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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. Annual General Meeting.



W. RENZ
President
N.S.H.

It has been the practice, when the autumn and part of the winter social season had passed, for the Swiss Societies to hold their Annual and General Meetings, in order to give an account of their activities.

These Meetings used often to be rather dull affairs, especially when one had to listen to the depressing statements of the respective Treasurers, who invariably — at least for the last few years — reported small or large deficits.

For some time now a number of Societies have combined these Meetings with a dinner, which I consider is quite a good idea; it shortens the business part considerably as everyone is anxious to "get it over" — looking forward to the second and more pleasurable part!

The General Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique took place on Tuesday, 18th March, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3, and was followed by a dinner.

Mr. W. Renz was in the Chair, and a very large number of members attended, amongst them the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, and a few official guests.

According to the Annual Report, which had been sent out to the members a few days previous to the Meeting, the Society has been again very active during the last twelve months, under the efficient and enthusiastic leadership of the President, Mr. W. Renz, who last year had taken over from Dr. H. W. Egli, who had for many years carried on the work of the Society with great competence.

The Agenda, which consisted of eight items, was despatched in almost record time. The annual report of the Council (which will be published in a subsequent issue of the "Swiss Observer") was accepted, and so was the Hon. Treasurer's report. So as not to make an exception concerning the accounts of their sister societies in London, a deficit of nearly £40 was reported. As at present no less than five Presidents of Swiss Societies in the Metropolis are Bankers, or otherwise connected with Banks, it is to be hoped that in future the finances will improve!

All the former members of the Council were re-elected, two members dropping out for reasons of their departure for Switzerland, namely Dr. P. Bohny and

Miss L. Meierhofer, Hon. Secretary. Mr. A. L. Chapuis, of the Swiss Embassy, was newly elected to the Council.

Mr. A. F. Suter, Hon. President of the Society, who had taken the Chair *pro tem*, before announcing the result of the elections, warmly thanked the outgoing Committee and Council Members for the services they had rendered, and congratulated them on their re-election.



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Switzerland

After the Meeting the company adjourned to the dining room for dinner, which was excellent, and both Miss Preiswerk and Miss Hagenbuch, as well as the "chefesse", are to be congratulated for having so well looked after the material wants of the members.

The circular conveying to the members notice of the Meeting and Dinner contained the following: "Members are advised to bring their own wine" — as the Hostel is obviously not licensed. Therefore, I quite expected to see a throng of members, wending their way to Belsize Grove, with bulging pockets from which the necks of bottles could be seen! However, I failed to spot any bottles, but to my surprise quite a respectable number of bottles could be detected on the various tables. How did they get there, I wonder?

On the conclusion of the dinner, and after the Toasts to H.M. the Queen and to Switzerland had been proposed by the Chairman, Mr. Renz extended a hearty welcome to the Ambassador, voicing his regret that Madame Daeniker was unavoidably prevented from attending. He also expressed his pleasure at seeing present the following: Colonel Th. Mosimann, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Embassy; Monsieur M. Vogelbacher; Monsieur E. Vallotton and Madame Vallotton; Consul E. Ribi, of the Swiss Embassy, and Mrs. Ribi; Mr. O. Ernst, of the Swiss National Tourist Office, and Mrs. Ernst; Mr. O. Grob, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society; Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", and Mrs. Stauffer; Pasteur C. Reverdin; Pfarrer H. Spoerri and Mrs. Spoerri; and the auditors, Messrs. M. A. Rothlisberger and D. E. Bonnet.

Mr. Renz then paid a sincere tribute to Miss L.

Meierhofer for her valuable services rendered as Hon. Secretary, regretting her departure from this country. As a token of gratitude and esteem he presented her with a lovely book of coloured pictures of the British Isles, which was passed round for everyone to autograph. The writer heartily associates himself with the tribute paid to the former Hon. Secretary, for her very efficient collaboration in connection with the "Swiss Observer".

The President also voiced his regret at the departure of Monsieur E. Vallotton and Madame Vallotton, thanking the former for his work done as a member of the Council. Monsieur Vallotton briefly thanked the members for the marks of esteem shown to his wife and himself on taking leave.

The Swiss Ambassador thanked the President for having given him an opportunity to be present, and assured him of his wholehearted collaboration while he is at the head of the London Embassy.

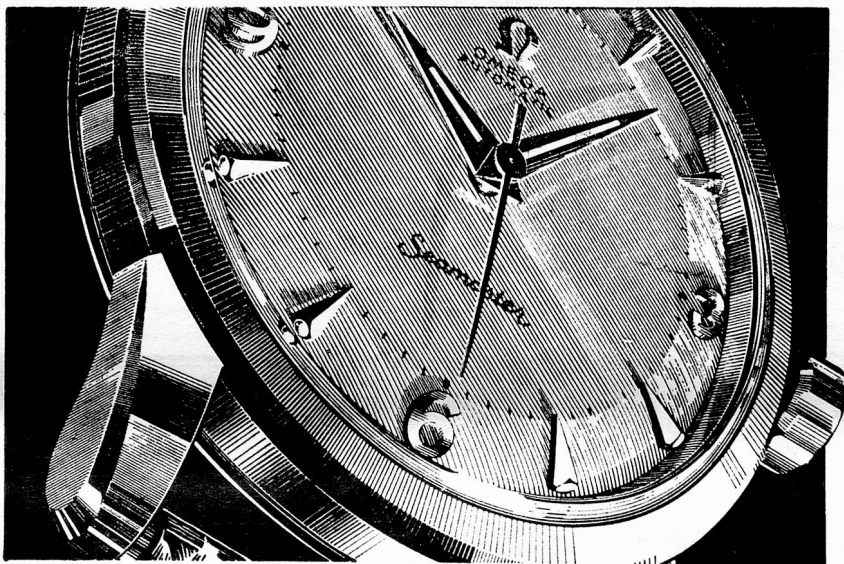
Mr. A. F. Suter and Dr. H. W. Egli made a strong appeal that members of the N.S.H. and the Colony generally should attend the "Ausland-schweizertag", which will take place this year at Baden, at the end of August.

Before closing the proceedings, Mr. Renz, on behalf of the company, thanked the Management of the Hostel for their hospitality and the Staff for their prompt service.

Thus ended a very enjoyable evening amongst congenial company. We, on our part, wish the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (which has a membership of 174) a successful year; they well deserve the full support of the entire Swiss Colony.

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