

Annual report 1945/6 of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. , London

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ANNUAL REPORT 1945/6 OF THE SWISS Y.M.C.A., LONDON.

In reviewing the activities of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. over the past year we are conscious of the fact that the after-effect of the war has left its mark on the development of our work. Restrictions on travelling and permits have made it difficult for the young Swiss to come to London, and only in recent weeks two educational centres in London have been successful in starting their courses with a number of students from Switzerland. We take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to them. Sir George Williams, the founder of the Y.M.C.A., once said that the first twenty-four hours of a young man's life in London usually settled his destiny, as it depended so much on the environment in which he was placed. London will always typify all that is fiercest and most glorious in life's battle. It impresses a young man for the rest of his life. It is therefore for the Y.M.C.A. to show how it is possible, in the power of God, to live a victorious life in spite of manifold currents which sidetrack the attention of men and women from the true goal in life, so well expressed in the Y.M.C.A. hymn of J. S. Monsoll:

"Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up your eyes and seek his face;
Life with its way before you lies,
Christ is the path and Christ the prize."

In spite of changing conditions the gospel of Jesus Christ is ever new, and its dynamic power available to all who truly seek Him.

Our meetings for study and discussion took place every fortnight and we had opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the Scriptures and their application to the everyday problems of life. — Our Christmas Celebration was held in a circle of members and friends, and two of our guests, Dr. J. Rieger and Mr. E. Rapp, addressed the gathering. — A farewell meeting was arranged for Mr. R. Niklaus, who retired in September last, after 41 years of work with the London City Mission. Our "Old Londoners" will recall the faithful service he rendered to our Association all those years. — In January this year Rev. H. Blum from Altikon, Ct. Zurich, took up his post as minister at the

Swiss Church in London, and the kind interest he has shown in our work is a great encouragement to us. — We despatched about 350 copies of last year's Annual Report to former members of the London and Paris Associations. A number of friends have now written to us. Space does not permit to refer to them all, but we would like to mention two letters from friends who were members as far back as 1901 and 1904. One is from Mr. C. Wyder, who has been a missionary in South India for the last 45 years, and hopes to retire to Switzerland next year. The other is from Mr. H. Ritter, Vico-Morcote, who writes about his early experiences with Messrs. Zundel, Kunkler and Bieri, with a vividness as if they had taken place yesterday.

We wish to thank our donors in London and Switzerland very heartily for their renewed financial help, which has enabled us to meet all our expenses. We would mention that our piano and a sofa have been destroyed through aerial bombardments in 1942 and we have not yet been able to replace them.

We recommend our work specially to our friends in Switzerland, and would ask them to give our address to all young men of whom they know that are coming here, bearing in mind that a work like ours needs above all the prayerful support of those who know their Lord.

THE COMMITTEE.

NUREMBERG 1946.

Ring down the curtain.— End the shameful tale.—
The world, aghast, has seen how in their pride
Humanity they flouted and defied.

Once feared and mighty, now beyond the pale.
Their pleadings, balanced in an even scale,
Received the patient hearing they'd denied
To those who'd suffered, starved and died
Beneath their cruel yoke, their iron flail.

They who once prated of a master race,
Who proudly strutted in their brutal might,
Are humbled to the dust and soon must face
Their just reward: the darkness of the night.
What are their feelings? Rage, despair, remorse?
It matters not; let justice take its course.

J.J.F.S.

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