Divine services

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COLLEGE OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Inaugural Meeting of the Holiday Course.

The Inaugural Meeting of the fourth Holiday Course arranged by the College was held at Swiss House on Saturday morning, July 15th. Mr. A. C. Stahelin, a Member of the Council and former President of the S.M.S., was in the Chair. On behalf of the London Section of the S.K.V. he offered a hearty welcome to the students who had come over from Switzerland to take part in the Holiday Course in English and wished them every success in their endeavours. He tendered the apologies of the President of the Society who was in Scotland on urgent business. Mr. Stahelin accorded a special welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Honorary President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, who honoured the Meeting by his presence.

The Swiss Minister, addressing the students in English, mentioned that he wished to follow the example of the Chairman since it was a tradition at Swiss House for the students not to speak any other language but English. The Minister mentioned that this year the number of students who had enrolled for the course was not so large as in previous years. That, however, had nothing to do with the scheme itself, nor with the eagerness of our compatriots to take advantage of the facilities offered to them, but was unfortunately due to the general situation. Nevertheless, he had come along to greet those who had had the courage to come. He took the opportunity of quoting from a letter by Mr. George Lansbury, the doyen of the House of Commons, which had appeared in the "Times" the day previous, and which he thought most appropriate. He read the following passage:

> "Those who have the jitters so badly that they dare not leave their homes even for their holidays might well note the example of the Lord Mayor of London who is going to pay an official visit to Zurich for the Swiss National Exhibition at the end of this month."

The Minister concluded by wishing the students good luck and expressing the hope that they would return home enriched with knowledge.

Hearty applause greeted the Minister's words of welcome and Mr. Stahelin, on behalf of those present, expressed thanks to Monsieur Paravicini for once again having given proof of his unfailing interest by having come along, although the general situation made it very difficult for him to find a free moment. He said the London Section was proud of having such a good friend as the Swiss Minister. To have the wholehearted co-operation from the representative of the Swiss Confederation was sufficient proof that the S.K.V. and the London Section as such were worthy of the support of all present. Addressing the students he said that they should consider the Principal and the Masters of the College as their friends who were ready to devote all their energies to enable them to achieve the end for which they had come, in the short space of four weeks to strengthen the knowledge of English they already possessed.

Mr. A. Levy, Principal of the College, thanked the Swiss Minister for the keen support he had always given to the College since its foundation and for his valuable advice in connection with the Holiday Course which was greatly appreciated. Mr. Levy then referred to the motto "Study Means Success" which appeared on all prospectuses issued by the College. He said that that motto which was based on the initial letters of the Society, viz. S M S, was the keynote of the studies at Swiss House. The initial letters of the latter were also very significant, for they stood for "Study and Happiness." The Principal exhorted the students to combine study and happiness, which could well go together at Swiss House where the masters were really their friends who would help and guide them in every possible way. The Principal then introduced the masters and stated the subjects they were going to teach, which included not only the English language, but also the manners and customs of the people who spoke that language. A number of visits to various places of interest had been arranged and the great purpose of those was to show the students English life and English institutions, so that by going about among the people they would realise that there was something more in a country than the language. The Principal then enlarged on the subjects as mentioned in the prospectus, embracing lectures on the British Constitution, the Fundamentals of British Commerce, Literature, British Cities, Art in London and the English Educational System. Apart from those more or less formal lectures definite lessons in Grammar and Syntax, Dictation, Idioms, Translation, Composition, Pronunciation, Reading Exercises, Conversation, etc., would be held. The excursions include Cambridge University, Windsor and Eton, Ford Motor Works, London Docks by steamer, an English seaside resort and other places of interest. Social evenings with film shows, etc., had been arranged for Wednesday evenings. The Principal concluded by saying that nothing would be left undone to make the Course as pleasant, happy and interesting as possible so that the students would go back to Switzerland with very happy memories of the time they had spent at Swiss House.

Mr. Stahelin mentioned that Mr. Meier, the enthusiastic Chairman of the Education Committee, was unable to be present. Mrs. Meier, on his behalf, then briefly addressed the Meeting expressing her husband's regret at being prevented from being present due to business reasons. She said that he was looking forward to meeting them all at Swiss House and wished them a very happy stay in England and particularly at the College.

The Chairman stated that a number of senior students of the College had been invited to the Meeting in order that the students of the Holiday Course would be able to establish contact with some of the regular students of the College for their mutual benefit.

In conclusion Mr. Stahelin thanked the Swiss Minister for the great help he had always afforded the Society and assured him that the S.M.S. was proud of the happy relations existing between the Legation and the Society.

The Meeting thereupon adjourned to an anteroom where some refreshments were served.

W.B.

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Announce

A GRAND DANCE & SOCIAL EVENING

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TUESDAY 1st AUGUST 1939.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, July 27th, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Lecture by Mr. W. Fischer, on "Higher Guidance," at Westgate House, 28-29, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. *All Young Swiss Invited.*

Tuesday, August 1st from 8.30 p.m. — 2 a.m. — The Helvetia Club — Celebration of Swiss National Day — at 1 Gerrard Place, W.

Tuesday, August 1st — National Day Celebration at St. Pancras Town Hall, Euston Road, N.W.1.

Tuesday, August 1st, 8.30 till 2 a.m. — Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) — Swiss National Day Celebrations and Ball, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, August 2nd at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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Dimanche 23 juillet 1939:
11h. Culte M. U. Emery.
7h. Culte M. U. Emery.

Dimanche 30 juillet, à 11h. et 7h. Cultes patriotiques.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser jusqu'à nouvel avis à M. le pasteur U. Emery, Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1 (Phone: Museum 3100).

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Sonntag, den 23. Juli:
11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst
Pfr. E. Bommeli.
11 Uhr morgens, Sonntagschule
Hr. Fischer.

Während der Monate Juli und August fallen die Abendgottesdienste aus.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bezw. Konfirmanden Unterricht sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer E. Bommeli. Sprechstunden: Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche, Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

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