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## Mercantile Society follow tradition

THE Swiss Mercantile Society held its 95th annual general meeting at Swiss House recently.

Among those present, the society's chairman, Mr W. Burren, welcomed Dr J. Kellenberger, Head of the Economic Section at

### Diamond day

IT is with pleasure that we announce the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr and Mrs J.W. Bonjour, of 72 Shirley Avenue, Croydon, Surrey.

Their friends send them best wishes on the occasion of the diamond wedding on June 10 and trust that they will be able to enjoy many more years in happy togetherness, and hopefully in good health.

the Swiss Embassy, and expressed his appreciation for the Embassy's constant interest in and support of the society's activities.

The members present kept a minute's silence in memory of Mr Ernst Kern and Mr Ernest Paul Locher, who had died recently.

Reporting on the activities of the society, the chairman stated that these had followed traditional lines, with the monthly meetings held in conjunction with the New Helvetic Society, thus ensuring a much more satisfactory attendance.

The venue for the summer outing was Milton Manor House, preceded by luncheon at Dorchester-on-Thames.

During the year under review, the chairman and the secretary, Mr R. Kaenzig, represented the London section at the delegates meeting of the SKV at Davos.

Miss H. Deloff was presented by the SKV with their memento for 50 years' membership of the association.

The chief of the Federal Department for professional education, Mr H. Summermatter, and Mr E. Ruchti, general secretary of the SKV for commercial education, visited the SMS College in October. They attended lessons and examined the administrative as well as the financial side of the college activities.

### Reversed

As usual, the main activities at Swiss House were centred on the college. The drop in the number of students attending the college, which had sadly been taking place over the last four years, continued from January to July, but the trend was reversed from September onwards.

The chairman was pleased to report that a slow improvement in attendance continued in the new year, in spite of losing the special courses for Swissair trainees held three times a year.

The college curriculum included two introductory courses for commercial apprentices, arranged through the language section of the Swiss Commercial Employment Office. These short courses are now established and will be supplemented by business refresher courses as well as special teachers' courses.

The introduction of weekly sessions of badminton and aerobics

at a nearby sports centre, in addition to regular tennis games and table tennis competitions, proved very popular.

Turning to finance, the chairman reported on the present difficult situation, which originated from the gradual drop in the number of students. The reversed trend would give the college a good chance to get on an even keel by 1985.

Prior to the elections of the council and committees, the chairman reported that he had received resignations from Mr H. Knoll (Trustee), Mr G. Hediger (Education Committee) and Mr E. Ruchti (Council). Appreciation was expressed for their past service.

New members elected were Mr K. Deutschle (vice-president and chairman of the Education Committee), Mr W. Burkard from the SKV (Council), Mr J. Keller (Education Committee) and Mr P. Obrist (Council and Education Committee).

A motion that Mr F.O. Hausermann, former president and hon. member of the London section, be appointed a trustee and ex officio member of the council, was adopted and unanimously with acclamation.

Mrs Mariann Meier, celebrating the 40th anniversary of her membership of the society, conveyed her thanks to every member of the council and committees for their valued services during the past year.

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