

Nouvelle Société helvétique London Group farewell to Pasteur C. Reverdin and Madame Reverdin

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**NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE
LONDON GROUP
FAREWELL TO
Pasteur C. REVERDIN and MADAME REVERDIN**

The hour of departure strikes for all of us at one time or another, and it is — alas! — in most cases a sad parting, even when we know that we may meet again.

To such a parting a large gathering of members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and friends attended at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3, on Tuesday, January 19th, to bid farewell and God speed to the Rev. C. Reverdin and Madame Reverdin.

If the hearts of Pasteur Reverdin and Madame Reverdin were heavy on that occasion, so must have been those of many who were present. On one hand it meant leaving a congregation after twelve years of faithful and conscientious work, of leaving friends who had in good and bad times worked together for the glory of the Lord, on the other hand for us it meant the loss of a pastor whose kindness and devotion to many of us has made our burdens lighter to carry and filled us with new hope.

It isn't the intention of the writer to refer to the work and the great services rendered by Pasteur Reverdin during his ministry at the Eglise Suisse, this will be done presently by a more competent pen.

* * *

Dr. H. W. Egli, in the absence of the President, Mr. W. Renz — who had had to undergo an operation — took the Chair voicing his pleasure at seeing such a large gathering. He particularly welcomed the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. A. Daeniker, and the guests of honour, Pasteur C. Reverdin and Madame Reverdin. He acquainted the Meeting of the loss through death of two members of the Society, Mr. Paul Isacco (Zurich) and Mr. Emil Mettler (London). The company honoured their memory by rising from their seats. Dr. Egli then called on Pasteur Reverdin to address the gathering.

Pasteur Reverdin on rising received a hearty ovation. In simple and modest words, interspersed with humour, he acquainted his listeners with the work, problems and experiences of a Swiss clergyman in London.

He told us of the many duties which fall on the Head of a large parish such as London, of innumerable visits to sick or needy parishioners, of services held in addition to those at Endell Street in the various suburbs of London and the Provinces. He mentioned the large volume of correspondence and the personal interviews, the lunch hour meetings, the editing of the "Messenger", the work to be done for the young people, the "Fête Suisse", the 1st of August and many others.

Pasteur Reverdin talked about many special and individual cases during his ministry, his connections and relationship with his colleagues belonging to different denominations.

His *exposé* gave a true picture of the immense and often tiring work which confronts a Swiss clergyman looking after such a large parish. Few of his listeners could have been fully aware of the manifold duties involved.

Dr. Egli warmly thanked Pasteur Reverdin for

his interesting address, and his services rendered to the Colony, wishing him and Madame Reverdin a successful future in their new sphere of activity. He presented to Madame Reverdin as a token of appreciation from the members of the Society, a wedgwood china casket.

The Swiss Ambassador said that he, and no doubt all those present were deeply moved by the vivid *compte-rendu* Pasteur Reverdin has given us of his work and — on behalf of the Swiss Colony — thanked Pasteur Reverdin and Madame Reverdin for the great services they had rendered.

Mr. A. F. Suter, a former President of the N.S.H. and Honorary Vice-President, expressed on behalf of the Society his deep appreciation for the great work Pasteur Reverdin had rendered, saying that so much devotion will never be forgotten. The Meeting ended shortly before 10 p.m.

* * *

And now we take leave of our friend and his faithful companion, not without mentioning again our feeling of sadness.

You, dear Pasteur Reverdin have served your Master faithfully, hundreds of our compatriots whom you have helped will keep you in affectionate remembrance, some might not have been able to express their gratitude to you on this occasion in a more tangible way, but deep down in their hearts they will remember you, and will wish you success and happiness far away in our beloved homeland, and we feel sure that this is to you the best recompense for your lasting work in the Colony.

ST.

PAUL ISACCO †

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away on the 6th of January in Zurich, of Mr. Paul Isacco at the age of 67.

The departed was born in Basle where he received his schooling, and after a stay at the Commercial School at Neuchâtel made an apprenticeship with a commercial concern in Basle.

In May 1913, he entered the service of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, and after a two years stay at their Neuchâtel branch office, was transferred in February 1922 to the Bank's London Office, where in 1931 he was made a signature holder and put in charge of the Arbitrage Department.

In 1950, after twenty-eight years residence in this country, he returned with his wife to Switzerland to take up a position with the Swiss Bank Corporation in Zurich.

Mr. Isacco, together with his wife rendered after the last war conspicuous services to the Swiss Youth Club, their devoted and unselfish work for our young people will always be remembered with gratitude.

We tender our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Isacco in her sad loss. All those who have known the dear departed will keep him in affectionate remembrance.

ST.