

Church Bazaar

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1952)**

Heft 1193

PDF erstellt am: **21.09.2024**

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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

*" He who gives a child a treat."
Lights a lamp in Heaven's street."*

It is unusual for a meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society to consider the children, though, of course, many boys and girls have received financial help, clothing and Christmas presents from it.

But at the last meeting on 27th October the children of the Swiss Colony in London were directly brought to the members' notice. The President, Col. A. Bon, opened the proceedings with the sad announcement of the death of Mr. C. Campart, a loyal member of the SBS for a great many years. It was he who had been so keen on giving Swiss children an annual Christmas Party. With great zest, year after year, he had approached his compatriots with his famous "Carnet noir". In it he had recorded faithfully all the Christmas Parties, the number of children attending each year (once as many as 400) as well as the donations received. This black booklet bears the above words on its frontispiece and is a living proof of Mr. Campart's great conception of service to the young. The book has now been handed to Mr. A. F. Suter. He begged the meeting to carry on with the Children's party in the same unselfish spirit as Mr. Campart and his helpers had done in the past. The meeting, which was very well attended, paid a silent tribute to Mr. Campart's memory and the members willingly supported Mr. Suter's appeal.

Before the real business of the evening started the Chairman welcomed the Swiss Minister and the new Attaché Social, Monsieur F. Ansermoz. The accounts, which were presented by Mr. Rothlisberger, showed a steady trend both in income and expenditure. Unfortunately there is a deficit of £827 over the first nine months of 1952. The Hon. Treasurer expressed his hope that this deficiency would be made good before the end of the year by more subscriptions and donations coming in.

A very important item on the agenda was the retirement of the Society's Secretary Mr. T. Ritter and his replacement. The Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked Mr. Ritter for his faithful services and wished him and his wife many happy years of retirement. The Executive Committee proposed Mr. J. Zimmermann as Mr. Ritter's successor. A lively discussion about the position of Mr. Zierysen, who had been ably assisting the Secretary for the last 12 years, followed, and the meeting then elected Mr. Zimmer-

man as Secretary. He will, for the time being, also remain in charge of the Employment Office of the Swiss Mercantile Society. The next matter was the resignation of one of the auditors, Mr. H. Baehler who had been transferred to the Gold Coast. In his place the meeting appointed Consul J. Huber.

* * *

I started this report with an appeal, and I shall end with another. Shops tell us that there are only so many more days till Christmas and that the time has come to think seriously about it. For the Swiss Benevolent Society a period of feverish preparations has already begun. But a lot is still needed to make their work complete: clothes and shoes in good condition, household articles, linen, sweets, fruit and other food — and helpers. Here is a chance for young people to do a job well worth while, sorting out articles of clothing, making parcels and helping with the distribution. How much more shall we all be able to enjoy our own Christmas after helping to make others happy!

Mariann.

CHURCH BAZAAR.

A Bazaar in aid of the Swiss Church in London was held on Saturday, October 25th, 1952, at "Victoria Hall", Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

We are delighted to report, that this undertaking has met with a complete success, the result being, that £467. 10. 7 was realised, to this amount is to be added £100 which was received by cheque from the Clayton Aniline Company of Clayton. (The result of the Bazaar on October, 15th, 1949 was £450).

The Colony is heartily to be congratulated on this fine achievement.

The Bazaar was officially opened by Madame Henry de Torrenté, the wife of our Minister, who very charmingly referred to the object of this undertaking, thanking the organisers, and all those who helped to make this Bazaar a success for their help. She invited all the visitors to be generous in their purchases.

Mr. Charles Gysin, President of the "Consistoire" associated himself with the tribute paid by Madame de Torrenté, thanking all the willing and hardworking Ladies for their collaboration, and the donors for their generous gifts.

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