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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

MONTHLY MEETING

on Wednesday, January 14th 1959, at 7 p.m.
at Swiss House, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

followed by a talk on

SCOTLAND, ITS LAWS, CUSTOMS AND CLANS
by Mr. D. GRANT, A.C.I.S.

Members and friends are cordially invited. The Students' Canteen will be open for light meals and refreshments from 6 to 7 p.m.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 16th January 1959. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: P. H. Conrad, Paul Bessire, L. A. Poltera, H. W. Schneider, A. G. Luminati, Elmer Baumann, Sandoz Products Ltd., E. Siegrist, C. Genoud, V. Hendel, O. Braga, F. Dannmeyer, J. Moser.

AN ARRIVAL.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. A. R. Hohl has taken up his duties at the Swiss Embassy.

Alfred Reinhard Hohl, was born in 1930 in Berne, where he attended the State schools. He studied Law at the Universities of Zurich and Geneva (licence 1955). He worked for a year at the Gresham Street Branch of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and afterwards entered the Division du Commerce of the Département fédéral de l'Economie publique in Berne as a student trainee. He passed the examination in the autumn of 1957 and was subsequently admitted as a diplomate-stagiaire to the Département politique. Before coming to the Embassy in London he had worked for a year in Berne.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away of Mr. A. Paris, of "Brooklands", Upholland, Lancs., at the age of 90.

Mr. Paris was an Honorary Member of the City Swiss Club, having joined in 1892.

* * *

We have much pleasure in announcing the arrival of a daughter, Laura, Madeleine Beatrice, to Mr. and Mrs. Willy Berner, of St. Etienne (Loire), France, son and daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. E. Berner, "Berner House", West Bradford Road, Waddington, nr. Clitheroe, Lancs.

conquest of a great height by a new route as to demonstrate the prowess of a superior race and to achieve a triumph for the greater glory of the German Reich. One is tempted, in retrospect, to compare them to the gladiators of ancient Rome who entered the arena with the cry "Ave Cæsar, morituri te salutant".

The fate which overtook these otherwise splendid young fellows, hard as nails, well-trained, full of courage and enthusiasm, forms a tragic and distressing catalogue. One party after another met with disaster, yet still they came on, urged by an insane obsession and convinced of their invincibility.

The wise and restrained treatment of this painful subject by Othmar Gurtner is masterly, so is the scientific geological lecture which precedes it. No mention, apart from a passing reference, is made of an equally tragic epic: that of the attempt on the Eiger North-face made in 1957 by two Italians and two Germans, the only survivor of which was one of the Italians after a brave and spectacular rescue by means of a steel cable. A vivid account of this episode is found in Sir Arnold Lunn's latest book, "The Bernese Oberland".

The literature of mountain exploration is certainly the richer for this well done publication, which many reviewers acclaim as the best in the field. The illustrations are superb: they convey admirably the grandeur and majesty of some of the world's most beautiful mountain scenery. A really wonderful production of its kind.

J.J.F.S.

AN ANNIVERSARY.

In March 1933 there appeared for the first time an article in the "Swiss Observer" under the signature of "Mariann", who is, of course, no other than Mrs. W. Meier.

It is, therefore, twenty-five years since Mrs. Meier became a contributor to the Colony's official organ, and on this occasion the Editor wishes to thank her most sincerely for the great services she has given him for the last quarter of a century.

Many articles from her efficient pen have since appeared in this paper. In these she has untiringly dealt with a number of subjects, many of which were closely connected with the life of our Colony. At times she has been very outspoken, especially when dealing with the lack of interest shown by so many of our compatriots in the work of a number of Swiss societies in this country, a work which has been instrumental in enhancing the good name and reputation our Colony enjoys.

Her manifold activities in the Colony are well known and have been acknowledged on various occasions in this paper.

It may interest our readers to hear that her book, "The Young Traveller in Switzerland", first published in 1951 by Phoenix House Ltd., 38 William IV Street, W.C., has recently been published in Japanese; well illustrated with attractive photographs, it should arouse the desire of Japanese youth to see Switzerland for themselves.

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