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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

No more than three dozen members were present at Swiss House for the monthly meeting on 8th inst. Messrs. J. J. Boos, Willy Deutsch and H. Knoll excused themselves for non-attendance.

Mr. J. J. Schneider, our secretary, was still in hospital at University College with knee trouble. There was some improvement to report but the time of his discharge from hospital was not known yet.

We had no new members enrol, but had to accept the resignation of Miss A. Wiesmann, who had returned to Switzerland.

Arising from the minutes, the President informed us that a room was now available at Swiss House every Wednesday evening for members who may wish to play cards or meet socially.

The enquiry sent out to members asking what type of social gathering they preferred this winter had been answered by few only. The replies showed a slight preference for a lunch and tea, instead of a dinner and dance.

With regard to the winter programme we were informed that, through the kind intermediary of Mr. Gottfried Keller we shall have the pleasure of hearing Mr. S. H. Woolridge, formerly Consul at Strassbourg, at our November meeting, on the European Federation, the Schumann plan, and kindred matters.

The Presidents Assembly has now handed the question of the Swiss Youth Centre in London over to the Organising Committee appointed for the purpose, on which our trustee, Mr. F. G. Sommer, and our member Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer, are serving. It is intended to launch an appeal for funds in Switzerland before Christmas. Mr. Mock stated that our General Secretary, Mr. P. Schmid-Ruedin, was putting this project before the Federal authorities to ascertain what support we may expect in that quarter.

Mr. Reymond Chappuis, who had just returned from holidays in Switzerland, brought us the greetings from our corresponding members Messrs. Jean Trachsel and Maurice Bornand.

At this point we went over to the entertainment of the evening. We were shown three films lent to us by the British Transport Commission. The first one dealt in considerable detail with the organisation and machinery of unloading and loading a cargo cum passenger steamer in the port of Hull. At the end one appreciated why the Army always seems a poor substitute, during strikes, for the highly specialised labour force which handles, with extraordinary efficiency, the huge and varied cargoes which enter and leave this country through its ports. Film two was a humorous sketch showing how a family moves from their old home to new quarters, the lesson being, "Leave it to the British Railways and Road Services and you cannot go wrong". The third and last film initiated us the maintenance service of London's Underground which is being overhauled every four years. — To judge by the comments overheard after the meeting, these films belong to the best and most instructive we have seen at Swiss House, and we are grateful to our principal Mr. Slade, for drawing our attention to this service of the British Transport Commission.

E.S.H.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Monday Nights' Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society met at an intimate and informal dinner at the Glendower Hotel on Thursday, 23rd. October, to mark the retirement of Mr. Theo Ritter, the Society's Secretary.

At the appropriate moment Colonel Anton Bon, the President, expressed to Mr. Ritter the heartfelt thanks of the Committee and of the Colony in general for half a century of devotion to the welfare of our less fortunate compatriots. In well chosen words he recalled how closely Mr. Ritter was identified with the development of our charitable institution, where his hard work, his experience and sound advice have been at all times of such utmost value. He hoped that the guest of honour would continue to enjoy good health for a long time to come and that he and his wife, would find happiness and satisfaction in the more leisurely life which they both so fully deserved.

Our Consul Mr. J. Huber, followed by stating that he was the bearer of a special message from the Swiss Minister, who thanked Mr. Ritter for all he had done and the efficient and pleasant manner in which he had co-operated in his sphere with the Legation and our own Authorities.

Many of those present had nice things to say to the retiring Secretary, who, in his turn assured the Committee that they could rely on his regular attendance at Monday's Meetings whenever in London, and that he would be only too happy to undertake any special task which may be entrusted to him in the future.

This pleasant function terminated in the atmosphere of friendliness which is the hall-mark of all activities connected with our Swiss Benevolent Society.

R.D.

A CORRECTION.

In our last issue we announced under the heading ARMY the appointment of "Colonel A. Jacob" to the command of the 7th division, it should have read: "Colonel A. Jakob Annasohn".

The Editor.



Panda

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