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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

After the customary summer recess, the Society resumed its regular activities on Wednesday, September 8th, when the Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House.

The President, Mr. W. Meier, extended a cordial welcome to the members and visitors present.

Four new members, Messrs. F. A. Rufener, E. O. Steiner, K. Vonesch and J. Wey, all of whom had previously been members of Swiss Sections, were duly elected.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that approximately £50 had been subscribed by members of the London Section towards the Jubilee collection of the S.K.V., the proceeds of which are being devoted to the purchase of the French educational centre "Le Courtil" at Rolle. Permission had now been obtained from the Bank of England to transfer this amount to the Central Secretariat in Zurich.

Mr. H. Marfurt, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the educational activities. The summer term, which was attended by 158 students, came to a close on August 13th with a visit to the Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth. 54 candidates were successful at the Diploma Examination, which is only open to advanced students. After a three weeks' interval, during which further renovations were carried out at Swiss House, the College reopened on September 6th,

with 132 students in attendance for the winter term. It had been decided to keep numbers somewhat lower during the winter months, on account of heating, etc. A welcome innovation was the opening of a canteen, serving light refreshments to students at moderate prices. The Evening Classes, with courses in English, Commercial Correspondence, Shorthand, etc., have also started. A detailed syllabus can be obtained on application from the Secretary at Swiss House.

A welcome gift in the nature of furniture and curtains had just arrived from Switzerland. These were presented by the Central Society of the S.K.V., and the Chairman of the House-Committee, Mr. L. W. Krucker, stated that these will be used to furnish a Reading and Recreation Room in the "Heimatsstube" style.

The Chairman again reminded members that the Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary, combined with the 25th anniversary of the College, on Saturday, November 6th, with a Luncheon and Tea Dance at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane.

It is anticipated that several distinguished guests from Switzerland will be present and fuller details will be announced in due course.

Following the meeting, Mr. M. D. Jost, a member of the Basle Section, who had recently returned from Singapore and Malaya, where he was connected with a well-known Swiss firm, addressed the members on "Rubber Milk to Finished Product." Mr. Jost gave a very interesting account not only of this important industry, but of life in Singapore, its history and development. The Chairman, on behalf of all present, expressed thanks to Mr. Jost for having related his experiences in Malaya and for having answered a number of questions put to him by the audience.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, October 13th, when Mr. P. Clottu, Labour Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, will address the members on the final details as applicable to Swiss living abroad who wish to join the Swiss Old Age and Dependents' Insurance scheme on a voluntary basis.

W.B.


SECOND PRESIDENTS MEETING.

On Monday evening, 20th September, a second meeting of the Presidents of the Swiss Societies of London took place at the Legation in the presence of the Chargé d'Affaires, Monsieur A. Escher.

M. R. de Cintra presided the first part of the meeting as at the first meeting. The main business was the adoption of a short set of rules regarding the purpose and composition of the new central body of our Colony. The text was approved unanimously as proposed by the sub-committee appointed at the first meeting, reserving only a final decision regarding the official name.

The meeting then elected a Chairman, Dr. H. W. Egli, a Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, M. A. L. Gandon, and an Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Meier.

The rest of the meeting was taken up in discussion of the offer to buy the premises of Union Helvetia for the Swiss Colony, a report on facilities for the young Swiss in London, and the desirability of supporting all concerts of visiting Swiss artists by suitable propaganda and personal attendance.



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