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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

At the Monthly Meeting held at Swiss House on the 10th January, Mr. W. Meier, our President, referred in moving terms to the passing of our honorary member, Mr. J. J. Pfaendler, when on his way home on the 19th December. Although we knew that his heart was not what it might have been, no one guessed that the end was so near, especially as the departed never complained of feeling ill. For over 40 years he had given of his best, not only to the Employment Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society but to the Society itself and the College. Mr. Pfaendler and Mr. De Brunner were two of the principal founders of our School which both lived long enough to see it well and truly established and enjoying a high reputation here and in Switzerland. Owing to the proximity of Christmas, many of our members received the notice of Mr. Pfaendler's demise too late to accompany our friend on his last journey. Nevertheless, well over 60 of our members attended the service at St. James Church, Muswell Hill, followed by a service at the Crematorium Chapel of Finchley. Mrs. Pfaendler communicated to us her late husband's firm wish that no flowers be sent to his funeral. Instead, the London Section donated £5.— to the Swiss Benevolent Society, while the S.K.V., Zurich, gave frs.100.— for the same purpose in memory of our late member.

Mr. Boos then paid tribute to Mr. Pfaendler whom he had known for 41 years. He endorsed our President's fitting remarks and added that it was not an exaggeration to say that it was due to Mr. Pfaendler's loyalty, enthusiasm, and hard work that the London Section was kept in being during the difficult years which followed the 1914-18 war.

Dealing with the ordinary agenda, the meeting accepted the following members: Miss Meroni, fiancée of Mr. H. R. Scherrer, who has just left London to take up a position with Cargo Superintendents in Geneva. Mr. E. A. Mueller, of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. John Tobler, of La Roche Products, Welwyn Garden City. Mrs. G. Staerchi.

On the other hand we lost: Messrs. Hans Trepp and Paul Isacco, who have transferred their membership to Zurich Section; Mr. James Haeusermann, who retired to Lenzburg. He was on the Committee of the London Section for several years at the beginning of the century and had been a loyal member for 50 years. In recognition of this the meeting decided to make Mr.

Haeusermann a corresponding member. Mr. Rolf Gerber, formerly of the Swiss Legation, London, now at Hannover.

The President then read a letter he had written to the General Secretary of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. Philipp Schmid-Ruedin, on his completion of 25 years as Swiss National Councillor. He also mentioned that Mr. E. Hüni, a former Chairman of the Education Committee, now director of the International Wool Secretariat in Zurich had sent us a booklet entitled "Die Schweizerische Wollfibel", which will be available in our library.

It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting at the Swiss Club on Wednesday, 14th February, and that the meeting was to be preceded by a dinner, particulars to be advised to members in due course.

At this point Mr. Meier left the Chair to attend a business appointment elsewhere, and Mr. W. Burren took over from him to introduce Mr. J. P. Pattinson, M.A., Cantab., a member of our teaching staff, who addressed us on his war experience in the Middle East. By means of maps and pictures thrown on the screen by our epidiascope, he gave us a precis of the position of the war in March 1941, when he reached Egypt. From this he built up his account of the desert battles under Generals Wavell, Auchinleck, and Montgomery. He concluded his remarks by his recollections of two years in Palestine, from which country he returned to England at the end of the war. Much has been written on this subject, but a personal account such as this one always adds life to what otherwise often amounts to very dry reading.

E.H.S.

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