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A CHANCE TO BE INFORMED

Special Open Meeting of N.S.H. London

The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique has always been at the head of Swiss organisations in the U.K., which take a special interest in the problems affecting the Swiss living abroad. Once again, they have organised an Open Meeting at which all Swiss and their friends are welcome, this time with an eminently qualified envoy from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne. Mr. E. Bruggmann is the Administrative Manager of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad. But he will also speak on a project of Sickness Insurance for the Swiss Abroad when visiting Switzerland or resettling there. He will have something to say about the needs of Swiss abroad for improved services of information about the home country, and he will show some slides concerning the Youth Service of the *Auslandschweizerwerk*.

Mr. Bruggmann who has lived in English-speaking countries for a number of years, will address the meeting in English, which should prove an additional attraction for many members and friends.

(For time and place see advertisement.)

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

London Group

OPEN MEETING

Thursday, 4th May, at 7.45 p.m.

at Swiss Hostel for Girls
9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3

Mr. E. Bruggmann will speak in English
on

Various Questions concerning the Swiss Abroad
(See Editorial Note)

All Swiss and their friends welcome.

THE SWISS ABROAD AND THEIR ORGANISATION

"Parliament" Meeting in Berne

The Swiss Community in this country was represented at the spring meeting of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad by Mrs. Mariann Meier (South) and Dr. H. B. Knuchel (North). Most European countries were represented, as well as South Africa and neighbouring areas, and Israel and "affiliated" countries. The grouping has to be made in a somewhat arbitrary manner, but as more and more Swiss societies join the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, such geographic groupings become more natural.

The President, Dr. G. Schuerch, was able to announce a number of new members: Kongo, Bangkok, Japan, Manila and Hong Kong, as well as two new societies in Paris and Vienna.

The annual report was accepted and the accounts passed. The Commission then took leave of its Chairman, Dr. Schuerch who is retiring. In his place, one of the members from inside Switzerland was elected unanimously in the person of Councillor of States Louis Guisan. Dr. Schuerch's great achievements were duly appreciated by several members and the new Chairman given an encouraging welcome.

The coming Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano from 25th to 27th August will be important because its theme will be the work and tasks of the Swiss abroad now that the Constitutional Article has become a reality. Information is the backbone of good representation, and the *Auslandschweizerorganisation* wants to strengthen the two-way traffic of news and comments out of and into Switzerland. For this reason, a questionnaire is to be filled in by as many Swiss living abroad as possible. Copies will be available at societies' meetings in the near future.

In view of the fact that Mr. E. Bruggmann, Administrative Manager of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad will address the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique on various questions concerning the Swiss living away from home, this report has been kept to a few bare details. A detailed report will be published in the next issue which will appear on 12th May.

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