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SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES A LONDRES.

**Annual Meeting and Dinner.
Wednesday, May 4th, 1949.**

Straight from the precincts of the "Mother of Parliaments," at Westminster, where I was privileged to attend a reception party given to the Swiss Parliamentary Delegation, I went to the Mother of Swiss Societies, the Société de Secours Mutuels, an institution which can look back on 246 years of existence, having been founded *Anno Domini* 1703.

Whilst some of their sister Societies in London indulge in Banquets at fashionable West-End Hotels, this Society very modestly met at their Headquarters at 74, Charlotte Street, and instead of bidding to their Annual Dinner a large number of official guests, they limit their invitations to a very few.

It is a remarkable Society in more than one way, their members can claim so many benefits; when they have the misfortune to fall ill, they receive generous compensation, whenever they attend a meeting, they get a bottle of beer for nothing, the cost of the Annual Dinner are defrayed out of the funds of the Society, and above all if they decide to leave this valley of sorrow, their next of kin get a "bonus" of £20 for funeral expenses. Can you beat this?

This function, I was told, not being of an official character, should not be reported at length in the Colony's paper, but I nevertheless, being one of the privileged guests of the Society, wish to write a few lines about this very successful evening.

During the dinner, which was an excellent one, Mr. A. L. Gandon, the very sympathetic President of the Society, extended a hearty welcome to the members, of which about sixty were present, and to the guests: Monsieur le Pasteur C. Reverdin, Mr. E. Luterbacher, Deputy Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer."

He gave a very interesting *exposé* of the Society's work and aims, thanking his colleagues on the Committee, amongst them, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Kilchenmann, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Kunzli, for the devoted services they had rendered.

Submitting to the ruling, that none of the speeches should be recorded, which saves me a lot of work and trouble, I, however, wish to mention that they were "short and sweet."

After the official part came to its close, a musical programme, consisting of accordion playing, singing and yodelling, was given, which was greatly enjoyed by all those present.

In concluding this short report, I wish to thank the Society for their generous hospitality, wishing them all the success they so richly deserve for their humanitarian work they are rendering in such an unselfish manner.

ST.

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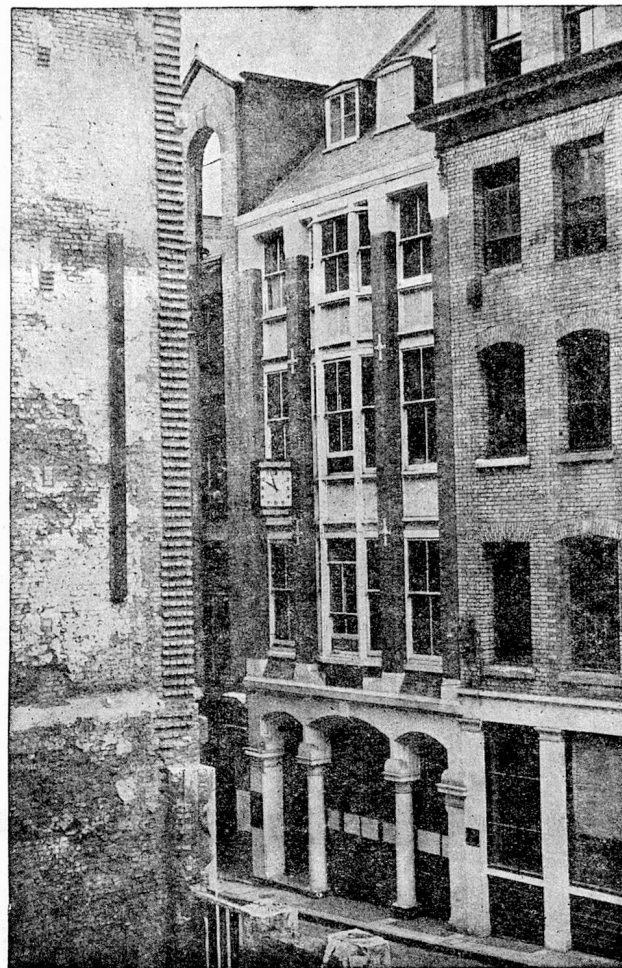
A WELCOME PRESENT.

During the reconstruction of the Swiss Club building at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, the Swiss Male Choir had the misfortune to lose all their music.

This has become known in Switzerland, and the Swiss Male Choir has recently received a parcel containing 80 copies of "Liederbücher des Eidgenössischen Sängervereins" from the "Ausschuss der Arbeitergemeinschaft der Schweizer-Sänger" in Basle as a present.

The splendid gift has not only been appreciated by the Swiss Male Choir, but also by the entire Colony on whose behalf we join the Society in thanking the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Schweizer-Sänger" for their *beau geste*, and their spirit of "Sängerfreundschaftlicher Kameradschaft."

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