

Swiss Benevolent Society

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1946)**

Heft 1051

PDF erstellt am: **25.04.2024**

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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Summer Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society was held at 31, Conway Street, W.1, the former Swiss Home, on 29th July, again under the chairmanship of its President, Col. A. Bon. It was an unusually small meeting no doubt owing to the holidays. Two items on the agenda were of special interest, the accounts and the Secretary's report. Compared with the same period last year the subscriptions and donations were down, but this was probably due to the rather later publication of the Annual Report. The hope was expressed that the friends and supporters of the Society would not delay in sending their gifts so that a more favourable picture could be shown at the next meeting in the autumn. Casual relief and pensions were on a fairly steady course and the expected large increase of unemployment amongst the older people on the Society's books had fortunately not yet set in. The figure spent on repatriations had gone up as several people, mostly of bad health, had been sent back to Switzerland.

The Secretary's report was particularly interesting on account of the description of the Pro Juventute holiday scheme for Swiss children abroad. The Pro Juventute organisation are looking after the children while in Switzerland. Where the parents in the U.K. cannot pay the specially reduced air passage for their children the Benevolent Society are paying. The amount of work which the office had to cope with in connection with this scheme was considerable. Much time and effort was required until all the forms had been filled in, all the children (well over 30 of them) had been medically examined, and a diphtheria test had been carried out. Over 100 letters have so far been sent from the Society's office. The children are staying with private families in Switzerland. This is a marvellous opportunity to spend a holiday in the Country of their Fathers, for most of them for the first time.

MARIANN.

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UNS'RE BERGE LUEGEN UEBER 'S GANZE LAND.

Lo behold our mountains, how they soar and shine
Over all the homeland, Rhone-ward to the Rhine,
Calling to our people with a mighty voice:
In the beauty of your native land rejoice!

Here in peace and freedom, in the mountains' sight
Stand a thousand homesteads basking in their light.
And on days of leisure a contented throng
Gathers on the hillsides with a joyful song.

Love of home and homeland, may it e'er be found
Rooted, as the Alps are, firmly in the ground,
Mountainlike arising high above the plain,
Radiating friendship through our fair domain.

Yes, while yet the mountains look across the land
Shall the love of freedom deepen and expand,
Evermore united, let our purpose be
Noble thoughts and actions, faith and honesty.

—(Transl. by J.J.F.S.)



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