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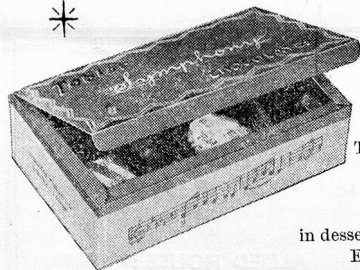
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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. Annual General Meeting.

The Swiss Minister was present at the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society which was held at Swiss House on 12th March, 1956. The President Mr. F. G. Sommer welcomed Monsieur Daeniker and Consul Huber and at the same time expressed the Society's thanks to the Legation for duplicating the accounts.

The Hon. Treasurer Mr. M. Rothlisberger presented the accounts for 1955. As was to be expected payments had again risen. Though the accounts balanced over the year, it was very sad to record the fact that the number of contributors had dropped. As a large amount of the Sandoz Legacy was being invested in the Swiss Hostel for Girls there would be considerably less interest coming to the Society. It was hoped that the support by the colony would continue so that the S.B.S. would remain the live organisation it had been in the past, carried to success mainly by the voluntary and generous effort of the colony. The Minister referred to this solidarity without which the society would not be able to survive. He said that the longer he followed the work of the S.B.S. the more his respect grew. He praised the many devoted workers and told of his admiration at the way the society did its job in a patriotic and humanitarian way — if everything had to be left to the Legation the problems would be dealt with in a cold and bureaucratic manner. He mentioned the difficulties which would have to be faced before the hostel was an accomplished fact. But he was certain it would be a great success. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Legation, the authorities and the colony of all the unselfish work done.

Mr. Sommer gave a report on the progress of the hostel. The repairs and alterations were well under way and decorations would soon be begun. The committee was asked to fix a new credit as expenses were going to be higher than had been anticipated. The President said that the Limited Company was not yet in existence, but he hoped soon to have the Articles of Association accepted by the Board of Trade so that the hostel would rank as a charitable institution.

After a full discussion on the hostel the committee was re-elected with the addition of Mr. X. Speckert. The President reported that Consul Huber had resigned as Hon. Auditor. He would continue, however, to work regularly on the Monday Committee. Mr. Sommer thanked him as well as Messrs. Rothlisberger and Oertli for their devoted work. Mr. A. Sigrist of the Chancellery of the Swiss Legation was elected Joint Hon. Auditor with Mr. W. Wagner. Mr. Sommer also reported that Mr. J. Zimmermann was now working as full time Secretary since the Employment Agency of the Swiss Mercantile Society had been closed down.

One new pensioner was elected to bring the total number up to 64. The pensions had had to be increased again, and a special allowance for fuel had been paid owing to the very severe weather.

The meeting came to a close after a vote of thanks had been passed to the S.M.S. for again putting the meeting room at the disposal of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Mariann.