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the Swiss Catholic Chaplain, the Honorary Treasurer the N.S.H. were among those whom Mrs. Meier wished to greet particularly. She also welcomed Mr. B. Simon and Dr. H. R. Bolliger and his wife from Manchester. The attendance was told of the election of Mr. Peter Senn to the Presidency of the Swiss Club Manchester. The President also told us of the ski-accident of Dr. Hugo Rast, a Harley Street member of the Swiss Colony. Dr. Rast, 82, broke an ankle while skiing at Saanenmoser. Mrs. Meier expressed the Society's best wishes for his speedy recovery.

Ambassador Albert Weitnauer, who like last year had accepted to come to this annual function, then said a few words. He again extolled the "quality of life" found in Britain but said that he would not make a "progress report" of his second year of office in this country. Dr. Weitnauer, who is Honorary President

of the London Group of the N.S.H., said that as a resident of Brianston Square, he was entitled to hold the key of the garden therein. Blessing his predecessors' foresight in securing the freehold of Embassy building, he said that this allowed him to take a stroll in the garden every day at lunch time. He said that he could, if he wished, plant his own flowers in the garden. A local lady-resident had suggested edelweiss! The Ambassador ended his refreshing address by saying how much he enjoyed studying Anglo-Saxon grammar. He had discovered that the inhabitants of this Island spoke something similar to Swiss-German before the arrival of William the Conqueror.

Greetings from Manchester were lastly conveyed by Dr. Bolliger. The official part of the evening was over. People remained in the hall for a while, but the first movements towards the Exit began shortly after ten o'clock.

## Swiss Benevolent Society explained on "Visitors Sunday"

No one more qualified than Mrs. Regula Sharp, Secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society, could have come to a packed hall of parishioners on the "Journee des Visiteurs" of the Swiss church.

These yearly Sundays devoted to the problem of "visiting", and that of the people requiring these visits give the opportunity to the Swiss parish of hearing a speaker in close touch with lonely persons. Three years ago, Archbishop Anthony Blum, Head of the Western Orthodox Churches, had come to speak to the Swiss Church on the more spiritual aspects of visiting. Mrs. Sharp centered her expose on the very practical problems of the "visited". She began by outlining the essentials of social care, past and present. She stressed the tremendous development in official aid coupled with an increase of loneliness due to the decay of small human communities.

She clearly defined the limits of action of the Swiss Benevolent Society. It could not offer a "pension" to those already receiving benefits from the British State, but could supplement income in cases of real hardship. The Society's purpose was not so much to give direct material aid as to find ways, on the right channels, for effective assistance. A very common occurrence was that of old people living in misery and, either through lack of energy, dejection or ignorance, did not take the trouble of notifying or looking for the relevant services which could bring them aid. There was also a certain element of pride. It is difficult to end one's life having to resort to "charity". However, the Speaker stressed that the Benevolent Society did not dispense "charity". Its "benevolence" was offered from funds which had been assembled for precisely this purpose. Mrs. Sharp said that the money was there to help people, and that possible beneficiaries should not have misgivings about availing themselves of this opportunity.

The Speaker referred to the growing life-expectancy and to the way this affected the moral and material problems of old age. As far as the Parish's voluntary visitors were concerned, Mrs. Sharp stressed on the importance of bringing all new and unknown cases to her attention. She said that some circumspection was needed in dealing with the problems of the visited. One had to draw a line of defense before being involved too deeply, either materially or emotionally. It was essential to be aware of one's path, because a relationship

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