

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1948)

Heft: 1088

Rubrik: Swiss Mercantile Society

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

A large number of members and friends attended the Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, April 14th.

It was with deep regret that the Chairman, Mr. W. Meier, announced the death of Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico, who for many years had given valuable services to the S.M.S. as a member of the House Committee, in which capacity she had taken a kindly interest in the welfare of the lady students of the College. Since her retirement from active membership, she had further continued to support the Society as a Contributing Member.

Following closely upon Mrs. Lunghi's death, news was received that our Honorary Member and past President, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, had succumbed to a long but bravely borne illness. Having joined the S.M.S. in 1898, he could look back upon 50 years of continuous and fruitful membership, for which he was due to be honoured at the forthcoming Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Lucerne, but, alas, he did not live quite long enough to receive the reward of his faithful and outstanding membership.

The members then rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed members.

The meeting thereupon proceeded to deal with the usual agenda. Three new members were elected, viz. Messrs. J. M. Scherer and A. Spalinger, and Miss M. Vallon, the two last named having been transferred from the Geneva Section.

Mr. Marfurt briefly reported on the very successful Children's Fancy Dress Party, arranged by the Ladies' Group for Saturday afternoon, February 28th. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. L. W. Krucker, Vice-President, and Mr. W. Deutsch, it was possible to present all the children with a prize. These were awarded according to points scored for originality of

costumes, and were much appreciated and admired by the recipients. Both children and parents enjoyed an excellent tea which the indefatigable ladies had prepared. The Hon. Secretary, on behalf of the General Purposes Committee, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Ladies' Group for the very pleasant afternoon.

With the lifting of catering restrictions, it will this year again be possible to hold our Annual Luncheon and Tea Dance. This has been arranged for Saturday, October 16th, at the Dorchester Hotel, when the Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary, combined with the 25th anniversary of the College.

Reporting on the activities of the College, Mr. O. Roethlisberger, Chairman of the Education Committee, stated that the spring term had just come to a close. Out of 38 candidates who had sat for the diploma, 29 had been successful and he wished those who were about to return to Switzerland every success in their future career.

Over 150 students have been enrolled for the summer term, the maximum number which can at present be accommodated at Swiss House. Even the autumn term is nearly fully booked and there appears little doubt that the College is going from strength to strength and that the demand for a thorough education in English is greater than ever.

Following the meeting, Mr. Gottfried Keller, President of the Foreign Press Association, London Correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" and of the "Agence Télégraphique Suisse," addressed the members on

"VIEWS ON THE NEWS."

Mr. Keller was, of course, no stranger to the audience. He made his *début* in London as a student of the College and since embarking on his journalistic career, he has earned himself a reputation not only as a Press correspondent, but also as a speaker *par excellence*.

As was to be anticipated, Mr. Keller primarily dealt with the present international situation.

After a brief history of the period leading up to the current trend of events, he proceeded to give a masterful analysis of the European situation. His comments were outspoken but dispassionate. It was a sombre picture which he drew, giving the audience plenty of food for thought, yet all must have felt that his views were realistic and in no way biased. Gloomy though the outlook might appear, Mr. Keller gave it as his considered opinion that given firmness and sincerity of purpose, Europe may yet achieve the long desired peace and unity. The danger lay in complacency, uncertainty, weakness and hesitancy, which might prove fatal in view of the forces working against a European recovery. Sustained by the gigantic forces of the New World, there was great hope that Europe may in time follow its example and emerge triumphant over the forces of evil and darkness.

Mr. Keller also alluded to Switzerland's position in the new set-up and firmly upheld the course which our authorities at home were steering with great wisdom and unflinching determination.

The audience, which had listened with rapt attention to Mr. Keller's *exposé*, gave him an enthusiastic ovation at the conclusion of his address. An animated discussion followed in which many members took part and finally the Chairman expressed thanks to the lecturer for his most interesting and instructive talk.

WB.

GENERAL GUISAN

It is with great joy that we inform all Swiss that a

DINNER

will be given in honour of the General on

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1948.

Reception 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.

in the

**BALLROOM of the DORCHESTER HOTEL,
PARK LANE, W.**

Evening Dress will **not** be worn

Ticket: £1. 1. 0. (Drinks excluded).

Application for tickets to be made by post (with remittance and prepaid addressed envelope please) to: Charles Chapuis, Esq., 72, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.