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evening institutes to avoid the relatively high travelling expenses to town, or preferred full-time tuition, hence the corresponding increase in the number of female students attending the day classes, e.g. 255 in 1967 as against 237 in 1966. The same number of evening classes, i.e. 45, were held last year as in 1966, the total number of enrolments being 877, as against 909 in the preceding year.

The external examination held by Cambridge University for the Certificate of Proficiency and the Lower Certificate in English were as popular as ever with SMS students of both day and evening classes. Last year 60 candidates presented themselves for the former and 291 for the latter. Of these 34 and 187 were successful, a result well above the average for the whole of England.

The teaching staff of the College last year comprised 15 full-time teachers of British nationality, mostly University graduates or with high professional qualifications, some of whom also teach in the evenings.

Concluding his report, the Chairman stated that the very satisfactory results and the ever increasing demand for tuition at the SMS College were surely proof, if such proof were needed, of the soundness of the teaching methods and the competence of the teaching staff. He expressed thanks to the Principal and his staff for their devotion to their work and to the Secretary and his staff for the cheerful and efficient way in which they had discharged their exacting duties.

Employment Advisory Service

Due to the introduction of the Selective Employment Tax as well as to other economic factors, the demand for temporary staff had slackened off considerably in the early part of 1967. However, despite this handicap, it was still possible to assist 61 of our young compatriots in finding commercial employment in this country during the year, which did not compare unfavourably with the record figure of 70 for the preceding year.

Swiss House

Reporting on the activities of the House Committee, Mr. Jaccard stated that the number of class rooms had been increased from 14 to 15 during the summer term, an additional classroom having become available through the conversion of a room previously occupied by the Caretaker. This had enabled the College to accommodate a maximum of some 300 students at any one time.

A number of rooms had been redecorated during the spring and autumn holidays. The painting of the whole of the exterior having been carried out during the autumn, Swiss House was now again looking at its best.

Apart from the Society's own meetings and educational activities, the premises had continued to provide accommodation in the evenings to various other Swiss societies and institutions for their meetings and served as an examination centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate.

In conclusion, Mr. Jaccard thanked the Swiss Ambassador and his staff for their constant support. He acknowledged with gratitude the financial assistance received from BIGA in Berne and expressed appreciation to the subscribing firms and donors for their contributions. He stated that the report would not be complete without mention of the debt of gratitude owed to the officials of all ranks at the Headquarters of the Association in Zurich, as well as the Manager of the Employment Department of the SKSA, for their invaluable assistance in making the

College known in the widest possible circles in Switzerland. Their contributions towards the success attained last year had been of inestimable value to the Society.

Finally, he thanked the Trustees, the Members of the Council and the Committees for their wholehearted co-operation and all the members of the Society for their continued confidence in their elected representatives.

Elections

Proceeding with the election, the meeting then appointed Mr. O. Grob, Hon. Member and past President, as Chairman *pro tem*. He thanked the out-going Committees for their devoted services during another very successful year. He paid a special tribute to the Chairman, Mr. A. Jaccard, whom he congratulated on the excellent manner in which he conducted the Society's affairs. He then proposed the re-election of Mr. Jaccard as President and Chairman of the Council, which was carried with acclamation.

All members of the Council and the Committees having declared their willingness to serve for another term of office, and Messrs. F. O. Hausermann and F. Vaterlaus having been nominated as additional members of the Council and the General Purposes and House Committee respectively, they were declared duly elected as follows:—

Council: Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Trustees: Messrs. J. J. Boos, H. Knoll, L. W. Krucker, F. G. Sommer; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, J. F. Carlen, R. Chappuis, O. Grob, F. O. Hausermann, E. M. Huber, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn, F. Streit.

General Purposes and House Committee: Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. F. Carlen; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. E. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Senn; Members: Mrs. M. Meier and Messrs. H. Andrea, J. Frei, W. Schedler, F. Vaterlaus, J. Weibel, E. Zwicky.

Education Committee: Chairman: Mr. J. F. Carlen; Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. O. Hausermann; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, G. Hediger, O. Luterbacher, M. Schneebeli, L. A. Simon.

Press Reporter: Mr. W. Burren.

Delegate to the N.S.H.: Mrs. M. Meier.

W.B.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

Prof. Hans Zbinden on Switzerland's Future

One of the foremost Swiss thinkers, philosophers and writers, Prof. Dr. Hans Zbinden of Berne, will give a talk in English at the next N.S.H. Open Meeting on 14th March at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. His subject-matter will be "Switzerland's Present Role and Future Tasks" — the gist of a much applauded essay of his recently published in the Review of the Swiss Red Cross. Prof. Zbinden holds an eminent place amongst Switzerland's political and sociological authors combining ideological comprehension with a sense of realism to a remarkable degree. His voice has often helped to guide Swiss thinking in difficult times and maintain its self-confidence. He is paying our Colony a great compliment in formulating his views in English on this occasion.

A YOUNG SWISS PAINTER IN LONDON

In a small Club-Restaurant in Hampstead, a young Swiss lady painter, Beatrice LYSSY, from Zurich reveals her considerable talent in collages and oils. Her work is appealing by an exquisite delicacy of colour and abstract form. The exhibition is open till March 16th at the Isobar, Lawn Road Flats, near Belsize Park Station, N.W.3.

E.



DR. ARMIN DAENIKER 70

Too late, unfortunately, for publication in the last issue, we heard that Dr. Armin Daeniker, former Swiss Ambassador in London, celebrated his 70th birthday on 24th February. He was born in Zurich, and he studied law at the universities of Zurich, Geneva, Berne, Berlin and London, taking his degree in his hometown. He joined the Federal Political Department in 1925 and held posts in many parts of the world. In 1948, Monsieur Daeniker was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to India and Thailand and in 1953 to Sweden. Whilst still accredited there, he was Head of the Swiss Delegation of the Neutral International Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners of War in Korea (1953/4).

Early in 1955, the Federal Council appointed Dr. Daeniker Minister to the Court of St. James's, and two years later, he became the first Swiss Ambassador in London. For nine years, Monsieur and Madame Daeniker worked in London, and they left a mark not only as representatives of their country, but also as active participants in the happenings in the Swiss community here. It was with considerable regret that the Colony took leave of them at the end of 1963 when they retired to Switzerland. But whilst they live in happy retirement in Berne, it is impossible that two such active personalities should be idle, and they take great interest in many matters, not least in the activities of the Swiss-British Society and in Anglo-Swiss relations in general.

Belatedly, but nonetheless sincerely, we wish Monsieur Daeniker many happy returns of his birthday and him and his wife many more years of happy retirement.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 22nd March. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 12th March. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

The next issue but one will be published on Friday, 12th April in time for Easter. All contributions should be to hand by Tuesday, 2nd April.

AN OECUMENICAL DIVINE SERVICE

With a congregation of young people and residents, the third oecumenical service of the Swiss Churches took place in London on Thursday evening, 25th January. It was organised as a kind of panel talk in the Swiss Catholic Church at Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

The same liturgy as the two previous times, alternately French and German in form of a set dialogue between the ministers and the congregation, was used again, as there were French- and German-speaking Swiss people present. The Reverends Bosshard, Kästli, Nicod and Stefan were on the panel and each gave a short introductory speech. Briefly, they said that St. Paul himself exhorted us to unity with reference to the fact that there was one christening only. Christening, however, meant reconciliation with God and among ourselves. The future of the Church consisted in waiting for Christ and in clinging to the Word of God which implied that we had to translate the Word of God into our time. The Word was there to be preached, being the Gospel and the Promise of God, and His personal call to us. The Catholic Church faced the same task regarding the Sacraments. The Eucharist had become stylised in the course of time. But, now the moment had come for getting back to the genuine understanding of the Holy Communion and the breaking of the bread. We should then be able to realise that Christ was present at every community of Christians, as he had said himself: "*Where there are two or three assembled in my name . . .*"

The congregation took part in the following discussion. The first question "What is the Oecumenical Movement?" entailed further questions and suggestions. It was said that the Oecumenical Movement should not remain a matter for theologians and learned people, but must become understandable and practicable for laymen; another speaker held that all differences of opinion ought to be pointed out and clarified between the churches; whereas somebody else thought it more important to reduce it all to the same common denominator, making it possible for all to follow the same path. To achieve this, all of us had to pray and ask for truth and love. Thereupon another voice pleaded for the collecting together of all the matters of opinion, conceptions and ideas the Churches had in common, which would prove superfluous any existing fences and barriers anyway. In answer to these suggestions it was put forward very clearly and simply, "*We do not need a common denominator of a multitude of symbols and things in common, we all have Jesus Christ, our Lord. He came to us to redeem us. Our churches are based upon him; in listening to him, the Oecumenical Movement will become self-evident.*"

Everybody felt, that talking together was a good thing, and it was much regretted that the discussion had to come to a speedy end. Still, to do something was much more important. In order to realise the thought of the Common Meal and the faith that Christ is present whenever people meet in His name, hot tea and buns were served in church. People gathered in small groups, enjoyed the refreshments and each other's company and built a happy community.

The common desire was voiced, to meet more often and to discuss the common problems of the Swiss Churches in London, in order to find ways of much closer co-operation, which, after all, is oecumenism put into practice.

R.S.