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COUNCIL FOR THE STUDY OF SWISS PROBLEMS.

The above Council held its December Meeting on the 10th inst., under the Chairmanship of Mr. E. Steiner, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.

The President extended a hearty welcome to the numerous guests, amongst whom were: Dr. A. Escher, Counsellor of Legation, M. E. de Graffenried, Commercial Counsellor, M. Jean-Louis Gilliéron, of the "Schweiz. Bankverein," Basle, Mr. E. Luterbacher, Deputy-Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, London, M. P. H. Aubaret, M. Ch. Weibel, Mr. H. Baehler, of the Swiss Legation, Dr. Vogt, of Messrs. Haeblerlein (Wattwil), Dr. J. A. Schedler, President of the Swiss Club, Manchester, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "*Swiss Observer*."

Dr. Escher tendered to the Meeting the apologies of the Swiss Minister, for his absence, M. Paul Ruegger, having left for Switzerland, previous to his journey to India.

After the minutes of the last meeting having been read out by the Hon. Secretary, M. A. Renou, the President expressed to Mr. A. M. Oboussier, his, and the members appreciation for his services rendered to the Council, in the capacity of Vice-President, and regrets on his approaching departure for Switzerland.

He then called on M. Gilliéron, who addressed the company on: "The British Empire and the Sterling Area." This excellent *exposé* by the speaker, who has recently returned from a journey to India, was greatly appreciated, and we hope to reproduce a part of his lecture in one of the next issues of the *Swiss Observer*.

M. E. de Graffenried, Commercial Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, then commented on the subject of the lecture.

He was followed by Mr. W. B. Siegrist, who had just returned from an official mission for the Swiss Food Office to the South Americas, and who acquainted the Meeting with his experiences during his trip. His concise and well rendered *compte-rendu* was listened to with great interest.

After a short discussion and a *resumé* by the Secretary on some of the work of the Council, the President, Mr. E. Steiner, closed the Meeting, which was followed by a dinner, during which a number of amusing speeches were made.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The L.S.P.S. will be celebrating its fifth birthday in January and a brief reference to its activities may be of interest to at least some of our readers.

Founded during the War, in January 1943, by a group of enthusiastic Swiss stamp collectors, the Club quickly overcame the teething troubles inevitably associated with such new ventures and was the only one of the numerous Swiss Societies in London to hold monthly meetings regularly throughout the War. In this respect it equalled the record of a certain London theatre without having anything so spectacular to offer!

Over sixty members were elected in the first two years and now the total membership exceeds ninety. This satisfactory development is doubtless due in no small measure to the efforts which have been made to present something of interest, in the form of a display, an auction or a stamp quiz, at each monthly meeting. The fixtures for 1947, for instance, have comprised displays of Latvia, Forgeries, Switzerland, Great Britain, Monaco, Varieties and Typical Postage Stamp Designs, apart from two auctions, showing that the Display Organizer has endeavoured to find something of interest to all.

Readers wishing to obtain further particulars, should communicate with the Hon Secretary, Mr. Fred. G. Ebbutt, 18A, Park Hill, Carshalton, Surrey.

NEU-JAHR.

D'z letzt Blatt abem Kalender,
Das Jahr isch vorby wie im Traum,
Ei's reiht sich so nah ad's ander,
Grad wie die Jahr-ringe am Baum.

D'Natur gibt so düttlich Bericht
Über d'Zyt die sie tut verwalte
Mit der Linie meh uf em G'sicht,
Oder a tieferi Falte.

Füf'g Jahr jung, oder drissig Jahr alt,
Möcht gärn e jede no bliebe;
D'Zyt macht leider für keine halt
Die grosst Kunst cha das nid vermiede.

Drum nutzet a jede Augenblick
Nid a Momänt lot enteile,
I der Arbeit nur find me d's Glück,
Die cha unendlich viel heile.

H.E.

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