

Swiss Benevolent Society

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, April 12th. Mr. J. J. Boos presided and about thirty members were present.

In opening the proceedings, the President announced that news had been received through the Swiss Radio of the untimely death of National Councillor Alfred Baumgartner, President of the St. Gall Section of the S.K.V. and member of the Central Committee since 1935. The meeting rose in memory of the deceased.

One new member, Mrs. M. Meier-Gysin, was admitted and one resignation accepted.

The Chairman mentioned that the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. would be held at Geneva on May 6th and 7th. In the present circumstances, it will of course not be possible for the London Section to be represented, as was regularly the case in pre-war years, but a telegram conveying best wishes and greetings will be sent for the occasion.

Mrs. G. Jenne, who is making special efforts to get our lady members to take a more active part in the Society's affairs, reported that a programme had been drawn up which would be submitted at a later meeting. The gentlemen present were delighted to learn that they also would benefit, as in this programme arrangements for refreshments at meetings were foreseen, as well as outings, socials, etc.

It was gratifying to learn from Mr. W. Meier, Vice-President, that the Society, after a prolonged interval, had resumed its educational activities, even if only on a modest scale.

A French Circle has been formed, which meets regularly on Tuesday evenings under the expert leadership of Mlle. Denise Béale (Graduate of the University of Paris). The twelve participants practise reading and engage in discussions on topical subjects.

A course in Russian (Elementary) has also been started with a similar number of participants. The Society has been fortunate in being able to secure the services of a very capable teacher, Mrs. Kira Gondos. An Elementary Class for French is also foreseen, as well as Spanish and Italian language circles. For further particulars, please apply to Mr. W. Meier at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

For some time past, a wish has been expressed by members to hear something about the Companies Act and the intricacies of Company Law. A well known

solicitor, who specialises in Company Law, has kindly consented to address the members following the next Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Wednesday, May 10th, at 6.30 p.m. Members will have an opportunity of asking questions on any points in which they are personally interested and this should therefore prove a most instructive evening.

For the June meeting, it has been decided to have another discussion amongst members, the subject being "What we should aim at in Education," with Mr. W. Meier as the principal speaker, who will open the discussion.

The Committee hopes that members will give these meetings their full support and bring along their friends. WB.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

On Tuesday, April 4th, the City Swiss Club entertained the Members of the Swiss Commercial Mission at present in this country, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Nearly 150 Members were present.

After dinner, M. A. Bon, the President, welcomed on behalf of the Club, the following Delegates: Professor Keller, Head of the Mission, Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Hohl, Dr. Frei and Dr. Rezzonico, expressing his pleasure at having them amongst us, and wishing them success in their negotiations with H.M. Government.

The President also welcomed Lieut-Colonel V. Paravicini, the son of our former Minister and a member of the Club, who is at present in this country. There was also present Flight-Lieutenant E. Vollenweider, of the U.S.A. Air Force. Lt. Vollenweider comes from Swiss stock and is proud of it.

Monsieur Gauthier from the Commercial Mission gave an extremely interesting talk on the Policy of the Swiss National Bank in War-time which was greatly appreciated and heartily cheered by the gathering.

Dr. Rezzonico, a former member of the City Swiss Club, and an old friend of the Colony, talked about conditions at home, he too received well deserved applause for his witty *compte-rendu*.

Before closing the Meeting the President expressed the hope that our Minister, Monsieur W. Thurnheer, who is at present ill in Switzerland, would soon be completely recovered, and that we might have the pleasure of welcoming him again in our midst in the near future. ST.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

On the 28th of March, 1944, the Annual Meeting took place with Col. Bon, President, in the Chair. Twenty-nine members were present, including the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Girardet and the presidents of several Swiss Societies.

The duly audited accounts of 1943 were passed. The various officers of the Executive were all re-elected for 1944. The Society has now been in existence since January 1st, 1870. It was suggested to celebrate the 75th Anniversary not by a usual dinner with its customary collection, but by the creation of a special Fund to help to meet the coming heavy post-war liabilities. It is hoped that subscribing friends and well-wishers of the cause will make special donations to this 75th ANNIVERSARY FUND.

UNIONE TICINESE

A THÉ DANSANT

will be held on **Sunday, May 14th, 1944,**
at "**The Dorchester,**" Park Lane, W.1,
from 3 p.m. till 9 p.m.

Tables for parties of ten and twelve arranged.

Tickets 7/6 inclusive, obtainable from Mr. C. BERTI, 83, FETTER LANE, E.C.4., Miss R. ABATE, 17, BRYANSTON MANSIONS, BAKER STREET, W.1, or any member of the Committee.

**As number of tickets will be limited
early applications will be appreciated.**