

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1962)

**Heft:** 1422

**Rubrik:** Our Next Issue

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 13.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

(London Group)

## Three Interesting Meetings at the Swiss Hostel for Girls

### TRAVEL TALK

16th October

Those present had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Eric Mettler, Chief Correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", relating some of his experiences on his travels through Russia and Africa. The most interesting points, however, he made when answering the many questions that were put to him after his exposé.

Mr. Mettler's views on Russia tally with those of other visitors to that country. There is less tension and people will talk quite freely to visitors who speak Russian — and the wise visitor will, of course, keep off politics proper. Allowing for the great advance in many respects in the large town centres such as Moscow, even there housing is still in a precarious state, though the rents are low — the house space per person is far below that in any Western country. In the provinces nothing seems to have altered over vast areas from the times of the Czars. And no one can get a really objective over-all picture simply because travelling is still severely restricted. No doubt there is progress in many directions, particularly in the realm of industry, but it will be a long time before U.S.S.R. economic development even comes near that of our own.

On Africa Dr. Mettler's view might startle some optimists. He has come to the conclusion — having seen the position and heard the people intimately concerned at close quarters — that the dream of a multi-racial Africa (in the political sense) will remain a dream. "Uhuru" obtained, the African countries will have African governments and African political institutions. (Which does, of course, not mean that the white population in Africa will not get any hearing at all, but only so as members of the general body, not as separate "castes". — Rep.)

J.H.B.

### RECITAL

25th October

On 25th October the Swiss Colony of London was offered an opportunity to hear one of the distinguished musicians of Lausanne, Anna-Marie Grunder, the violinist, accompanied by Prof. Constantin Regamey, in a most demanding and rewarding programme. The two Swiss artists were on their way back from a highly successful round of recitals in Warsaw, Moscow and Leningrad, wishing to make contact with musical circles in the British capital. The Nouvelle Société Helvétique seized the chance to invite them to give a recital for the music lovers of our Colony and their friends. It proved a most gratifying evening for those attending.

The programme comprised Beethoven's Sonata Nr. 4 in A minor, a Debussy Sonata, Prokofieff's Sonata Nr. 2 in D major, and a Rhapsody by our contemporary compatriot, J. F. Zbinden. Miss Grunder and Prof. Regamey seemed to be equally at home and in full mastery of Zbinden's newer medium of expression as with the classical style of Beethoven, the romantic mood of Debussy or Prokofieff's rendering of the elated agonies of an age of war and revolutions. The sure, straightforward interpretation these two artists gave to these most varied compositions appealed to all earnest seekers of an understanding of what the composers wished to say. We are especially grateful to them for acquainting us with one more of the impressive choice of modern Swiss composers. H.W.E.

### "SOLIDARITY FUND"

13th November

From 26th November a full Governmental guarantee stands behind the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad — the purely private creation of a few enthusiasts of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique on behalf of their countrymen abroad. The need and usefulness of such an organisation of mutual help has already been proved by vast first-aid payments to many of our less fortunate compatriots in the all too numerous trouble-spots of this earth. The great service rendered thereby also to the home-country and Government in these few years of its existence has been repaid most handsomely by the grant of a full Federal guarantee of the fulfilment of the Fund's obligations to members in distress.

A momentous change has thus been brought about in the standing of the Solidarity Fund by the unanimous consent of both Chambers of the Federal Parliament and the silent approval of the population without a referendum being demanded by anyone. This milestone having been reached the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique seized an opportunity of hearing the chief architect and President of the Solidarity Fund, Dr. E. R. Froelich, formerly Managing Director of the Schweizerische Rückversicherungsgesellschaft, explain the ingenious conception and working of the Fund with the aid of the Federal guarantee.

It was an interesting talk, followed by a lively discussion.

H.W.E.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions: Gift subscription by Mrs. H. Blessley to friends in Switzerland; Swiss Club Balloch (Mr. H. Berli); Mrs. H. A. Clarke; Messrs. J. D. Bernoulli, A. Bleiker, J. Bonjour, E. C. Enz, W. Flory, C. Genoud, N. H. Leuzinger, F. J. Meier, W. Preiswerk (Basle), H. Mock, O. Schoenholzer, O. Vonarx, A. E. Wehrli. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

### OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 11th January 1963. We should appreciate it if readers could let us have any manuscripts or news items for publication by Wednesday, 2nd January.

### SWISS OBSERVER PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES (Fortnightly issue)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	6 issues, post free	9/6
	12 issues, post free	18/-
	24 issues, post free	35/-
SWITZERLAND	12 issues, post free	Frs. 12.—
	24 issues, post free	Frs. 21.—
Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718.		