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AN ACTIVE WINTER PROGRAM OF THE N.S.H.

The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique has again an ambitious program of work and entertainment in hand. The "Guide to the Swiss Colony," conceived about a year ago, is at last in the printer's hands and should be available before Christmas. The work involved has, of course, been much more extensive than was expected, but the results should prove to have been worth the trouble. It will be especially useful also for the young Swiss newcomer to our Colony, containing much they wish to or ought to know. The quest for ways and means to turn the premises of the Union Helvetia into a worthy *social centre* for the Colony continues. The organisation of support for *Swiss visiting artists* recently initiated will be further pursued. These are some of the ancillary activities the N.S.H. has undertaken with much encouragement from all sides of the Colony.

The initiative for a closer co-operation in each Colony and between all the Colonies under a comprehensive *Organisation of the Swiss Abroad* has been taken up in Switzerland at the centre as well as in this and other Colonies and looks like progressing rapidly. The London Group of the N.S.H. will again call a *Conference of the Swiss in England* in order to discuss the questions to be raised next year at the *Journée des Suisses à l'étranger*. The N.S.H. is, of course, warmly supporting the *central body of presidents of all Swiss societies* in the Colony formed last summer on its initiative. The question of a *voting right* for the Swiss abroad when on visit in Switzerland, also raised by the London Group, is being actively pursued in the Swiss Parliament. The N.S.H. is happy to second the very active interest the Swiss Mercantile Society is taking in helping to shape the conditions of the *Swiss Old Age Insurance* to the needs of the Swiss abroad.

Three eminent *Swiss lecturers* are being invited to come over from Switzerland for the three monthly meetings, February, March and April, for lectures and discussions. It is hoped that many members of the Colony will avail themselves of the opportunity thus provided at considerable expense to refresh our minds and knowledge on Swiss matters.

The season of Open Meetings has been opened auspiciously by a lecture of the Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, on the Role of the Swiss Abroad, with special reference to commercial aspects. At the next meeting on December 14th the liberal woman politician, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, will talk to us on the women's vote and how to proceed to achieve it in Switzerland. The Annual General Meeting will take place on January 15th at the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund" after its renovation.

Helvetica.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 14th, 1949.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: O. A. Keyser, C. Bertschinger, F. G. Sommer, E. G. Stauber, H. E. Messmer, M. Bozzini, Mrs. R. Koerber, P. L. Bonnet, Miss H. Sidler, C. Reverdin, H. F. Frutiger.

THE RUTLI CLUB.

To celebrate their 6th Birthday, the Rutli Club held a Dance on 24th November, at the Seymour Hall, Bryanston Square, W.1.

The numerous participants were delighted to welcome as their guests the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, who, with Madame de Torrenté, arrived during the course of the evening.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Madame de Torrenté has graciously consented to become Honorary President of the Rutli Club. All the members of the Club are deeply conscious of the great honour thus bestowed on them.

As on former occasions, this Dance was a great success and well patronised by the youth of the Swiss Colony who greatly enjoyed dancing to the music of Johnny Gaida and his Continental Band; young and old joining in the fun when members of the Swiss Accordion Club took over to play Swiss "waltzers."

The Tombola was a great success and many lovely and useful prizes were given to the lucky ticket-holders.

All too soon it was 11.30 p.m. and this enjoyable evening had to be brought to a close with everyone wishing each other *au revoir* until the next dance which will be held in December.

A.G.W.

