

Swiss Church

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There was some animated discussion of the provision in the Federal Constitution regarding the Swiss Abroad. A vote was taken in favour of the preliminary draft by the Federal Council and submitted by the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad in Berne for consideration.

ANNUAL DINNER

The General Meeting was followed by a dinner at which over sixty members and friends were present. The Guests of Honour were the new Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer. In fact, the Society had the pleasure of two Ambassadors gracing the gathering with their presence. Monsieur Jean de Stoutz, recently appointed Ambassador to Israel, was amongst the members of the N.S.H. for the last time before departing for his new post.

The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, welcomed the guests, members and friends after the loyal toast had been drunk. Although it was an informal dinner, this was deemed right and proper as it was the birthday of Her Majesty, the Queen. He announced that the members present at the A.G.M. had unanimously elected Monsieur de Fischer as Honorary President of the Society.

Monsieur de Fischer replied to the President's warm words of welcome in three languages. He referred to the sterling work done by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland and the important part the London Group played in the life of the Swiss Community in Great Britain.

Monsieur de Stoutz expressed good wishes for the Group's future activities. Everyone present must have been touched by the sincerity of his words and the regret at leaving behind the many friends he and Madame de Stoutz had made in the course of their stay in London.

The President also thanked the Warden of the Hostel, Miss R. Preiswerk, and her staff for the invariably kind hospitality and the excellence of the dinner provided. At the suggestion of a former President, Mr. W. Renz, a message, signed by all present, was sent to the Society's former Honorary President, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur and Madame Daeniker, now in well-earned retirement in Switzerland.

An anonymous donor again provided a small present for every lady present, this year in the form of a bottle of *eau de Cologne*. But even without this charming gesture, the evening could undoubtedly be termed a great success. It was the friendly atmosphere and the spontaneous warmth of welcome creating a sense of belonging which were the hallmark of this as of every other get-together organised by the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Mariann.

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