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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

(London Group.)

Council's Annual Report for 1959/60.

The last Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10th, 1959, at the Swiss Club, followed by a dinner. Since then, the following Open Meetings were organised by the Society :

Lectures and Film Shows.

April 21st, 1959, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Lecture by Dr. H. W. Egli, London Correspondent of the " Neue Zürcher Zeitung ", on " The Swiss Solidarity Fund and the Invalidity Insurance ".

May 19th, 1959, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Social Meeting in honour of Mr. Alfred Stauffer, Editor of the " Swiss Observer ", accompanied by his wife to celebrate his 30 years' association with this paper.

June 23rd, 1959, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Conference by Mr. Felix Ansermoz, Secretary of the Swiss Embassy in London, on " A Hundred Years To-morrow (Henri Dunant at Solferino) ".

October 26th, 1959, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Lecture by Prof. Dr. Hans Zbinden, President of the Swiss Society of Authors, on " Innere Gefahren der Demokratie ".

November 17th, 1959, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Lecture by Mr. Gottfried J. Keller, London Correspondent of the " Basler Nachrichten ", on " The Power of Public Opinion ".

December 12th, 1959, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Annual Film Show for adults and children, by courtesy of Mr. William Wyler, General Manager, Swissair Corporation, London.

January 19th, 1960, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls : Social Meeting in honour of Pasteur and Mme C. Reverdin on the eve of their return to Switzerland.

At the last Annual General Meeting the President's and the Hon. Treasurer's reports were discussed and agreed. This year's Balance Sheet shows a small, though welcome, surplus.

Council Affairs.

The following members served on the Council : Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. P. Bessire, Dr. P. Bohny, Mr. A. C. Boller, Mr. A. L. Chapuis, Dr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Mr. Th. Haller, Mr. A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. M. Vogelbacher and Mr. M. Wiesendanger. Mr. J. H. Büchi (who has kindly consented to be the Society's press reporter), Mr. Mock and Miss R. Preis-

werk were newly elected. Dr. P. Bohny returned to Switzerland, and the Council desires to thank him for his services.

The following were re-elected as Officers of the Council for this period :

President : Mr. W. Renz; Vice-President : Dr. H. W. Egli; Hon. Secretary : Mr. A. L. Chapuis; Asst. Hon. Secretary : Miss A. Gretener; Hon. Treasurer : Mr. L. S. R. Asch.

It is our pleasant duty, once again, to give expression to our gratitude for the enlightened support accorded to the Society by the Swiss Ambassador, and to the invaluable assistance given by the Embassy's diplomatic and consular officers, several of whom excelled themselves as lecturers at our monthly meetings. Mr. A. F. Suter, Hon. Vice-President, and Mrs. Suter have attended almost all the Council Meetings and have given their support and advice. The " Swiss Observer ", whose publisher and Editor honoured us officially with their presence in May, reported accurately and sympathetically on our activities, and we enjoyed also much friendly co-operation from Swissair and the Swiss National Tourist Office. Miss Preiswerk and Miss Hagenbuch of the Swiss Hostel for Girls must be singled out for special praise for the excellence of their catering and their success in giving the atmosphere of a happy house-party to our gatherings.

Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger.

This was held at the end of August at Lausanne and had as its main topics the new military tax law, the invalidity insurance scheme (supplementary to A.H.V.), and the already approved law dealing with assistance to war damage sufferers. Federal Councillor Wahlen spoke on emigration and rejuvenation of Swiss Colonies. The Society was represented by its President, who reported to the October Meeting, Mrs. Davidson, Messrs. A. F. Suter and Inebnit attended in their newly confirmed capacity as representatives of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain on the Auslandschweizer Kommission of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Swiss Fortnight in October.

This great cultural manifestation, superbly organised from Switzerland, the Swiss Embassy and various Swiss Organisations in the United Kingdom, fully deserved the very considerable praise bestowed on it by a generally friendly English Press. The culminating events were the magnificent Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, and the Fête Suisse at the Albert Hall, both held in support of the British Pestalozzi Village Trust. Once again we were pleasantly aware of the many affinities between the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Membership.

The Society deeply regrets the deaths of their old members Messrs. Louis Chapuis, W. Eichenberger, E. A. Grau, H. Oswald, J. J. Schneider, and E.

Siegrist. Twelve members resigned and fifteen members were admitted. A check of our membership records shows a total of 172 members (12 free members).

On behalf of the Council :

W. Renz,
President.

February, 1960.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 29th April 1960. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription : E. Kern, E. H. Schlatter (St. Gall), E. Kuebler, C. Genoud, C. H. Willi, A. von Dach, R. Sahli, E. A. Muller, W. Fischer (Meisterschwanden), Messrs. Moise Dreyfuss Limited, C. Mayr, O. Frei, P. Savoie, J. Manzoni, Ernest Winzeler, L. L. Portman, Mrs. H. Chiverton, R. Ryf, J. A. Donat, Mrs. M. Cassel, A. Baenziger, G. L. Guggenheim.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

In order to save money and time the Publishers would be much obliged if subscribers who are in arrears with their subscriptions would kindly send their remittance as soon as possible.

Specimen copies of the "Swiss Observer" will be gladly sent to addresses, supplied to our office, of likely subscribers.

Owing to lack of space a number of reports of Meetings have had to be held over and will appear in our next issue.

IHR BERGE LEBT WOHL . . .

Ye mountains, farewell,
Farewell, farewell.
Those bushes and flowers,
The fresh cooling showers,
The murmuring well.

Oft from afar with yearning
To you my thoughts are turning
Ye mountains, farewell, farewell.

Ye mountains, farewell,
Farewell, farewell,
When shall I hear ringing
The songs you were singing
On those green-clad heights?

Dear hearts, my tears are falling
As sadly I am calling :
Ye pastures, farewell, farewell.

Ye alps, fare ye well
Farewell, farewell.
Those soft scented breezes
Whose fragrance so pleases
And gives such delight,
Now that from you I'm banished
Your spell will soon have vanished
Ye alps, fare ye well, farewell.

Transl. by J.J.F.S.

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