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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society was held at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W. 1, on 27th February at 6.30 p.m. In his introductory remarks the Chairman, Colonel A. Bon, welcomed the Minister and other members of the Swiss Legation. He expressed the Society's pleasure at their active support at all times. Unfortunately the Society has lost an old and valued friend in Mr. Maurice Golay who died recently in Switzerland. The meeting honoured his memory by the customary silence. The President then reported that the newly opened Welfare Office for Swiss girls was both a necessity and a great success.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read the Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts. Unfortunately the picture for 1949 was not such a good one. Donations were £530 short of the previous year's figure, and this, no doubt, was mainly due to the fact that some of the large gifts received in 1948 were not repeated in 1949, *viz.* £50 from General Guisan, £100 from Prof. Backhaus, the pianist, £222 from the Fête Suisse and £68 from the Swiss Concert at Conway Hall. The sum of £486 representing a refund of income tax on 110 covenants was very encouraging, and Mr. Rothlisberger, the Treasurer, expressed the hope that still more subscribers would sign the seven years' covenant. The sum spent on casual relief had remained at £1,600. There was not a week during which no new case, either temporary or permanent, came on the Society's books. In addition the pensions had gone up by £110. The Treasurer explained that the allowances were being increased periodically to keep in step, if possible, with the cost of living. The accounts for the year showed a deficit of about £300, and there was a drop of £965 in the funds owing to devaluation.

Before the Hon. Treasurer of the Swiss Home, Mr. Zimmermann, presented his report the President gave as his opinion, later endorsed by the meeting, that the Society should not reduce their assistance but in order to meet the new financial tasks they should increase their efforts to get more money. Already the Society was committed for nearly £500 in 1950 above the ordinary expenses: the allowances to pensioners would have to be increased by 2/6 a week, and the Society had promised £200 towards the expenses of the Welfare Office for Swiss girls. On the other hand Colonel Bon reported the generous offer by Prof. de Beer of a manuscript of a new book on Switzerland, renouncing all rights in favour of the Society.

The Auditor's report and all the accounts were approved, and the President and Committee then resigned. Mr. R. Dupraz, the Hon. Vice-President, conducted the elections. A new Vice-President was chosen in place of the late Mr. Gambazzi. Mr. C. Berti, President of the Unione Ticinese was asked to replace him. Mr. Dupraz was elected Chairman of the Swiss Home in place of Mr. Gamper who finds it necessary for health reasons to give up part of his work for the Society. He has been one of the most untiring workers on the S.B.S. and the Society owe him a great debt of gratitude. Fortunately, though, he will remain Vice-President. Apart from these changes the Committee was re-appointed, and the first task of office was to elect eight new pensioners bringing the number up to 67.

Mr. Campart reported on the activities of the Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress, who run Library Hall where some of the pensioners are living. Before closing the meeting the President thanked the Swiss Mercantile Society for putting at their disposal such a spacious committee room.

MARIANN.

NEW WAVE LENGTHS OF SWISS BROADCAST STATIONS.

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