

Nouvelle société helvétique

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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique took place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls on Thursday, 2nd May. The Swiss Ambassador, who is Honorary President of the Society, was on the point of returning to Switzerland, and he was represented by Monsieur F. Ansermoz, Counsellor of Embassy in charge of Labour Affairs. The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, was in the chair.

The Annual Report for 1967 was presented and accepted. It makes again impressive reading. Apart from social functions, the NSH organised seven lectures and highly interesting talks by distinguished visitors from Great Britain and Switzerland. The subjects of lectures held at the Swiss Hostel for Girls included "Die Erhaltung des Schweizerischen Bürgersinns", "Egypte-terre éternelle", "Rock Climbing", "Die Frage nach der Zukunft der Schweiz", "Welfare Works at the Ports" and "Switzerland's Present and Future Role".

A special film show was held at the Royal Commonwealth Society on 29th November featuring a Praesens film version of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's famous play "The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi".

The President's report on behalf of the Council referring to membership reads as follows:

"We deeply regret the death of Mrs. L. D. Campart, widow of our former Hon. Secretary before the war. We also lost seventeen members in the twelve months' period, who left the country or retired. On the other hand, twelve new members joined our group, leaving the net loss for the year at six. As every reduction in numbers affects the size of our meetings, all members are urged to make a special effort to attend as often as they can and to recruit new members for our society.

We are also about to lose two out of four members of the Council from the Embassy: the Ambassador, Monsieur Olivier Long, who has been appointed Director-General of GATT at Geneva so soon after his arrival in this country, and Monsieur E. Tosio, who has left for a new post as Swiss Consul-General in Pakistan. As a member of the Council, Monsieur Tosio had always taken a deep interest in our affairs. While his sound advice and active participation will be much missed in the future, we wish him and Madame Tosio every success and happiness in their new post.

In view of the importance of our cultural work, we appeal to all members to help in the recruitment of renewed support, either as full members (all Swiss above 21) or as junior members (above 16) or as associate members (former Swiss)."

The Hon Treasurer's report showed that the financial state of the Society was satisfactory. The annual subscription was left at 25/-. Thanks were expressed to the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. D. E. Bonnet and M. A. Rothlisberger, who were re-elected. The Council was chosen by secret ballot.

The meeting accepted a report by the delegate for Great Britain South to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad (Mrs. Mariann Meier).

J.S.

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The meeting was followed by a Dinner — as usual carefully and tastily prepared by the Hostel Staff — and attended by fifty or more members and friends, Monsieur Ansermoz, accompanied by his wife, conveyed farewell greetings and best wishes from the Ambassador and

Madame Long. The President welcomed a number of guests, among them the new Consul and Madame Adams. The ladies were presented with a beautiful Swiss handkerchief each, the gift from an anonymous donor to whom grateful thanks are recorded in this report for his generosity shown year after year.

The occasion was a happy one and augurs well for the new year's activities of the London Group of the N.S.H.

CITY SWISS CLUB Annual General Meeting

Enjoying as usual the enviously genial *ambiance* and culinary excellence of the Dorchester, the City Swiss Club held its A.G.M. on 30th April, with a gratifying large attendance. The accounts were, of course, approved without any quibbling as their correctness was duly certified by the auditors Messrs. H. Straub and R. Privat. The surplus achieved of £558 after one of £492 in the year before was enough to gladden the hearts of everyone present and fill at least one present President of another society with envy. Yet no less than £315 had been given away to the Churches, the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Federation of Swiss Societies, the "Swiss Observer" and the Swiss Children's Christmas Party. For its own purposes, the Club needed only £281, yet it took in membership fees £606, in interest £221 and as profit of functions £326. Another piece of good news was the increase of the Club House Fund by £1,034 to £6,738 which was achieved by sensible re-investments under the care of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Keller. He and his advisors received due praise.

In his unwritten annual report the President, Mr. C. Nater, had occasion to complain bitterly of poor attendances at some of the functions organised with so much trouble by the club's officers — a complaint shared by the president's of, probably, most other societies. Would occasional joint functions not provide the best answer?

In answer to a question by Mr. E. Bonvin regarding the plans for the "Forum of Switzerland", for which the Club and other Swiss societies have pledged their support in principal, Mr. T. von Speyr announced that a decision to proceed with the necessary structural alterations on the third floor of the Swiss Centre had been taken, a piece of news which was warmly welcomed. Dr. Egli revealed further that the latest plans comprise the construction of a largish extra room for the exclusive use of our Colony, its societies and the young Swiss, so as to keep the main premises of the Forum available for its cultural purposes, the occasional use by the societies for bigger functions and for commercial exploitation to cover the high costs of such elegant premises in such a uniquely central position. Detailed proposals for the use of the societies' funds for the realisation of the project at long last progressing and for the utilisation of the accommodation at minimal cost will be submitted to the societies in the near future.

All members of the Committee as well as the trustees and auditors were re-elected *en bloc* with the only change in the distribution of offices that Mr. H. Jauslin was relieved at his request of the secretaryship, which he had held for five years, by Mr. L. F. Ackermann. The offices are thus distributed as follows: President Mr. C. Nater, Vice-President Mr. A. Kuhn, Hon. Treasurer Mr. H. J. Keller, Assistant Hon. Treasurer Mr. G. A. Ronus, Hon. Secretary Mr. L. F. Ackermann, Assistant Hon. Secretary Mr. L. F. Jobin, Additional Committee member H. Jauslin. The Auditors remain Messrs. H. Straub and R. Privat and the Trustees of the Club House Fund Messrs. E. H. Burnier, R. J. Keller and M. Gedet.

E.