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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

AT THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Society held its first Monthly Meeting after the summer recess, at Swiss House on Wednesday, 13th September. There was a very good attendance, despite the fact that many members were still on holiday. Among those present, the Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, was very pleased to welcome Mr. Robert Brand, of Langenthal, a former Hon. Treasurer of the Society, who was paying his first visit to London since his return to Switzerland in 1928. The Chairman congratulated Mr. Brand on having attained 40 years' membership of the London Section. The Chairman further extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Th. Sibler, a member of the Zurich Section, who had left London in 1930, and prior to which had been an active member of our Society.

With deep regret, the Chairman announced that Mr. A. Rutishauser, an active member since 1920, had passed away on the day following our last meeting, i.e. on 8th June. The members rose to pay a last silent tribute to their departed colleague.

After the official part of the meeting, members indulged in holiday reminiscences. The Chairman began by showing some coloured photographs on the epidiascope, which he had taken at the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Rheinfelden in May last, at the Society's family outing to Parham, Sussex, in June, as well as at the "Landsgemeinde" of the Manchester and Leeds Swiss communities at Hardcastle Crags on the day following the meeting of the Presidents' Assembly at Manchester.

Mr. W. Stettbacher, whose mountaineering feats we have long come to appreciate, followed with some excellent photographs of his recent ascents in the Mont Blanc region, on some of which stretches of the ill-fated cable railway from Chamonix to the Vallée Blanche could be seen, with some of the gondolas passing each other.

Once more we crossed the Alps, looking on them from high above in an aeroplane, when our former President, Mr. O. Grob, showed us a selection from his fine collection of colour slides. These included views of Rome, with the Vatican and its Swiss Guard, portraying the exquisite architecture from the Roman to modern times in all its grandeur. The journey proceeded to Assisi and the photographs shown had undoubtedly captured the spirit of this town, so renowned for its association with St. Francis. On we went to Florence, city of art and culture with its picturesque Ponte Vecchio, thence to Ravenna with its world-famous mosaics. Finally we reached Venice, a veritable photographer's paradise. This was indeed a very fine and most interesting show, which must have animated many, if they had not already done so, to go and see some of these sights for themselves.

Finally, Mr. E. M. Huber, took us on a cruise round the Mediterranean, after having previously travelled by car to Genoa. We called at Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon and Israel, and saw many familiar and lesser-known views of famous buildings and monuments, from the Acropolis to the minarets, the mosques and the tombs of the Pharaohs. Here again, the colour slides were of excellent quality and gave us a realistic impression of what Mr. Huber saw on his journey.

It would be difficult to describe in detail all we saw and enjoyed in one evening. Suffice it to say that those who contributed towards its success earned the thanks of all present.

W.B.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, on 21st August 1961, of Mr. Otto Frei, of 8 Playfair Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, W.14.

An old member of the Swiss Colony, Mr. Otto Frei was born on 3rd June 1877 and came to England in 1902. Until his retirement not many years ago, he was head of the firm of Henri Picard & Frère, watch materials manufacturers, of 34 Furnival Street, E.C.4. He joined the City Swiss Club as an Active Member in 1907 and was made an Honorary Member of the Club in 1957.

A quiet, likeable man, he was seen at many functions of the Colony.

We offer his widow and his family our deep sympathy in their great loss.

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