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FACILITIES FOR YOUNG SWISS IN LONDON.

The question of suitable social facilities for the thousands of young Swiss in London is resolving itself unexpectedly in a most satisfactory manner. The enquiries concerning this matter, set on foot by the first Meeting of Presidents of the Swiss Societies in London, have yielded rich fruit. Mr. W. Fischer, President of the Swiss Y.M.C.A., has drawn attention to the availability of club facilities of the most comprehensive kind to young Swiss of either sex at extremely moderate cost in the central buildings of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association in Great Russell Street, W.C.1. These facilities surpass anything any Swiss club could ever aspire to provide. And they offer the added advantage of plentiful opportunities of contact and conversation with English men and girls who are the main part of the membership of these two organisations. As most, if not all, young Swiss, who have come here since the end of the war, have done so with the chief desire to learn English as well as they can, such contacts with English contemporaries are of inestimable value to them.

Full details of these facilities and the conditions of joining the two organisations are given below. All young Swiss are advised most strongly to make use of them. They have existed all along, but too little was known of them in the Colony. Some 15 years ago the Swiss Colony contributed even a considerable sum towards the establishment of a so-called Swiss Parlour at the Y.W.C.A., for general use as well as that of Swiss girls. During the war it lost many Swiss members and it would welcome any number of them back to-day. Of the men's centre more was known thanks to the existence of a Swiss group of the Y.M.C.A. But



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here also, more publicity about it will no doubt bring many more young Swiss to using it. We have no hesitation in saying that these two organisations represent the ideal answer to our quest. It is perhaps advisable to state in this connection that the word Christian in the name is not used in any sectarian sense. Members from all denominations are all equally welcome and no intrusion in anyone's religious beliefs need be feared.

It should prove useful to the young Swiss as well as to their employers if we enumerate below the other existing facilities specially suitable for the young, alongside with the details of the Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.

Swiss Y.W.C.A. Representative: Miss Elisabeth Petter, 60, Hornsey Lane, N.6.

Y.W.C.A. (Young Women's Christian Association), Central Club, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

MEMBERSHIP :

Entrance fee: 2/6. *Annual Subscription*: £1.17.6. The subscription can be paid in instalments of three months or shorter periods, according to the length of time a girl is staying in London.

FACILITIES :

Restaurant: Breakfast, Midday meals, Evening meals (Supper from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.) Snacks from 7.30 to 10 p.m.) The restaurant is also open to non-members of both sexes. *Gymnasium, Swimming Pool, Library and Reading Room, Writing Room, Chapel, English Lessons*: Free for members, every Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. *Three Parlours available*. *Hostel Accommodation* available if advised in good time, inquiry office has also a list of addresses. *Employment*

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41-43, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.4.
Telegrams: Leptours. Telephones: City 2301-2 & Central 6632.

GROSVENOR HOUSE, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1.
Telegrams: Leptours, Audley. Telephone: Regent 0354.

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52, CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
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Agency. Tea Party in the Swiss Parlour: every Wednesday afternoon at 4.30 p.m. Sundays 4.30 p.m.: Members Tea Party in the Hampstead Room. Dances every Friday and on the third Saturday of each month.

Swiss Y.M.C.A. (Young Men's Christian Association) 12, Bateman Street, Soho, London, W.1. Meetings every Thursday at 6 p.m. Lectures and discussions in English. Subscription 1s. monthly.

London Central Y.M.C.A., 112, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1. Lounge, restaurant, writing room, swimming bath, gymnasium. Annual Subscription £2.2.0 (less subscription paid to Swiss Y.M.C.A.).

Union Chrétienne de Langue Française, French-speaking Y.M.C.A., 9, Soho Square, W.1, Tuesdays 6 p.m.

Jeunesse d'Eglise. Every other Friday 6.30 p.m., Eglise Suisse.

French-Swiss Réunions for Girls. Held every Thursday, 3 to 7.30 p.m., at Crown Court, Russell Street, W.C.2 (facing Drury Lane Theatre). (Pasteur C. Reverdin.)

Töchterverein "Schwyzerchränzli" held every Wednesday from 4 p.m., at Eglise Française, 9 Soho Square, W.1. (Rev. H. Blum.)

Swiss Catholics, Alpenrosen Club, held every Sunday 7 to 10.30 p.m., at St. Peter's Hall, Westminster Cathedral, Ashley Gardens, W.1. (Rev. A. Lanfranchi.)

Swiss Mercantile College for English and Commercial Courses, daily 6 to 7.30 p.m., at "Swiss House," 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Course of twelve lectures £1.

Swiss Youth Club. Holding a weekly dance at 86, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W.1, on Saturdays 7 to 11 p.m. (Entrance 2s. 6d.)

Rütli Club for dances, see advertisements in the Swiss Observer.

Unione Ticinese, socials and dancing, see advertisements in Swiss Observer.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique, discussions on Swiss problems, films, etc. On third Tuesday, 7 p.m. every month, at Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, Baker Street Tube Station, W.1. Meetings open to all, young Swiss particularly welcome.

Swiss Club "Schweizerbund," 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Closed for renovation till December.

HELVETICUS.

COLLEGE OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Swiss House had a very busy summer. 160 Students (32 ladies and 128 men), graded in seven classes, attended part or the whole of the Summer Term, 1948, which began on 27th April and closed on 13th August.

The main object of the College is to give the Students an opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the English language. It is, of course, impossible to learn English in a sixteen weeks' course. A number of Students therefore return to Switzerland before having reached a satisfactory standard. Many of them, however, either possess a good foundation when they enter the College or remain in London for a longer period. Such can aim at obtaining the Diploma of the College. During the past course the Diploma was awarded to 54 candidates.

The College also wishes to acquaint the Students with the country and its institutions. For this purpose courses of lectures on English Literature, British Institutions, Geography of the British Isles, and English Art were given. The lectures were closely connected with, and followed by, visits to several places of interest.

At the Open Air Theatre, performances of Shakespeare's "As you like it," "A Mid-summer Night's Dream," and "King John" were seen. Parties of Students, under the guidance of experts, visited the Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, the Old Bailey, Hampton Court, and many other buildings and sites connected with the country's institutions and history.

A Saturday afternoon was devoted to a trip by launch through the Docks of London. A visit to Windsor Castle and Eton College — followed by a boat trip up the Thames Valley — and a coach trip to Cambridge were both blessed with good, if not excellent, weather. The climax was reached on the last day of the course, when the Students enjoyed the hospitality of the Royal Navy at H.M. Dockyard in Portsmouth, a unique experience for all of them, which, we hope, will, for a long time, remain the zenith of a series of happy recollections.

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