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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The May monthly meeting fell into a week of daily meetings of the Colony from Tuesday to Saturday inclusive. As a number of our regulars were moreover in Switzerland it was no wonder that the attendance was less numerous than usual.

Mr. W. Burren deputised as chairman, Mr. W. Meier having attended the Delegates Meeting at Basle the previous weekend and was now on holidays.

He had the sad duty of reporting the death, at Vevey, of our well known and loved member, Mr. H. Binggely, who had retired some years ago. We paid him the usual tribute by standing in silence.

On the other hand Mr. Burren had the pleasure of informing us that Mr. W. Meier, our President, had been made an Honorary Member of the S.K.V. at the Delegates Meeting the previous Saturday in recognition of his outstanding services in London. This is a very great honour not only for Mr. Meier, but also for the London Section, which now has three Honorary Members among its ranks. Those present signed a letter of congratulation to our President on this auspicious occasion.

We further learnt that Mr. Strickler, who had resigned as Central President, was nominated Ehrenpräsident at Basle, and Mr. P. Schmid-Ruedin who had resigned as General Secretary, a post he had held with distinction since the twenties, had been elected as Central President as successor of Mr. Strickler.

Mr. Burren reported briefly on the College. 108 new students had started the summer term which now was attended by 190 day students. Moreover 16 evening classes were frequented by 200 students, so that Swiss House was now a hive of activity. Last December 20 evening class students went in for the examination for the lower certificate in English, registering 14 successes, while 12 went in for the higher certificate in English, which is equivalent to the teachers certificate in Switzerland. They had six successes which does credit to the students and to our teachers.

Mr. Burren then introduced Mr. E. Burgaezzi, Traffic Manager of Swissair, London, who addressed

us in an easy style on his recent trip to New York and Chicago. Being a seasoned traveller, with trained powers of observation, he conveyed to us a lively picture of the trip itself, and of his reactions to these cities which he visited for the first time. He was surprised that New York's airport offices were still housed in barracks and that a new elaborate building was only now in course of construction. The customs were easy, the traffic fast, the skyscrapers interesting, the Rockefeller Centre tall, sleek and beautiful. The Empire State Building, erected in 200 days in 1932, came in for special mention, and so did the United Nations Building whose interior decorations Mr. Burgaezzi described as magnificent. Food was very good in New York, and except in the expensive restaurants, no dearer than in Switzerland. Mr. Burgaezzi's visit to Chicago was very brief, yet long enough for him to be impressed by the enormous traffic handled by this, the busiest airport in the world, where a plane is landing or taking off every minute, where passengers do not book their passages beforehand, but buy their tickets as we do at railway stations.

He followed up this talk with a film of last year's Swiss Sports at Chiswick, his visit to New York, and some very good shots of winter scenes at Davos, which ended a very interesting and pleasant evening.

E.H.S.

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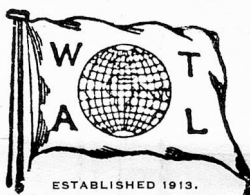
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