

# News from the colony

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worth while? Have we made use of our possibilities? Have we applied our talent fully, or have we been slack? Our pastor has preached the Gospel in true and conscientious terms, Sunday after Sunday, and many a compatriot has found in these sermons animating and fruit-bearing thoughts for his daily life. Many who were down-cast have found peace and comfort. Many more could have done so, if only they had wished to avail themselves of the opportunities which are offered to all. The poor and the sick have been visited, comforted with gifts for their inner and outer man, and many are the testimonials which speak for the necessity of our work in the Colony. Therefore, when the question is asked: Has it been in vain? we can answer, a thousand times, NO. However, we wish to do more service still, and we would love our compatriots to encourage us in our work more than in the past by their active, as well as financial, support. *There is plenty of room in our beautiful church, and there is a real need for the work to be maintained by more generous financial assistance.* Remember, God loves a joyful giver, and money spent for his work is repaid manifold by his all-abounding grace and blessing.

Therefore, come and support us in great numbers *next Sunday*, at 11 a.m., when a *Jubilee service* in memory of our ten years' activity will be held. A hearty welcome to all. X.

### FOYER SUISSE.

The Ordinary General Meeting of the members of the Foyer Suisse was held on the 15th June last, under the presidency of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse, to receive the accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31st March, 1934, and the Council of Management' report for the same period, of which report we give you an extract as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Council of Management have the honour to present to you their report for the year ending 31st March, 1934.

During the course of the year we have received the resignation of Mr. G. Hafner as a member of the Trust, who, having retired from business, has moved away from London. We have reluctantly accepted his resignation, and wish to place on record our appreciation of his services covering many years of beneficial activities as Vice-President of the Council of Management and member of the House Committee, coupled with our sincere wishes for many happy years of further useful activities in his new surroundings.

To fill his place we shall propose to you during the course of this meeting as a new member of our Trust, Mr. A. Bieri, manager of Brown's Hotel, who has already taken an active interest in the Foyer Suisse by giving useful advice to our Manageress, Mrs. Elmer, and we have no doubt that he will contribute his share to the success of the carrying out of our aims and objects.

We have likewise received, during the course of the year, the resignation of Mr. C. Bertschinger as Honorary Secretary, which we have accepted, and passed a suitable resolution embodying our full appreciation of his many years' untiring efforts and sacrifice for our Foyer. Mr. P. Bessire has been nominated by us to act as Honorary Secretary.

### MANAGEMENT.

At the end of last year it was decided to make arrangements with the Schweizer Verband Volksdienst to entrust them with the management of the Hotel. In consequence, the Verband took over the management on 1st February last, appointing as their Manageress, Mrs. L. Elmer.

Frau Dr. Züblin, head of the Schweizer Verband Volksdienst, also paid us two visits, one in February and one in April, for consultation with the House Committee, and for the purpose of inspiring our staff with the spirit of her organisation, so that the work be done efficiently, with complete justice, harmony and goodwill.

The total number of guests were 1,077 (a slight increase on the previous year of 1,002), and out of this total 513 were of Swiss nationality. The proportion of Swiss guests will in future be considerably higher, due to an internal re-organisation.

It has been decided to make extensive renovations throughout the House, so as to ensure the sound and efficient running of the Hotel for the future. Every possible care has been taken to make the Hotel homely, pleasant and clean, and special care has been exercised to ensure the saving of labour for the running and cleaning of the Hotel. We have full confidence that, once our Hotel is re-organised in accordance with our plans, we shall be able to render excellent services to our guests, whom, we trust, will be mainly of Swiss nationality, and through such services, make it possible to maintain our usual social services.

It is with much satisfaction that we place on record our full appreciation of the able, quiet and efficient management of the Hotel by Mrs.

Elmer, and of the whole-hearted and loyal co-operation under her guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Koelliker, as well as of the other members of the staff, both Swiss and British.

### SOCIAL SERVICE.

A year ago, our former Secretary gave you an extensive and interesting account of the social activities carried on at the Foyer Suisse, which activities have been continued during the year under review.

We have again arranged an Old Folks' Luncheon, at which we entertained more than 60 old people of the Swiss Colony, under the presidency of our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and as on a previous occasion, the oldest guest, Vincenzo Chiodo, born in Castagnola, on 17th January, 1850, received a medal, which he highly appreciated.

Our Hall is regularly used by the ladies of our two parishes for their meetings, at which they prepare and mend garments for distribution amongst the poor of the Swiss Colony by the churches, in conjunction with the Swiss Benevolent Society. Young men continue to make use of our hospitality against payment of a nominal rent, inasmuch as the Swiss Y.M.C.A., as well as the Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Gens de Langue Française, arrange their regular meetings and occupy separate rooms. Their activities are entirely independent of our organisation, but are carried on in accordance with our aims and object, so that we greatly benefit by the presence of these two associations.

Our chief work, however, consists of the services which we render to girls of Swiss nationality, who meet regularly on Wednesday evenings under the presidency of the Reverend R. Hoffmann-de Visme, and on Sunday afternoons for discussions and lectures in winter and outings in summer.

Mademoiselle de Vargas having tendered her resignation for private reasons, we decided to engage in her place Madame E. Meylan, the widow of Dr. Meylan, from Lausanne, who has had an experience of many years' work amongst young girls in Switzerland, which, coupled with a strong spiritual conviction, makes her well fitted for her task. This task is manifold, as besides assisting the Pastors at their Wednesday and Thursday afternoon meetings, she has to prepare the programme for the Sunday meetings, take the chair at lectures and discussions, and lead excursions arranged during the summer months. She is in attendance at the Club Par-lour every day except Monday, and receives a large number of girls whose confidence she has gained, and who come to her for sound advice in their small and big troubles, and we are happy to know that that confidence exists, so that our Swiss girls need not seek such advice and counsel from quarters which may not be recommendable.

We have every confidence in Madame Meylan, and trust that she may have many years of beneficial activity at the Foyer under the guidance of our Pastors.

For years past, we have likewise rendered services to Swiss Missionaries on their way to and from Africa by offering them our hospitality at the Hotel free of charge, which they greatly appreciated.

The following members were re-elected as a Council of Management for the ensuing year:—  
The Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, as President.  
Mr. F. G. Sommer, as Vice-President.  
Mr. H. Barth, as Treasurer,  
as well as Messrs. Bessire, Hahn, Joss and Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.I.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., was re-elected as Auditor.

H. C.

### NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



PAUL LEHRIAN

PRESIDENT

of the

UNION HELVETIA  
(London Section)

We have great pleasure in publishing the portrait of M. Paul Lehrian, the new President of the London Section of the Union Helvetia.

M. Lehrian became a member of the Union Helvetia in 1914; in 1925 he entered the committee. From 1926 to 1927 he presided over the London Section, and a year later he was appointed a member of the Club House Commission.

M. Lehrian was elected President of the London Section last April, in succession to M. J. Sermier; he is the holder of the silver and gold medal of the society, and occupies a responsible position at the Carlton Hotel. We extend to him our best wishes for a successful year of office.

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