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Many members of the House of Lords joined in at the Reception. As the House was in session, it was not possible to organise a visit, but those present had a taste of Parliamentary life as peers hurriedly left their cocktails to answer the call to successive divisions by the House Whips. Later the House Officers called out the results of these divisions by crying out the tally of "content" and "not content" voters—traditional formula referring to the "for" and "against" votes.

The following meeting of the Anglo-Swiss Society, to be held in November, will hear an exposé on the protection of marine environment by the Swiss oceanologist Jaques Pickard.

(PMB)

Board changes in the George Fischer Group

Dr. B. K. Greuter becomes deputy chairman of the GF (GB) holding company, and Mr. W. Finger is appointed a Director.

At George Fischer Castings, Mr. R. C. Jones, Managing Director, also assumes the Chairmanship on the retirement of Dr. M. H. Schneebeli.

Dr. Schneebeli and Mr. B. Scott retire from the board of Le Bas Tube Company, and Mr. A. Luthy is appointed a Director.

SWISS CATHOLICS AGM

The Committee of Swiss Catholics in London Benevolent Society held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 11th May at 48 Great Peter Street, London.

After opening prayers, the Chairman, Mr. Oscar Grob, K.S.G., extended a warm welcome to all present. The Honorary Treasurer of the Society, Mrs. K. A. Grob, recalled in her Report that it had been decided to hold a Christmas Draw in 1971, which had produced £240.79. This, in addition to the contributions of 82 donors, Church collections, income tax recovered under Covenants, a £75 donation from the City Swiss Club and accrued bank

interests had yielded a total income of £829.16, against an expenditure of £885.62, thus resulting in a surplus of £3.54 for the year.

The accounts were passed by the meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

In his Report, the Chairman said that the Society, following up the steps already taken prior to the 1971 AGM to register the Society under the Friendly Societies Acts and to the Charity Act in order to be exempted from income tax, had formally written down its rules, aims and objects.

Mr. Grob said that the Committee had been given to understand that the wording "Benevolent Society" included in the Society's title would be helpful in securing acceptance as a charity by the Charity Commissioners. But in order not to jeopardize a legacy in abeyance made in favour of the Society's old name ("Committee of Swiss Catholics in London") and possibly other legacies left to it, and not to give the impression to a third party that the new Society had changed its aims and objects, it was decided simply to add the words "Benevolent Society" to its old name.

Mr. Grob was pleased to report that the new rules had been accepted by the Registry of Friendly Societies and said that the "Committee of Swiss Catholics in London Benevolent Society" was registered on 16th June, 1971 under the Friendly Societies Act 1896 as a Benevolent Society. After some minor amendments to its constitution passed at a Special General Meeting on 30th January, 1972, the Society entered in the Central Register of Charities (No. 262722) under the Charities Act 1960.

It had been previously decided at a Special General Meeting on 26th November, 1971 to dissolve the old Society, "Committee of Swiss Catholics in London" as from 16th June, 1971 and that all its assets, including any legacy, and liabilities, should be transferred to the new Society in the name of "Committee of Swiss Catholics in London Benevolent Society".

Immediately following this meeting, the first AGM of the new Society

had adopted the new Rules as submitted for Registration to the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

According to these rules the Committee of Management consists of the following officers: Two Trustees, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

The following were elected: Messrs G. Bartholdi and E. Kaufeler as Trustees. Mr. O. Grob as Chairman. Mr. E. Bonvin as Vice-Chairman. Mrs. K. A. Grob as Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. P. Siegfried as Hon. Secretary.

In addition to the officers of the Society named above, all the members of the old Committee as elected at the AGM of 9th May, 1971 are Foundation Members. It was resolved that Mr. Sidney B. Stray, C.I., A.C.I.S., be appointed Hon. Auditor of the Society to audit the accounts for the period ended 31st December, 1971.

Another milestone recorded by Mr. Grob was the closing of St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, on the 17th January, 1972 and the subsequent transfer to *John Southworth Centre*, 48 Great Peter Street of the place of worship of the Swiss Catholics in London.

Its Chaplain, the Rev. Fr. Paul Bossard, then summed up the activities of the past year. He recalled that, after having enjoyed the facilities of the Westminster Ballroom for nearly 10 years, the Swiss Catholic Youth Club had been forced to seek new premises by an increase from £10 to £20 per evening of the rent of the ballroom. Early in 1971, it was decided to start a new Youth and Community Centre at the John Southworth Centre and the Chaplain of the Swiss Catholic Community was invited by Mgr. Canon F. Bartlet, Administrator of the Westminster Cathedral, to join its Management Committee. The Swiss Catholics obtained the use of the premises on all Sundays of the year for a rent of £1,000 per annum. They also agreed to invite the English members of the Westminster Cathedral Youth Association to their activities, in exchange for which the John Southworth Centre will eventually be opened

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to Swiss youths during the week.

Father Bossard depicted the advantages of the new Centre. Its many rooms offered possibilities for a variety of activities, including dancing, Bible study and discussion. Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Dance Hall while the German-speaking Protestants held their service in the Conference Room. Father Bossard mentioned the facilities for after-mass supper or tea and said that Sunday evening activities regularly attracted 150 to 250 youths. There was every hope that the rent for the Centre would be met with the entrance fee of 15p per member.

Father Bossard expressed regret at the closure of St. Ann's and the loss of the atmosphere of devotion and recollection which one felt in a sacred building, but expressed gratefulness that an adequate solution should have been found to the Church's accommodation problem.

The closure of St. Ann's had also entailed moving to a new flat. Father Bossard had rejected various proposals to find a lodging in a central London parish that would have hindered his social work in his own Church but thanks to the support of Cardinal Heenan, a flat and an office, now in the course of construction, will be provided for the Chaplain at the John Southworth Centre itself. Since the closure of the St. Ann's premises on 17th February last, Father Bossard had been living temporarily in a neighbouring flat.

Father Bossard ended his report by expressing thanks to Cardinal Heenan, to the Management Committee of the John Southworth Centre and to the Swiss Protestant Churches for their co-operation in helping the Swiss Catholic Church in London to solve its material problems. He also thanked the Embassy, the Committee of the Swiss Lenten Action and the Bishops of Switzerland for their co-operation and specially mentioned Mr. and Mrs. O. Grob.

After the resignation of Mr. E. Bonvin and Mrs. K. A. Grob respectively from the Vice-Chairmanship and the Treasurership of the Society, the membership of the Committee of Swiss Catholics in London Benevolent Society for 1972-1973 stands as follows:

Trustees: Mr. G. Bartholdi and Mr. E. Kaüfeler; Chairman: Mr. O. Grob; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. I. R. Daetwiler; Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Schneebeli; Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. P. Siegfried; Hon. Auditor: Mr. S. B. Stray A.C.I.S.; Members: Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. E. Bonvin, Mrs. C. F. O. Clarke, Mrs. I. R. Daetwiler, Mrs. K. A. Grob, Mrs. E. Kaüfeler, Mrs. F. McKenna, Miss E. Rüttiman, Mr. L. F. Ackermann, Mr. E. Bonvin, Mr. F. de Maria, Mr. E. Eha, Mr. B. Frei, Dr. A. Greber, Mr. P. R. Gut and Mr. P. Jacomelli.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR: Saturday, 4th November at 12 a.m. at the Westminster Central Hall.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD: Berne 25th-27th August.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: next shoot on 3rd September.

SCHWEIZERBUND: Thursday, 13th July, Dinner at Valchera's Restaurant, Richmond. 19.00 for 19.30.

MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB: Outing to the Manchester Ship Canal. 23rd September.

FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

Sunday, 30th July, and Saturday, 5th August. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.15 p.m. *Edith Mathis* sings one of the star roles in the film *The Marriage of Figaro* (*Rolf Liebermann* Production).

8th to 13th August. International Summer School, Canterbury. The oboist *Heinz Holliger* holds master classes to which listeners and players are welcome (details from Trevor Wye, 4 Abbots Barton Walk, Canterbury).

Tuesday, 29th August and Wednesday, 30th August. Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 8 p.m. *Edith Mathis* is one of the soloists in A German Requiem by Brahms.

Wednesday, 30th August. Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, 11 a.m. The pianist *Margaret Kitchin* plays sonatas by Mendelssohn, Webern and Chopin with the cellist Siegfried Palm.

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SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNINO DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches a 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicdo, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS W.4 and S.E.21, and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 3rd Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme".

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.