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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS HOSTEL FOR GIRLS

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Hostel for Girls was held at 9-11 Belsize Grove on 17th May. Mr. Max A. Keller, Vice-President, was in the chair. There were twenty-one members present.

The Assembly confirmed the appointment by the Council of Management of Mr. Roger M. Suess, Manager of Buser Ltd. as Chairman of the Company in replacement of Mr. J. P. Christen who, after eight years of devoted and competent service to the Hostel, has returned definitely to Switzerland. The Assembly endorsed unanimously a proposal from the Council of Management to appoint Mr. Christen Honorary Member of the Company.

After the reading of the Secretary's and Warden's report and the presentation by the Treasurer, Mr. G. Asquith, of the Balance Sheet and Accounts for 1966, the Council of Management was re-elected under the presidency *pro tem* of Mr. F. G. Sommer.

In her first report to the General Assembly, the new Warden, Miss Heidi Siegrist was able to announce that the average number of beds let per night during 1966 had come up to 60 against 57 in the previous year. That means a full house practically throughout the twelve months under review. In addition to the Swiss, 114 girls from seventeen different countries were given hospitality. About life at the Hostel Miss Siegrist had this to say:

" . . . The N.S.H. and the Unione Ticinese have as in former years held many meetings at the Hostel combined with meals and snacks. These meetings are always considered as a breath of fresh air from outside.

" We were also honoured with visits from our Ambassador and his wife, Frau Bundesrat Spühler, Dr. Bieri from Berne, and journalists from the TV-Companies of Zurich and Geneva.

" My first year here has been a very interesting one, full of new experiences for me. It has brought me to the realisation of the great need there is in London of such a hostel as this is, and to a deep personal satisfaction of being able to take an active part in its work."

F.A.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLISHING DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 14th July. Articles and reports should reach us not later than Tuesday, 4th July. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The next issue but one will be published on Friday, 24th July. Contributions for that number should be to hand by Tuesday, 18th July.

May we remind readers once again that any delay in sending subscriptions means extra work and expense to Editor and Publishers. Subscriptions are due as soon as a reminder is sent, and it would be appreciated if anyone no longer wishing to receive the paper informed the Editor immediately.

CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF THE PROTESTANT SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

The Assembly of the Protestant Swiss Church in London took place on Sunday, 4th June, at the Church in Endell Street. In order to pass the day in a worthy manner,

the Consistoire and the Ministers once again arranged a communal Service in the morning. The Liturgy and the hymns were in French, conducted by the Rev. Ducommun, the Lessons were read in German, the Rev. Dietler delivered the Sermon in English. Ways and means are being looked for by the clergymen to find a way for these communal services, which should provide all parishioners with the desired devotion. Attendance was excellent, specially considering the large areas over which the Swiss Church Communities are spread. The writer nevertheless takes the liberty of remarking that, whilst attendance of residents of many years' standing and of the young generation temporarily in Great Britain for the purpose of studying the language is gratifying, the lack of participation by members in the "best years of life" is noted with concern. This fact presents a certain problem which is likely to increase during the next few years. And they are urged to show their interest in the Church by regular church going and active participation in the life of the two communities.

It was impressive to see that practically the whole large congregation remained for Holy Communion.

After the Service, members of the Church served a simple meal, and this provided an opportunity of meeting in friendly manner.

In the afternoon, the two language groups met separately in order to discuss parish business. For the first time, certain changes due to the introduction of a Church Constitution, had to be put into operation. The reports for the past years had to be discussed and accepted. The meetings were chaired by the respective Ministers, and it was gratifying to see that questions and suggestions and comments were freely made. They showed deep interest and were accepted with gratitude.

After this fruitful preparatory work by the two groups, the General Church Assembly took place under the chairmanship of Mr. O. Béguin, President of the Consistoire (Church Council). It remained to discuss matters concerning both groups. The Hon. Treasurer elucidated financial questions for 1966 which, thanks to the successful bazaar at the end of October, ended with a small surplus. The two groups reported on their discussions, and the responsible officers and clergymen were thanked for the work done in the interest of the Swiss Church in London.

In his final words, the President expressed his hope that the Protestant members of the Colony would give the Swiss Church their due support. The singing of a Psalm brought the Church Assembly to a dignified close.

C.A.

ADDENDUM TO CARL NATER'S BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

We have been informed by the Founder and Chairman of the Commonwealth Winter Games, St. Moritz, Mr. T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., Hon. Treasurer of the Anglo-Swiss Society and a subscriber to the S.O., that the new President of the City Swiss Club, Mr. Carl Nater, is best known as a most accomplished "Cresta Rider" at St. Moritz. We apologise for the omission.