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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Monthly Meeting of April 11th, 1951.

Mr. W. Meier, President, opened the Meeting by informing us of the death of our member, Mr. Hans Obrist, who joined our Society in 1921; the usual tribute was paid to him.

Among those excused as absent was Mr. J. J. Boos, who has lost his sister.

The following members were elected: Adolf Fäss, transf., from section Zurich; Ernest Schmid, transf., from section Fribourg, J. H. Meier, transf., from section Zurich.

The resignation of the undermentioned were accepted: F. Freier, W. Leuthold, Hans Schneeberger, Max Wirz, all of whom have been transferred to various sections in Switzerland.

The President recommended the members to read the various articles which, since February, have appeared in the "Zentralblatt" by Mr. Schmid-Ruedin, dealing with questions affecting the Swiss living abroad. He informed the Meeting that for several reasons no Swiss Sports Meeting will be held this year. Mr. Meier and Mr. Krucker will attend the Delegates Meeting of the S.K.V. which will take place at Lausanne shortly.

At this point Mr. R. Richards, B.Sc., an official lecturer of the International Wool Secretariat, was introduced to the meeting to address us on the Manufacturing processes of Wool. He proceeded to do this with an easy style, showing a perfect mastery of the subject and a lively sense of humour, which helped to drive home many a salient point. He began by stating that there were about 2,200 different breeds of sheep, and more than 7,000 different types of wool with no definite line of demarcation. Wool was classed in three groups:

1. Fine or merino wool;
2. Cross-bred, also called Saxony and "Botany" Wool (not from Cross-bred sheep) but intermediate in fineness;

3. Coarse carpet wool, also used in upholstery and furnishing.

After some general introductory remarks Mr. Richards showed us lantern slides which illustrated all the essential processes of manufacture from the shearing of the sheep to the cleaning, dying (more than 3,000 different dyes are in use), to the spinning of woollen and worsted yarns, and the weaving of woollens and worsted materials. We were told the essential difference between woollen and worsted material and were let into a number of the secrets of the trade which account for the high or low quality of the products of the wool industry.

Questions and answers which followed the lecture helped to clarify a number of aspects still further and impressed the hearers with the vastness and diversity of the subject about which we had learnt a great deal in the course of the evening.

E.H.S.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SWISS CATHOLICS.

The Easter Service of the Swiss Catholics, held on Sunday, April 8th, at St. Peter's Church, Westminster, was very well attended. In his sermon in English the Chaplain, Rev. A. Lanfranchi, preached on Christ's message "Pax Vobis" the peace of Christ in all things spiritual and earthly, and in German on "Lumen Christi" the light of Christ in our daily life.

Solemn Benediction was celebrated by the Rev. J. Inesch, Missionary of M.H.B. (who has just returned to Europe after 13 years mission work in China), assisted by Rev. A. Holstein, M.H.B. (who will shortly take up missionary work in Japan).

The choir sang Mozart's "Haec Dies" the day of our Lord, and Gounod's "Ave Verum". After the service was the Annual General Meeting at St. Peters Hall, which was equally well attended.

Mr. C. Berti, the Chairman, welcomed the assembly, he and Mr. J. Boos the Honorary Secretary referred to the Annual Report which had been circulated, both stressing the importance of the Mission carried out so ably, under great difficulties, by Fr. Lanfranchi. The Chaplain thanked the Committee for their help, and all the contributors in 1950 for their assistance, without which the work could not be done.

Mr. Broglie and Mr. Gandon proposed adoption of reports and accounts and re-election of the Committee for 1951/52, special thanks being accorded to Mr. C. Schumacher who had been the Committee's Chairman for nearly 10 years. New members elected were Mr. P. De Maria, Mr. C. Buschor and Mr. Gandon.

The rest of the evening was spent as a happy social gathering, songs by the Choir, Swiss films, and music for the benefit of the younger generation with Tea and Dance.

Any Catholic in London or neighbourhood anxious to make contact with the Chaplain and with his patriots should get in touch with the Chaplain, Rev. A. Lanfranchi, at 58, Queen's Gate, Kensington, London, S.W.7, telephone Western 5587.

J.J.B.

TOWN HALL WIMBLEDON

CONCERT

Monday, April 30th, 1951.

Wimbledon Philharmonic Orchestra

Leader: DENIS EAST

with

RUTH HUGGENBERG (Swiss)

SOLO PIANOFORTE

Conductor: KENNETH TUCKER

Programme includes: Piano Concerto in C major - - Beethoven
Piano Concerto in D minor - - Brahms

Tickets: 6/- 4/- 2/- — From Maxwells, 45, Hill Road, Wimbledon, and Branches. (WIM 4276)

— All seats numbered and reserved —

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN FOYER FROM 6.30 P.M.