

Nouvelle société helvétique

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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.
GROUPE LONDONNIEN.
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.

The experience of these last years has proved to us that the work of our Group can be carried on just as well with one or two hundred members as with five or six hundred, provided those who remain with us take a real interest in what we do. In fact, we would rather have a few active members than a very large number of members, half of whom are not in the least interested in what we are doing. We are always, of course, sorry to lose members, and during this last year we have lost something like fifty-three, but we console ourselves with the fact that those who remain with us are our friends and genuinely interested in the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and all it is endeavouring to do for Switzerland and the Swiss both at home and abroad. As I said in my report last year, it is quality and not quantity that counts in a society such as ours. But to come to figures. On the 1st of January last year we had 296 members; on January 1st this year our membership list recorded 244 members, so, as already mentioned, we have lost rather over fifty members during the past twelve months. But in view of the fact that so many Swiss have left this country, and comparatively none have come to reside here permanently owing to the strict regulations against the employment of foreigners now in force, I think we should really be pleased that we still have as many members as we have. Once times are more normal and young Swiss are able to come over here again as they used to do, we shall undoubtedly have an increased membership list.

The Committee met nine times.

The Council met seven times.

Library, Papers and Reviews.—This year we have to record an addition of twelve books to our library, which were presented by various friends. We did not buy any books ourselves, as we did not feel our financial position justified our doing so. During this last year we have lent out some fifty of our books and periodicals to different readers, which really is not many when one considers how many interesting books are at the disposal of our members, for our library now numbers 870 books, and these deal with every possible subject and are in all our national languages, as well as in English. It is interesting to note that a well-known English writer of guide-books has made considerable use of our library during the last few months whilst writing a guide to Switzerland, as he discovered we had quite a number of books which he was unable to obtain elsewhere. We were also able to supply the same gentleman with information on several other points which interested him.

As to our papers and reviews, we have received eighteen different Swiss American-Swiss and English papers and reviews during last year. We ourselves, however, only contributed to five of these, all the others having been given to us by different members and friends. Owing to the fact that our reading-room is so little used by our members, we did not renew our subscription to one or two papers when they fell due last month, but we would, of course, renew one or other of them again did we believe sufficient use would be made of them by our members.

Before concluding my remarks on our library and reading-room, I should like to thank the following ladies, gentlemen and associations for their kindness in having presented us with books for our library, or papers, reviews, pamphlets, etc., for the use of our reading-room:—Association Suisse pour la Navigation du Rhône au Rhin; Central Committee of Zofingue; Commission de publicité de la ville de Lausanne; Comité international de la Croix-Rouge; Madame Du Pasquier; Mr. J. Eberli; "Echo Suisse"; the late Mrs. Goetz; Groups of the N.S.H.; Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme; Information Office, Locarno; Dr. Agénor Krafft; Dr. A. Lätt; Lep Transport Co.; North American Schweizerbund; Office central universitaire suisse; Office suisse du tourisme; Polyglot Printing Co.; Pro Juventute; Publicity Office, Interlaken; Rheinquellen; Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger; Mr. A. A. Secrétan; Société Suisse d'utilité publique; Swiss Bank Corporation; Swiss Federal Railways; "Swiss Monthly"; University of London and Swiss Universities.

Social and Instructive Activities of the Group. Your Council decided at the beginning of last year that, as our financial situation had not definitely improved, we would have to limit our activities considerably during 1925. Within the last three or four years, too, the attendance at our lectures has been rather disappointing, so it was thought that, if we only arranged two or three lectures throughout the year, these might be better attended than when we arranged five or six. On the whole this hope has been justified, though we should still like to see more of our members turn up on the few occasions when we do arrange meetings. In view of the above, and also owing to the fact that during these last four months we have been uncertain as to whether or not we should have to leave our present office in Red

Lion Square, we have only the following events to mention:—

We had our Annual General Meeting on 20th February.

On April 17th we gave a Concert in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

On May 15th your President gave a reading of a lecture by Monsieur Ed. Recordon on "Le Problème de l'Éducation Nationale."

In June we sent out, as usual, invitations to all our members for the "Fête Suisse" and the First of August Celebrations.

In December Dr. Rezzonico, Attaché at the Swiss Legation, gave us a causerie on "De la Nationalité Suisse."

Other Activities of the Group.—As you all know, the real work of the Group does not consist in arranging lectures or social functions. To arrange lectures on Swiss subjects has, it is true, always been one of our minor aims, but we only recently agreed to embark on social enterprises—such as dinners and concerts—at the request of our members, who thought that by doing so we might be able to arouse interest in our more serious work. It is quite doubtful whether anything we have arranged in the way of dinners or concerts has had this effect, and, anyhow, as such enterprises have nearly always meant a financial loss to us, we felt it would not be prudent to continue with them. So, as you have just heard, we had no dinner last year, and we are not arranging another Charity Concert for this spring. If any of our members have any views to express with regard to these decisions, we shall be only too pleased to hear them later on in the evening. Our real work not consisting in the arranging of lectures and social functions, we have consequently not been any the less busy because we have greatly restricted our activities in these directions. As already mentioned, your Council met seven times throughout the year, and at most of these meetings some point affecting the Swiss Abroad was discussed. We are in constant touch with the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger, and regularly receive circulars from them in which various questions of national importance are raised. These questions are thoroughly gone into by your Council, and our opinion with regard to them is sent to the S.S.E., which in its turn brings it, when necessary, to the notice of the Groupe Parlementaire. In this way the voice of the Swiss Abroad can be heard in the Federal Council, and that is one of the reasons why we are so anxious for members to attend our Council Meetings and take part in our discussions whenever this is possible. As a monthly report of our meetings is published in "The Swiss Observer," I will not go into the details of the various points which have been raised and discussed in our Council Meetings throughout the year, but can only assure you that in all such matters we have done our best to give expression to what we believe is the general feeling of our members.

So much for the work of our Council and Committee. With regard to the Secretariat, I am glad to say that it continues to be used by our countrymen all over the world—as well as by many English people—as a "Bureau de renseignements," and we have supplied information on all sorts of questions throughout the year. We have, for instance, very often to supply statistics as to the number of Swiss resident in London, in Great Britain, or even as to how many of our countrymen served in the English or French army during the war. Very frequent, too, are the enquiries which we receive from Swiss at home as to the prospects of finding work over here, and we frequently have to supply information to English people with regard to things Swiss, particularly education. Although our library is not used so extensively as it might be by our members, I am glad to say that we have several times supplied books and pamphlets to different societies and individuals in order to enable them to give lectures or causeries on Switzerland. One thing which we have found is very often in demand is a packet of coloured postcards showing our various national costumes. These postcards are asked for quite as often by Swiss people as by English, and have evidently been a great help in the arranging of Swiss sections in various pageants, etc.

Besides acting as a "Bureau de Renseignements," our Secretariat keeps in touch not only with the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger, but also with all the Groups of the N.S.H. scattered throughout the world. Every month a report of our Council Meeting is sent to each of the Groups, and we in our turn receive various reports and pamphlets from some of the larger of them. We have also contributed to a Press Cutting Agency during this year with a view to our correcting any misstatement which may occur in the British Press with regard to Switzerland. The most interesting of these cuttings are pasted into books for future reference.

Propaganda.—As you know, we have practically given up all attempts at Propaganda for the present, as we found the results did not really justify the outlay. We have, of course, a certain number of pamphlets, etc., at the Secretariat which we now and then use for propaganda purposes. "The Swiss Observer," too, very kindly published our Annual Report, and we obtained a sufficient number of

copies to send one to all our members and to have a few in reserve to distribute from time to time with the object of arousing interest in our work.

Our Relations with Other Groups and Societies. We are always, of course, in touch with the different Swiss Societies in London, as well as with the Swiss Legation, and are very grateful for the help we have received from them all throughout the year on different occasions. Besides our own Swiss Societies, we are also in touch with the National Union of Students and various other English educational associations, with which we exchange communications from time to time during the year. The London University always keeps us informed of their various courses and lectures for the benefit of Swiss students coming over here, and we also receive prospectuses regularly from the different universities of Switzerland, as well as from the Swiss Mercantile Society in London.

Correspondence and Visitors.—As in previous years, the number of callers always varies from day to day, though on the whole they are fewer now than they used to be. This is, of course, greatly due to the fact that very few Swiss are coming over here these days. However, though there are days when nobody calls at our Secretariat at all, there are others when several visitors turn up, some perhaps to read our papers, others in order to obtain information about addresses, courses of study and so on. As to the correspondence, it has, of course, greatly decreased, for we never send out any propaganda circulars nowadays, and only send out three or four invitations to lectures in a year, instead of six or seven. There is, however, always a certain amount of correspondence daily in connection with the ordinary office routine, replying to different requests for information, etc.

Secretariat.—Our financial situation has not permitted of us engaging even a half-time Secretary since Dr. Krafft left us a year past in August; so since then the work has been carried on by Miss Crawford, whose ability and devotion to her work cannot be too highly praised.

From this report it will have been seen that, although we have had to cut down our activities to a very large extent, we are still able to do useful work. Our members may no longer receive frequent invitations from us to one thing or another, but we still continue to help our young countrymen who come over here, and to give all English people who desire it any help in our power with regard to things Swiss, and we still continue to work for Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad. I am sure, too, you will all agree that it is better for us to go on working in this quiet way, doing a little here and a little there, than to give monthly lectures which are never properly attended, and dinners and concerts which as often as not mean a financial loss to us. Even if we did no more than to keep in touch with Switzerland and our compatriots there, I feel we would be doing something which was very well worth while. Times are critical, and we have been—are still, indeed—faced with serious difficulties, but I am sure, if we all have the will to do so, these can be slowly but surely overcome.

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING.

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the London Group of the N.S.H. was held at the Secretariat, 28, Red Lion Square, on Friday, 19th February.

The President's report (given above *in extenso*) was, on the whole, a satisfactory one and revealed the fact that, in spite of financial difficulties and loss of members, the Group is still able to do useful work.

In a short report the Treasurer, Mr. A. F. Suter, explained how the expenses of the Group had been cut down to such an extent that we had now reached the stage when we could not cut them any further and maintain our present Secretariat. He was, however, of the opinion that, as we had survived up till now, there was no real reason why we should not continue to do so, and he fully believed it would in future always be possible to procure the necessary money to keep the Secretariat going. We now knew what we could do and what we must make up our minds not to do, and if we continue to work quietly on the lines of the last two years, there seemed no reason to fear that we could not keep going. Mr. Suter then compared the figures of the 1925 budget with those of previous years, to show to what a very great extent our expenses had been reduced, and concluded his report by saying that only thirty-one subscriptions were outstanding for 1925.

It was seen from the criticisms, which the members were asked to make later in the evening, that it was generally felt to be a very good thing that the London Group had given up arranging dinners, concerts, etc. Such activities were evidently thought to be quite out of the province of the N.S.H. and had not been looked upon at all favourably by the London Swiss Colony at large, and the hope was expressed that we would continue as we had done during the last year and not enter into the social field, where there were already so many other Swiss Societies. It was suggested that a Central Committee of all the London Swiss Societies should be formed, with a view to arranging one or two really good lectures

in the Colony, instead of numerous inferior ones, which were badly attended. It was, however, agreed that it would be better if such a suggestion came from some other Society and not from the N.S.H. It was further suggested that it might be a good thing if, instead of calling our monthly meetings "Council Meetings," we called them "Monthly Meetings of the Group," and it was decided that this question should be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

The meeting unanimously agreed that the subscription should remain at 10s.

Mr. J. Weber and Mr. F. Zimmermann were unanimously re-elected as auditors, and the following gentlemen were elected as Councillors for 1926:—L. Audemars, J. Baer, P. F. Boehringer, C. Campart, W. Deutsch, W. Gampfer, Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, E. Neuschwander, H. Schällibaum, J. Scheuermeier, A. J. Strahlé, A. F. Suter, J. Weber, G. H. Weber.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

(Communicated.)

Many of the Swiss Colony and their friends spent a very happy evening on Saturday last, the 6th inst., at the Midland Hotel, King's Cross, where the last dance of the season was held, about 130 in all being present.

What made it even more entertaining was the fact that it was an "optional" Fancy Dress Ball, although only about 30 were heroic enough to discard their evening frocks for this more amusing toilet. Amid much merriment and to the tunes of the latest fox-trots, one-steps and waltzes, dancing continued until just before the interval—the time allotted for the judging of the fancy dress costumes. The judges experienced much difficulty in selecting the three lady prize winners, but after weighty consideration, three of this fair train, depicting Joan d'Arc, a modern schoolgirl and a lady of the crinolin period, were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. With the stronger sex, however, matters were much easier, only two being so garbed; it was just a question of "Who's Who?" for the first prize. Messrs. Nestlé's should be feeling extremely flattered and obliged to the gentleman who is such a staunch upholder of "baby's birthright" and proved to mothers how bonny a baby can be when nurtured on this renowned milk.

Supper was, as always, a very gay affair, and after this much-needed refreshment dancing continued until one o'clock and was still more exhilarating and enjoyable.

Even though we are all looking forward to the summer, next winter will be undoubtedly welcomed, if only for a continuance of these jolly monthly gatherings.

Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Gens de Langue Française.

(Communiqué.)

L'Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Gens de langue française, fondée en 1883 à Exeter Hall, Londres, va célébrer sa 42ème Soirée Annuelle à Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1, le mercredi, 17 mars, à 8 heures du soir.

Cette Société — l'une des plus anciennes de Londres — a pour but de réunir nos jeunes Suisses, Français et Belges de la capitale britannique et de les encourager sur le terrain religieux à travailler à leur développement spirituel tout en leur procurant de saines distractions, un local toujours accueillant ainsi que l'appui moral et les conseils d'un Secrétaire permanent.

Cette Union comptait plus de 200 membres actifs et associés après l'armistice; mais comme d'autres associations de ce genre, les restrictions du Home Office ont quelque peu diminué ce chiffre aujourd'hui.

Présidée il y a deux ans par Mr. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse, la Soirée sera présidée, cette année, par S.E. Monsieur de Fleuriau, Ambassadeur de France.

Un programme de musique et de chant où figurent les noms de Mademoiselle Violette Brauen et de MM. Rod. Gaillard et R. Moreau assurera la partie récréative de cette soirée.

Les jeunes gens ainsi que le public de langue française y sont cordialement invités.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Rifle Association was held at the Union Helvetia on March 5th, there being 22 members present, with Mr. DeBrunner occupying the Chair.

After the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting had been read and confirmed, the President read the annual report of the Association's activities during the past year, which was very well received. (This report is being printed, and a copy will be sent to every member at an early date.) The balance-sheet was laid before the members, and it was very pleasing to see that the finances of the Association, in spite of a heavy expenditure during the last year, were in a healthy state.

After the Committee's resignation, Mr. Alf. Schmid was elected Chairman *ad interim*. The

latter having expressed thanks to the outgoing Committee, the meeting then proceeded to elect the new Committee and Range Officers for the ensuing year, and it was gratifying to see that practically all the outgoing members were re-elected.

Mr. DeBrunner informed the meeting that the agreement with Messrs. Westley, Richards & Co., Ltd., granting us a seven years' lease of our shooting ground, was now ready to be signed, and he was pleased to say that the lessors had agreed, in the event of giving us notice, to refund us one-third of the unexpired rental.

A proposal to reduce the subscription fees was rejected, after some discussion, on the grounds that the exchequer will be badly in need of funds during the next year or two.

It was decided to commence shooting practice on Sunday, March 14th, and to carry on every week-end until further notice.

Arrangements have been made for a competition to be held in connection with the Swiss Sports, which will be open to all Swiss. Particulars regarding this event will be made known later.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, no evidence of good faith.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—May I be allowed to make use of your paper to express my sincere thanks to the London Branch President, Committee, and all Members who were present at the General Meeting of the Union Helvetia on Tuesday, the 2nd of March, for taking up the matter of my dismissal? I am very grateful to them all for their support in clearing my name.

Trusting you will kindly see your way to grant me this favour, I am, etc., Mrs. R. HYAMS.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

CINDERELLA DANCE

at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, on
SATURDAY, MARCH 20th, at 6.30.

Tickets at 10/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from
Members of the Committee.

UNION CHRETIENNE de JEUNES GENS de Langue Française de Londres, 15, UPPER BEDFORD PLACE, RUSSELL SQ., W.C.

42ÈME SOIRÉE ANNUELLE

qui aura lieu sous la Présidence de

S.E. Monsieur DE FLEURIAU, Ambassadeur de France.

Mercredi, 17 Mars, à 8 h., à

MORLEY HALL, GEORGE STREET,
HANOVER SQUARE, W.1.

UNION HELVETIA CLUB, 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1. Telephone: REGENT 5392.

30 Bedrooms. 45 Beds.

SUISSE CUISINE, CIGARS AND WINES.

Luncheons & Suppers à prix fixe or à la carte at Moderate Prices.

Every Wednesday from 7 o'clock

Hasenpfeffer, Choucroute & Schüblig, Choucroute & Rippli,
BILLIARDS. SKITTLES.

Large and small Halls with Stage, available for Concerts,
Dinners, Wedding Parties, etc.

Membership Fee: One Guinea per annum.

New Members welcome. The Clubhouse Committee

Madame ALFRED BRAUEN †

La triste nouvelle d'un décès nous arrive, qui frappe douloureusement l'un de nos compatriotes, établi parmi nous depuis plus d'un tiers de siècle.

Madame Alfred Brauen, née Marie Jaggi, depuis longtemps malade, mais dont l'état ne faisait pourtant point prévoir une fin si subite, s'est endormie paisiblement Dimanche soir, pour ne plus se réveiller sur cette terre. Fille de l'ancien président de la "Minoritätsskirche" à Berne, épouse du président de l'Union chrétienne, que chacun connaît, mère d'une nombreuse famille, elle s'en est allée au repos, n'ayant même pas atteint la soixantaine. Et le vide qu'elle laisse derrière elle, si brusquement, est combien affligeant!

Nous exprimons ici au nom de tous nos concitoyens à Monsieur Brauen et à tous les siens notre très vive et très sincère sympathie, à l'heure de leur grande douleur. R. H. V.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

By arrangement with the Swiss
Postal Authorities, TRAVELLERS'
CHEQUES, which can be cashed
at any Post Office in Switzerland,
are obtainable at the Offices of
the Bank.

The WEST END BRANCH
open Savings Bank Accounts on
which interest will be credited
at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

SCHWEIZERBUND

(SWISS CLUB)

74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

THE

ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL

will be held on

Thursday, March 18th, at 8 p.m.

For further particulars apply to the Secretary
Telephone: Museum 9081.

Pension Suisse 20 Palmeira Avenue, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

Highly recommended. Every comfort. Continental cuisine.
Billiards. Sea front.

Phone: Southend-on-Sea 1132 Proprietress: Mrs. Albrecht-Meneghelli

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 14 Mars, 11h.—M. Charles Jeannot.
3.15—au presbytère.—Anciens catéchumènes.
6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Phil. 2, 25—30.
Samedi, 20 Mars, 7.45—au Foyer.—Soirée paroissiale:
Récital de Mme. Louis Bourgeois, professeur:
"Chansons anciennes et modernes sur les enfants."
Thé ensuite. Invitation cordiale à chacun.

MARIAGE.
Ernest RIETMANN, de Lustdorf (Thurgovie), et
Evelyn Dorise ADAMS, de Fittwick (Bedford)—le
6 Mars 1926.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 14. März, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.
6.30 Uhr nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst.

GETAUFT:

Sylvia Joyce BACHOFEN, geb. am 29. Januar 1926.
Tochter des Ernst Jakob Bachofen und der Anna geb.
Meyer, beide aus Zürich—7. März 1926.
Tochter des Hans Neiger, von Meiringen, und der
Lucie Elisabeth NEIGER, geb. am 25. Nov. 1925.
Rosa geb. Ritschard, aus Interlaken—7. März 1926.
Adrian Jakob OTT, geb. am 21. Februar 1926.
Sohn des Jakob Ott, aus Glarus, und der Hilda Rose
geb. Webster, aus Llanfawr (Montgomeryshire)—7. März
1926.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1, St. Anne's Church,
9, Gresham Street, E.C.2;
Mittwoch, 3—5, "Foyer Suisse," 13, Upper Bed-
ford Place, W.C.1 (am Wohnort des Pfarrers).
Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, March 17th, at 7.30.—NOUV. SOCIÉTÉ
HELVÉTIQUE: Monthly Meeting of the Group at
28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 (third floor).

Thursday, March 18th, at 8 p.m.—SCHWEIZER-
BUND: Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte
Street, W.1.

Saturday, March 20th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB:
Cinderella Dance at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt.
Portland Street, W.1.

Tuesday, March 23rd.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual
Banquet and Ball at Monico's, Piccadilly Circus.

Tuesday, April 13th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB:
Annual General Meeting, preceded by a Supper,
at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland St., W.C.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday
evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend.
Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral
Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.