S. very early next month. The sooner the better, as it will ease the task of all the kind helpers who have again volunteered to make parcels, as well as greatly relieve the Secretary. If any old clothes are sent — they are very badly needed — will the senders please remember that nothing torn or dirty is given out by the Society, and if the articles are clean and mended they can be issued at once as they are, and a great deal of time and energy is saved.

MARIANN.

N.S.H. SOCIAL EVENING. Dancing, folk-songs, dialect readings, etc.

One of the aims of the N.S.H. in entering the field of social entertainment is to provide increased opportunities to the young of our Colony, including thousands of new arrivals, for passing their time pleasantly in a Swiss atmosphere without any special expense or dress requirements. The Social Evenings of the N.S.H., the first of which takes place on Saturday, December 6th, 6—11 p.m., at the Vienna Café (see advertisement), are meant to have the character of simple family gatherings, comprising the larger family of Swiss in London and their friends, whether members or not members of the N.S.H. No entrance fee is charged, though a box is provided for voluntary contributions towards costs. The only stipulation is that those participating should join heartily in the modest merriment it is hoped to provide, particularly the dancing and sing-songs, and that those with some amateur talent for entertaining, playing, singing, etc., will volunteer to do so. Any offers to that effect should be addressed, preferably beforehand, to the President of the N.S.H., c/o Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, W.1. Young Swiss of either sex are specially invited to come to these Socials alone or complete with partner, but the older generation, still young in heart and mind, is of course no less welcome.

L'ESCALADE.

Le dîner d'Escalade est fixé cette année pour le Vendredi, 12 Décembre, à 6h.30, au Vienna Café, 289 Finchley Road, près de Baker St. Station, au prix de 12/6. Les Genevois qui désirent y assister sont priés de s'inscrire avant le 10 Décembre auprès de :

- R. de Cintra, 27/29, Tamworth Road, Croydon; CRO. 1062.
- A. Gautier, 134, Wigmore Street, W., Welbeck 8796.
- J. H. Oltramare, 7, Great Winchester Street, E.C.2. London Wall 5591.



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