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The "Swiss Fortnight" and the Swiss Benevolent Society

It lies in the nature of business meetings that they bring minutes of previous meetings, chairmen's reports and financial statements with unfailing regularity. Some people find this dull. That is one thing which can never be said of the four-monthly meetings of the Swiss Benevolent Society. The various reports create such a vivid picture of distress amongst our compatriots and its remedy through the sterling work of the Society that "dull" is the last adjective one would use describing the SBS meetings. The last one held on 28th September proved no exception. Regularity and repetition occurred only in the accounts which once again, alas, were not balanced. Almost at every meeting we hear of a diminishing number of contributors, a decreasing amount received from contributions compared with the same period the previous year.

What brought glimpses of light into the picture at the last meeting, however, was the news that a legacy of £500 had been received from Mr. Ch. J. Bernheim. Such strokes of good luck not only add to the Society's income, but the loyalty and good will thus expressed give encouragement to the Society in its hard and difficult task.

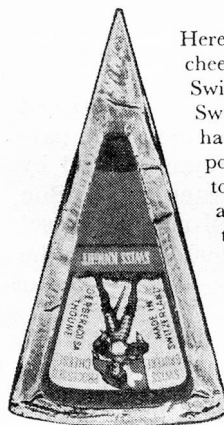
Interesting news was conveyed by the President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, in his reference to the "Swiss Fortnight", specially in connection with the exhibition at the Swiss Hostel for Girls of "How the Swiss help the Swiss". The Swiss Benevolent Society, the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls, the Swiss Hostel and the Churches combined to produce an interesting and most instructive display of charts, pictures and photographs depicting their work.

Talking of the "Swiss Fortnight" one cannot but reflect a minute whether each of us has done all that was possible. Many members of our Colony have been closely connected with this large scale demonstration of what Switzerland can do, and they have given much money, time and effort. Many Swiss here have put their hands deeply into their pockets to attend some of the social and cultural gatherings benefiting the good cause of the British Pestalozzi Village. With all due respect for such a worthy undertaking which deserves all our support, should we not remember that charity begins at home? Now that the festivities are over and the flags have been taken down, do we feel we have done all we could? Perhaps we have forgotten our less fortunate compatriots who have seen but little of the activities in honour of our Country. Here now is our chance — let us send a bigger contribution to the Swiss Benevolent Society than we had intended. Let us sign that covenant which will raise our donation to the SBS without extra cost to ourselves. And then let us remember that Christmas will not be far off and that money and goods are needed for the Christmas parcels which the SBS is preparing in November to be ready for distribution before Christmas. Clothes, shoes, linen, household goods, toys (all in good condition), food — please send an extra handsome parcel this year to the Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London, W.1, so that our poor compatriots will get some tangible benefit from our high spirits acquired through the "Swiss Fortnight".

Mariann.

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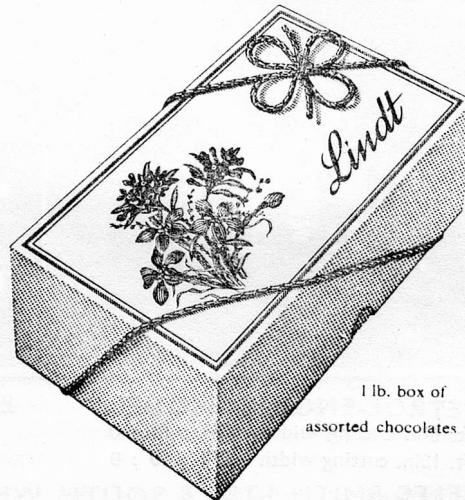
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