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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique held its monthly meeting on Monday, 16th April, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. A large number of members and friends of the Society had the pleasure of hearing a most captivating lecture on C. F. Ramuz, given by Monsieur F. Ansermoz, Labour Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy in London.

In vivid and melodious terms, Monsieur Ansermoz recalled the circumstances of Ramuz's life in Paris and Lausanne, his friendship with two illustrious artists — the composer Strawinsky and the painter Auberjonois — and how they influenced one another.

Ramuz, the bard of the Pays de Vaud, has immortalised in his work the way of life and the robust speech of his fellow countrymen, the peasants of the northern shores of lake Léman. The hard struggle for existence of the mountaineers of the Valais also drew from him some of his most noble pages.

That the audience gained a keener awareness of all the poetry inherent in Ramuz's work, is a measure of Monsieur Ansermoz's skill as a speaker. There could not have been a better complement to his talk than Alain Tanner's film which followed and which evokes so wonderfully the atmosphere and the people that were the source of Ramuz's inspiration. There were superb views of wide Vaudois landscapes from fields at harvest time, or under autumnal skies, to back-breaking vineyards steeped in sunshine, and calm fishing scenes on the lake.

The second part of the evening was devoted to the pro-

jection of yet another Swiss film: "Rural Aid Centre Ifakara". It is a record of a course of training given to forty rural medical aids in a newly established centre at the hospital of the Swiss Franciscan mission at Ifakara, Tanganyika. This film is a most interesting illustration of one of the ways in which Switzerland manifests her positive neutrality: in helping others to help themselves. The film has been produced by the Basle Foundation for Aid to Developing Countries, itself a creation of the Basle Chemical Industry and the Swiss Tropical Institute.

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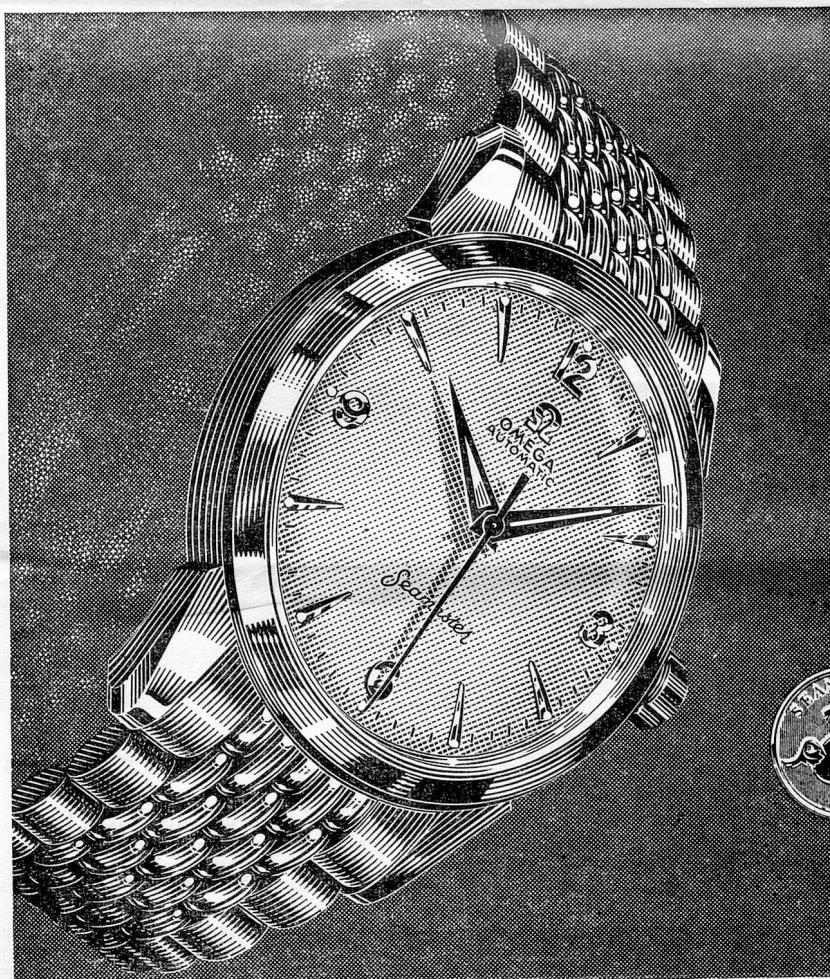
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