

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The April meeting was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, the 9th.

The President reported that the Society's Press Reporter, Mr. E. H. Schlatter, had had, unfortunately, to return to Hospital for an operation, and he circulated a note which he had written to Mr. Schlatter and which the members present were asked to sign.

There were no applications for membership, but two resignations, Mr. J. Wey, who wished to be transferred to the New York section, and Mr. G. Haberstick.

The President reported that the Annual Luncheon and Tea Dance which had been postponed from the 9th February owing to the death of King George the VI would now be held at the Dorchester on Saturday, the 7th June. Full particulars would shortly be sent to all members.

Mr. Meier also reported that the Swiss Sports would be held at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick, on Saturday, the 21st June, and he appealed to the members to support this function which had been very popular in pre-war years. It was agreed that the Relay Race Cup which the Society had won outright should again be put into circulation.

The May monthly meeting would not be held until Wednesday, the 28th, when National-Councillor P. Schmid-Ruedin would give an address on the Swiss Parliament.

Donations of five guineas each to the Swiss Benevolent Society, the 1st August Committee, and the Swiss Sports, proposed by the Council, were approved. Mr. J. Oertli expressed his thanks on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society and at the same time stressed that Society's great need for further voluntary helpers, particularly from young compatriots.

The official business was followed by an informal talk by Mr. P. Halstead, B.A., one of the College teachers, on the work of Probation Officer.

Mr. Halstead briefly sketched the wide scope of the duties and responsibilities involved. The work called for a sympathetic and understanding nature as it was of paramount importance that the delinquent looked upon the Probation Officer as his friend.

It was necessary to investigate the home life of the offenders and this, in most cases, gave the clue to the cause of the trouble. Probation Officers had to try to awaken a feeling of self-confidence and self-respect in the offenders who very often had to be taken away from home and put in an atmosphere likely to convert them to normal citizens. For this purpose, Probation Officers were always in close contact with public and private institutions.

After his talk Mr. Halstead answered various questions. *J.E.S.*

## ELLA MAILLART IN LONDON.

Mademoiselle Ella Maillart, the distinguished Swiss explorer, well-known to the Swiss Colony, gave a lecture, on Monday, April 7th, illustrated by films, under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, of which she is a member, on her last travels across Nepal.

Amongst the numerous attendance were several members of the Diplomatic Corps, amongst them the Swiss Minister and Madame Henry de Torrenté.

## ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES.

The Presidents held their fifteenth Meeting on Thursday, April 3rd, under the Chairmanship of Professor J. P. Inebnit (Yorkshire — West Riding — Swiss Club). The Swiss Minister was represented by Monsieur E. Bernath, First Counsellor of Legation.

The main item under discussion was the proposal of establishing a Youth Centre for the many Swiss girls and young men in temporary employment in the London area. While there was general agreement that a Club or Centre was most desirable, it was realized that there are many practical difficulties. In particular, substantial financial support would have to be found in Switzerland.

In order to study the matter in a concrete form Dr. H. W. Egli (Nouvelle Société Helvétique), who has been one of the chief advocates of such a centre, was authorized by the Assembly to draw up a detailed proposal and to enquire at the forthcoming meeting of the "Auslandschweizer-Kommission", which he will attend, to what extent financial help could be expected from Switzerland.

It was stated that Mademoiselle Alice Briod, Joint Director of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne, will pay a visit to this country in June and will be present at the annual "Landsgemeinde" of the Swiss in the Leeds and Manchester area, to be held at Hebden Bridge on Sunday, June 15th. — It was further mentioned that the "Berner Singbuben", the boys' choir of the Minster in Berne, will be visiting this country in October and that they would be happy to give a concert to the Swiss Colony if arrangements could be made for a hall and for private hospitality for the boys.

The next Meeting of the Assembly was fixed for Thursday, June 5th, when one of the items to be discussed will be the next "Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger" on the Bürgenstock on August 29th to 31st.

*W.M.*

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, May 6th, 1952**, at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.** at **Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass or Bridge.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, to reach him not later than, Saturday, May 3rd, 1952.

Ch. GYSIN,  
Hon. Secretary.