Swiss Mercantile Society

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Saturday afternoon, November 11th. The President, Mr. J. J. Boos, was in the Chair. In view of the decision taken at the previous Meeting to hold the Monthly Meeting on the second Saturday of every month, there was this time only an interval of a fortnight. The fact that nevertheless over twenty members were present was a proof that some members take a keen interest in the Society and support the President in an endeavour to carry on the activities of the Society during these adverse circumstances.

Before opening the proceedings the Chairman called on the members to rise in memory of those who fell during the World War and in particular those who defended our homeland.

The Chairman expressed thanks for the wedding present offered to him by the Society which took the form of a suitcase in rawhide.

The Chairman also welcomed back Mr. W. Meier, Vice-President and Chairman of the Education Committee, who had returned from military service in Switzerland. He regretted to be unable to impart any definite news to the meeting regarding the efforts to sub-let Swiss House, but assured the members that this matter was having his and the Council's attention, and that he would further report on the matter as soon as developments were made. The Chairman then acquainted the Meeting with the contents of a communication which he had received from the Swiss Legation regarding further concessions to be granted to foreign nationals in respect of exemptions from the Defence (Finance) Regulations.

The College, he reported, had closed its portals and would not reopen until such time as normal travelling facilities are restored and more settled conditions prevail. He said it was particularly gratifying to the Society in having again received numerous communications from former students now serving with the Colours, or engaged in work of national importance, expressing their appreciation of what they had learnt at the College in London and how they were anxious to return to continue their studies, which tended to show once again the importance of the College to our compatriots in all walks of life. The Chairman proceeded to read a number of the communications received.

Mr. W. Meier, who was among the mobilised party which left for Switzerland from Swiss House on Friday, September 15th, then related some of his very interesting experiences on his journey to and from Switzerland and the impressions he gained whilst in military service. He paid high tribute to the Swiss Legation for the efficient manner in which arrangements had been made and the journey, therefore, was comparatively comfortable and, fortunately, also uneventful. That was more than what some Swiss returning from other countries could say, who had to leave at a moment's notice and walk for miles and miles with their luggage before being able to entrain for endless journeys with innumerable changes. The reception accorded to the Swiss from abroad has already been recorded in the columns of this journal but what Mr. Meier and another speaker particularly stressed was the great understanding shown to the Swiss from abroad whose hardships were often far greater than of those at home. The speedy way with which applications for leave were dealt with and the utmost consideration shown to those who had to leave their families abroad and give up their positions, were a proof of the authorities' desire to do all in their power to alleviate the lot of those who were particularly hard hit by the mobilisation orders, but who had nevertheless not failed to rally when the call came. Mr. Meier gave some illuminating illustrations of particularly sad cases of which he learnt whilst serving with Swiss from abroad. He also gave interesting news of the country's preparedness and on the conclusion of his talk he was heartily cheered by all present. Mr. H. Nachbur, who was on holiday in Switzerland when the war broke out, related his experiences in the army during the anxious days of the mobilisation. This concluded the meeting.

W.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, November 18th, at 1.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Tuesday, December 5th, at 5.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Saturday, December 9th, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, December 15th, at 6 p.m. — Farewell Dinner to the Swiss Minister — at the Monico Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W.1. (See adv.).

Divine Services.

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(Near New Oxford Street.)

Dimanche 19 novembre 1939:

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

5h. Culte au Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1. (Ce culte remplace le culte du soir.)

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

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(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
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Sonntag den 19. November 1939:

Gottesdienst um 11 morgens. B. Segal.

Für alle Amtshandlungen wende man sich z.Z. an Pfr. Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (MOUntview 5003). Sprechstunde in 79 Endell Street, W.C.2 jeden Mittwoch 11-12.30.

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