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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Swiss Benevolent Society met at 31, Conway Street, W.1, on Monday, 6th September, at 6.30 p.m. The Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Dupraz, was in the Chair. The main item on the agenda was the accounts for the first six months of the current year. They showed a marked increase of expenditure. More new cases had received casual relief. The income from the Martha Steiner-Staehelin Fund for holidays for poor Swiss in bad health had been used up entirely. The amounts spent on pensions were higher, and more people had been repatriated. The income was slightly higher than during the same period last year, and the Hon. Treasurer mentioned a few special gifts from individuals both in this country and in Switzerland. General Guisan had very kindly donated £50 to the Society's funds on the occasion of his recent visit to London. The subsidy from the Swiss Government had been increased by Frs.1,000.—, an unsolicited and most welcome gesture. But inspite of all this the excess of expenditure over income was £835. It is hoped that donations will come in generously during the next few months so that the accounts may show a better picture by the end of the year.

The Secretary read a letter of thanks from the President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in connection with the holidays in Switzerland plan for Swiss children in England. This year's scheme was started by the N.S.H. But the Swiss Benevolent Society assisted towards the success both by paying the fare of those who could not afford it and by giving a lot of clerical and other help. Twelve children from England are at present enjoying holidays at home under this scheme. They are looked after by Pro Juventute while in Switzerland and are having a splendid time.

The meeting then elected five new pensioners in place of the four who died recently. After that the Secretary reported a wonderful gift of 280kg. of food-stuffs, the surplus of the food brought over from Switzerland for the Swiss competitors at the Olympic Games. It was presented to the S.B.S. by Mr. Gassmann, the leader of the Swiss team, and the obtaining of the necessary permits from the British Organising Committee and from the British Food Ministry and Customs and Excise Department was arranged and facilitated by the Swiss Legation. The food has been repacked into small parcels, and flour, groats, coffee, margarine, butter, fresh fruit, etc, have been distributed amongst as many families and individuals on

the books of the Society as possible. This "windfall" has been greatly appreciated by everybody, and thanks are also due to kind helpers who have spent many hours, often late into the night, making up parcels, specially Mr. Ziereisen, the Assistant Secretary of the Society.

Mariann.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL CITY SWISS CLUB.

**Friday, October 15th, 1948, at the
Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.**

As briefly reported in our last issue, the City Swiss Club has, after a lapse of ten years, decided to resume their customary Annual Banquet and Ball, which in pre-war days has always been an outstanding event in the social life of the Swiss Colony in London.

The war and immediate post war years have made it impossible to hold a function of this kind and the activities of the Club had to be limited to the Monthly Meetings and occasional Tea Dances.

True to its old tradition, the City Swiss Club has, throughout the war, under often trying circumstances, extended at their meetings its hospitality to eminent personalities both here, and from abroad, thus rendering services not only to the Colony, but also to our country.

Amongst the distinguished visitors who were the guests of the City Swiss Club since 1939 were the following: Minister H. Sulzer, Professor W. Rappard, Professor Keller, Ministers W. Thurnheer, Paul Ruegger, L. A. Girardet, Dr. Kullmann, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, League of Nations, W. Preiswerk, Head of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation, Sir Angus Gillan of the British Council, Sir W. Jowitt, P.C.K.C., Sir Hans Vischer, Sir Arthur Morgan, Sir A. Maitland, the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, P.C., Sir Harry Brittain, A. Lunn, Commander Stephen King Hall, H. Newnham (Candidus), Dr. J. Frey, Director of the Agence Telegr. Suisse, Major Bieri, Delegate of the International Red Cross, M. Gafencu, former Foreign Minister of Rumania, M. Jan Masaryk, late Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, Professor Gerbrandy, then Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Harold Nicholson, M.P., the Rt. Hon. Viscount Bennet, P.C., formerly Prime Minister of Canada, M. Henry de Torrenté, Swiss Minister, etc., etc.

The City Swiss Club hopes, as on former occasions, to welcome a number of distinguished personalities at their next month's Banquet. Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Swiss Minister, and Honorary President of the Club, will be in the Chair.

The Committee is anxious that this Banquet should be, in the real sense of the word a "Swiss evening" and they extend their invitation not only to their members and their friends, but to all members of the Swiss Colony in London and the Provinces, and it is hoped that many will attend this function which promises to be one of the outstanding events during the Social Season.

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