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NEWS FROM THE COLONY



Dr. H. W. Egli

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The Annual General Meeting of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique took place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls on Thursday, 14th April 1966. It was attended by the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Beat de Fischer, who is Honorary President of the Society. The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, was in the chair.

The Annual Report for 1965 was presented and accepted. It makes again impressive reading. Apart from social functions, the NSH organised a number of lectures and highly interesting talks by distinguished visitors from Switzerland. The subjects of lectures, held partly at the Swiss Hostel for Girls and partly at the Montana Hotel, included "Swiss Security in the Nuclear Age", "Swiss Technical Development Aid", "Switzerland's Amazing Railways", "South Africa", "Swiss Travel and Landscape" and "The Pestalozzi Movement in Our Time".

The President's report on behalf of the Council referring to

Membership

reads as follows:

"We deeply regret the death of five of our members in the course of the year: Mr. A. Stauffer, Mr. A. Burkhalter, Mr. L. Duffey, Mrs. H. Joss, Mr. A. Steiner. Our Group also lost 14 members who left the country, some of them having retired. The departure, owing to his appointment as Ambassador to Indonesia, of Monsieur J. Revilliod, the former Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy, was particularly regretted, as he had helped us so much in arranging various functions. We have been happy, however, to welcome at most functions since his arrival in London Monsieur Revilliod's successor, Monsieur Paul Stauffer, whose advice and help are much appreciated by the Council.

We feel encouraged by having succeeded in recruiting 22 new members. But the losses in membership that we have to suffer year by year were not entirely replaced by the newcomers. We appeal to all members to help in the recruitment of renewed support by mentioning our work to their friends, bringing them along to our functions, inviting them to become members. It should be remembered that, apart from present holders of Swiss nationality of either sex over 21, eligible for full membership, we also welcome applications from younger Swiss (16 years

upwards) as junior members at a quarter of the normal subscription and from former Swiss as associate members. The maintenance of our membership is an increasingly serious problem in view of the necessity of having a good nucleus of culturally interested members of our Colony to support activities at the hoped-for Forum of Switzerland".

Mrs. Mariann Meier gave a short report on the work of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad during 1965 and outlined the programme of the Jubilee year. Not only the London Group of the NSH is 50 years old, but the whole Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

The Hon. Treasurer's report showed that the financial state of the Society was satisfactory. Thanks were expressed to the two Hon. Auditors, Messrs. D. E. Bonnet and M. A. Rothlisberger, who were re-elected. The President was thanked from the floor for all the work he was doing for the Society.

The Council was chosen by secret ballot. According to the constitution, the Officers were elected by the Council at a following meeting held at the Montana Hotel on Thursday, 21st April 1966: President: Dr. H. W. Egli; Vice-President: Mr. R. E. Baumann; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. L. S. R. Asch; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. R. Dissler; Press Reporter: Mr. J. Schmid. The Council expressed their thanks for the tremendous work Mr. P. Bringolf had done as Hon. Secretary of the Society; owing to his appointment to the new Swiss Consulate at Tripoli (Lybia), he is succeeded by Mr. A. R. Dissler, who replaces him at the Swiss Embassy.

J.S.

Annual Dinner

Following the A.G.M., over forty members and friends of the Society sat down to the customary Annual Dinner in the pleasant Hostel dining room. The heavy snowfall which had saddened the beautiful blossom in the garden did not, however, affect the warm and friendly atmosphere prevailing at the gathering, and the pretty spring flower arrangements on the white table cloths reminded us that, snow or no snow, we were in the middle of April. The excellent "Fendant" and "Dôle" which the Society had provided, and the *Milkenpastetli* and other dishes from the Hostel's expert kitchen created the impression that we were in Switzerland, not forgetting quite a bit of "Schwyzerdütsch" and French which were part of the animated chatter during dinner.

It was a pleasure to see a number of old friends dear to the N.S.H., Mrs. R. Weist, whose late husband had looked after the Society's finances for a time, Mrs. A. Stauffer, widow of "our" unforgettable Fred, and Mrs. L. Chapuis, whose late husband had been active in the Swiss community probably longer than most. We sadly missed our faithful friends Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter.

The President welcomed the Swiss Ambassador, and Monsieur and Madame Grandjean, who had recently taken the place of our old friends Monsieur and Madame Heimo. He expressed pleasure at having with us Consul and Madame Tosio, Vice-Consul Zellweger as well as a number of other loyal supporters from the Embassy which, said Dr. Egli, was almost part of us. The President welcomed the Treasurer of the R.C. Bishop of Basle, in London *de passage*, and thanked Miss R. Preiswerk, Warden of the Hostel, for once again giving hospitality to the N.S.H.

A book was presented to the departing Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. Bringolf, for his valuable services rendered to the group during his stay in London.

As in previous years, an anonymous donor kindly provided gifts for the ladies, this year in the form of evergreen plants.

When the writer had to leave, the after-dinner "Social" was in full Swing; she has no doubt that the party proceeded in the happy mood which is the hall-mark of all N.S.H. gatherings.

MM

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society was held at Swiss House on Monday, 18th April 1966, when despite the bad rain a good attendance was recorded.

The President, Mr. X. M. Speckert, had the pleasure of welcoming the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur B. de Fischer, Honorary President of the Society, Mr. F. G. Sommer, Honorary Vice-President, and Mrs. Sommer, Monsieur F. Ansermoz of the Swiss Embassy, and about a score of faithful members.

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Rothlisberger, the accounts for 1965 were presented by Mr. Bonnet, Hon. Assistant-Treasurer, who gave all necessary comments and explanations reflecting the undiminished traditional activities of the society. As foreshadowed twelve months ago, the extensive programme of major and costly renovation work carried out over the last few years at the Society's premises at 9-11 Belsize Grove, the home of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, was practically completed during the year under review, much to the relief of all concerned.

Mr. Speckert as President and the various committees were duly re-elected for a further annual term of office, with the exception of the committee of the "Home for Aged Swiss" now obsolete and whose members not previously belonging to the General Committee were, for simplicity's sake, transferred to it.

Thanks were expressed to the Federal Authorities and to the Embassy for the maintenance of the increased annual subsidy and to the Ambassador, his collaborators and staff for the help extended to the Society on all occasions.

J.Z.

MARGOT VEILLON'S "DIVERTIMENTI"

Miss Margot Veillon, the Swiss painter from Egypt, who has recently had a successful show of her paintings at the Trafford Gallery in London, is having a collection of drawings published. "Divertimenti", the folder of sixty drawings is called; it contains a choice selection and a text by Vera Bajocchi. It is published by Imprimerie Robert S.A. at 2740 Moutier and costs Fr.22.—.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 10th June. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Wednesday, 1st June. Only short news items can be accepted later.

SUMMER EDITION OF "SWITZERLAND CALLING"

The European and Overseas Service of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation has just published its illustrated programme schedule "SWITZERLAND CALLING" for this summer. There are also separate editions in French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. Whoever does not yet know SBC's programme schedule, or would like to have additional copies in any of the languages mentioned, may obtain them free by writing to the address given below.

SBC's European and Overseas Service is also known as "Swiss Shortwave Service". It has the twofold task of telling foreign listeners all over the world about Swiss activities and achievements — and of helping Swiss citizens abroad to keep in touch with their homeland. To this end, SBC is broadcasting around the clock in eight languages.

Of the many daily transmissions, the "European Programme" is broadcast by means of omni-directional aerials, while all other transmissions are beamed to overseas areas via directional aerials. Frequencies and transmission times are chosen according to propagation forecasts and international agreements.

All details about wavelengths, directions and transmission times of SBC's European and Overseas Service for the Period from 1st May to 6th November 1966, are given in the latest issue of "SWITZERLAND CALLING". This illustrated programme guide also contains a "check-list" or report form, making it easy for listeners to inform SBC about their reception conditions and their opinion concerning programme contents in a manner which is both concise and suited for quick statistical evaluation.

SBC welcomes all listeners' reactions, requests for programme schedules (available free), individual enquiries, etc., which should be addressed to

European and Overseas Service
Swiss Broadcasting Corporation
CH 3000 Berne 16.

SWISSAIR NEWS

Until the end of October, Swissair, in co-operation with SAS and IBERIA, is operating a direct coach link between London Heathrow and London Gatwick airports. This coach leaves the Domestic Arrivals building, Heathrow, at 11.45 p.m. and arrives at Gatwick at 1 a.m. On the return journey, the departure from Gatwick is at 4 a.m., arriving Heathrow at 5.15 a.m.

During the summer season, the coach will operate nightly, but at other times the frequency will be adjusted to coincide with Swissair flights from and to Gatwick.

This coach link is for passengers arriving by internal U.K. and Irish services at Heathrow and continuing to Switzerland and beyond by Swissair night flights, and vice-versa.

* * *

Recently, Swissair began to offer children flying on its North Atlantic lines a menu of eight delicious dishes, specially planned to suit the tastes of children. Swissair is the first airline company in the world to offer this advantage to its young passengers. On an average, some two dozen children a day travel by these lines during the summer season.