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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

An Attractive Programme.

The London Group of the N.S.H. is again developing much activity this winter, both social and cultural. A few days before Christmas a social evening was held at the Vienna Café. A modest but excellent supper preceded the showing of a new sound-film from Switzerland, entitled "Freudentage-Sorgentage". It is a selection of documentary news-films recording the joyful and also the sorrowful highlights of life at home during the last two years. It was received with much warm appreciation and it can be said that it is one of the finest Swiss films shown in this country so far, thanks to the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger. From the same source the London Group of the N.S.H. has received a selection of Swiss dialect records, some of which were played on this pre-Christmas evening after the showing of the film. The records will be kept awhile by the N.S.H. who would gladly lend them other societies wishing to play them to their members.

On January 15th Dr. Roman Boos, a prominent Swiss writer and lecturer on a short visit in England, spoke at an Open Meeting of the N.S.H. in German on "The Significance of Swiss Neutrality". He was chiefly concerned with the spiritual content and justification of our policy of neutrality in the face of a world situation so full of tension, mistrust, fear, hatred and danger. The essential condition for the continuance of Swiss neutrality is, as the lecturer declared, our country's "machtpolitische Unbescholteneit" — our complete and evident innocence of all ambition for power over others. And the first aim of our neutrality must be to give it the highest moral meaning by fostering the respect of justice and law, by maintaining the human link between individuals as well as nations, and by holding high the ideal of humanity. It is better for the world as well as our country, in the opinion of the lecturer, if Switzerland does not join in any of the new international organisations so long as they retain the slightest trace of "power politics" in their make-up or functioning. But Switzerland should and does co-operate readily and fully with all countries and organisations in jointly dealing with economic and humanitarian problems. The lively discussion which concluded the meeting showed Dr. Boos that his lecture had been listened to attentively, if not uncritically.

On January 29th, Dr. E. Mörgeli, joint-director of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger at Berne, will be the guest-speaker in German at a special Open Meeting of the N.S.H. He will discuss "Problems of the Swiss Abroad" on the basis of his intimate experience and knowledge of the difficulties our various Colonies have to contend with. It is hoped that a lively discussion may follow, including the burning question of the thousands of young Swiss girls at a loose end in London. There will also be shown a new Swiss sound film.

On February 19th Monsieur A. Masnata, director of the "Office suisse d'expansion commercial" at Lausanne will speak at an Open Meeting of the N.S.H. on the "History of Swiss Industries" in French, illustrated by documentary films or slides.

The Annual General Meeting of the N.S.H. will take place on Friday, February 29th, at the Dorchester, followed by an Annual Dinner and entertainment.

On March 18th, Dr. M. Schürch, President of the mother organisation, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland, will talk to the London Group and friends on the Swiss Army. And on April 15th Col. Bon's nephew, Christopher Bon will speak on Swiss Architecture in the Grisons, illustrated with many slides of his own photographs.

Dr. E.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

On Saturday, February 9th, 1952, the Swiss Mercantile Society is inviting their members and friends to their Annual Luncheon followed by a Tea Dance, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

The guests of honour will be the Swiss Minister and Madame Henry de Torrenté.

We understand that the Society has circularised its members regarding this function, and it is therefore hardly necessary to enlarge here on the arrangements which have so far been made. We consider it, however, our duty, and a pleasant one at that, to bring this event to the notice of a wider circle, hoping that many of our compatriots will make it a point to be present at this Luncheon and Tea Dance.

The Swiss Mercantile Society has a long and distinguished record, eminent members of the Colony have, in the past, directed the destiny of the Society. It would, therefore, be a befitting opportunity to express an appreciation for the long and faithful services rendered to the Swiss community, by attending their gathering, which, we have not the slightest doubt, will be a most enjoyable one in every respect. The spirit of comradeship and patriotism has been, through all these many years, an outstanding feature and has made the Society a little corner of "Home" on foreign soil.

It is our most ardent wish that this function should be well attended, thus proving to this enterprising Society, that we are grateful for what they have done for us.

* * *

(Tickets 21/- including Luncheon, Dance, Tea and gratuities, obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Mercantile Society, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.)

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