To our readers

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which I understand is a record figure, whilst nearly 700 people received financial assistance during the year.

This concluded the Agenda, and Mr. Dupraz thanked the President for having so ably conducted the Meeting.

* * *

I think it is an excellent idea that all those, who throughout the year give their services freely and willingly to work for the benefit of our less fortunate compatriots, should foregather and have a little dinner together.

This " little " dinner was, let me tell you, excellent, and the host was Mr. Alfred Schmid, this is enough said, and I can spare myself the trouble to go into any details.

Monsieur Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, was in excellent form, and his witty address once more proved what an excellent after dinner speaker he is, some serious addresses were given, one by Mr. A. F. Suter, President of the N.S.H., who paid a great tribute to the unselfish work of the members of the Committee and another by Pastor Bommeli, who spoke straight from his heart words which touched everybody very deeply.

A number of jokes were cracked, some of which were real chestnuts, but nevertheless enjoyed.

This second part of the evening was equally successful as the first one. One had the feeling that this was a very jolly family gathering, where everybody went out of their way to make all and sundry happy, a fine spirit and a creditable one.

In concluding this report, I sincerely wish the Swiss Benevolent Society every success during the present financial year, hoping that they will get the support from the Colony which they so richly deserve.

ST.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

En raison des circonstances, le City Swiss Club a jugé préférable, au double point de vue de l'utilité générale et du délassement individuel, de restreindre mais non pas d'abandonner tout à fait son programme habituel de saison. C'est donc dans cet esprit qu'a été organisée la seule soirée dansante offerte à ses membres et à leurs amis cet hiver, à part — bien entendu — le Banquet Annuel, qui remplit en quelque sorte le rôle de manifestation officielle annuelle de la colonie et qui a eu lieu comme d'habitude au mois de novembre.

La soirée dansante, tenue samedi dernier au May Fair Hotel, a réuni cent-trente participants et a eu le même succès spontané et réjouissant de celles de 1937 et 1938.

Comme toujours, le May Fair avait fait les choses à la perfection; le " Garden Suite," abondamment décrit à cette place autrefois, demeure à jamais le lieu le plus sympathique que nous ayons eu jusqu'ici pour ce genre de réunions. Des fleurs et encore des fleurs, partout; sur chaque table, de magnifiques tulipes très artistiquement arrangées ajoutent à l'harmonie des couleurs. Le menu, encore que simple, est de très bon goût. Autour des tables, à quatre, à six, à huit, même dix, c'est la gaieté, qui tout à l'heure va emplir le parquet de danse. Et que dire de six de l'ensemble Colombo, si effectif aussi bien dans le divertissement musical durant le dîner que dans ses généreux fox-trots, ses valses lentes ou viennoises, ses tangos, ses Lambeth walks, ses Chestnut Trees', etc? Deux " Paul Jones " l'un au début de la soirée, l'autre vers le fin, on un succès immédiat et prolongé.

Est-il surprenant, dès lors, que chacun se demandé quand aura lieu la prochaine soirée, ou ceux qui savaient que ce ne serait pas avant 1940, de poser la question quand même comme pour dire: est-ce vrait?, montrant par là et combien dans quelle sphère idéale, bien éloigné des soucis, ces moments délicieux les avaient transportés? Espérons que cette douce illusion n'ait été détruite brusquement par le froid de minuit, mais ait duré en rêve au travers d'un repos bienfaisant, pour devenir cet agréable souvenir qui fait que chacune de ces soirées dansantes du City Swiss Club commence où la précédente a fini.

X.

70ème FETE SUISSE. 15 juin 1939.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. F. Suter the Committee of the Fête Suisse held its first meeting of the year on Monday, 13th March. Amongst the members sitting round the table was Monsieur le Pasteur M. Pradervand who acts as Hon. Secretary to the Committee, thus following in the footsteps of the late Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de-Visme.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. Chapuis, read his report giving facts and figures showing that on the financial side the organisation is moving in the right direction as well, leaving no doubts whatsoever regarding the success of the Fête Suisse held last year at Central Hall, Westminster.

It will be of interest to the Swiss Colony to know the date of this year's Fête having been fixed for *June 15th,* that the preparations have already been taken in hand by the Committee which was re-elected unanimously. Further, that in view of last year's record number of 1,500 people attending the function the Committee have booked additional accommodation on the balcony of the Hall. Without giving away any secrets it can also be stated that our Swiss talents resident in London are expected to perform, in addition to the artists from Home whose support the Committee is securing through the good offices of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

The Swiss Flag will be flying on June 15th!

ms.

A. HALLER †.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. A. Haller, which occurred on March the 10th, at the age of 73.

Mr. Haller was born in June, 1866, and was very well known by all the Swiss Colony in England. As Secretary of the Union Helvetia, he served both faithfully and well from 1909 until 1926, when he retired on pension paid him by the Society.

He was buried in one of the Society's graves at Hendon Park Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, and the funeral was attended by many members and old friends.

TO OUR READERS.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer would be greatly obliged if readers would supply him with addresses of likely subscribers, so that specimen copies could be posted to them.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, March 23rd, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y. M. C. A. — Lecture by Pastor Bommeli, on " Die Versuchung " (Math. 4. 1-11) at " Westgate House," 28-29, Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Sunday, March 26th, at 8.15 — The Catholic Club, St. Peters Hall, Westminster Cathedral — Film show — on "Switzerland," commentary by Mr. A. Tall of the Swiss Federal Railways, under the auspices of the Rev. A. Lafranchi.

Wednesday, March 29th, at 8.15 p.m. *Concert* given by Swiss Orchestra and Swiss Accordion Club, Jodels by Frau Aus-der-Au, specially engaged from Switzerland, at Queen Mary Hall, Great Russell Street, W.C.1 (One minute Tottenham Court Road Tube Station)

Thursday, March 30th, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y. M. C. A. — Lecture by Mr. E. Rapp, on " Sons of God," at " Westgate House," 28-29, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. " All Young Swiss invited."

Thursday, March 30th, at 8 p.m. — International Ice Hockey Match, England v. Switzerland — at Wembley Sports Arena. (See special announcement).

Saturday, April 1st — Swiss Club Birmingham — Swiss Rally and Annual Dinner and Ball — at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. (Reception 6.15 p.m., Dinner 6.45 p.m.)

Tuesday, April 18th — City Swiss Club — Annual General Meeting (preceded by dinner at 7 p.m. sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Thursday, June 15th — " 70ème Fête Suisse," at Central Hall, Westminster.

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Dimanche 19 mars 1939:

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.
11h. Ecole du dimanche.
6h.30 Culte M. M. Pradervand.

BAPTEME.

Le 12 mars, Jessica-May SAGON, fille de Percy-Wilfred et de Florence-May née Seaward.

SERVICES FUNEBRES.

Le 11 mars, Jules-Auguste Gerber, de Schangnau (Berne), né le 5 août 1883, décédé le 7 mars 1939. — Le 15 mars, Antoine Haller, de Bartsweil (Zurich), né le 4 juin 1866, décédé le 10 mars 1939.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE
(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office, St. Paul's and Aldersgate Street Tube Stations (Central London and Metropolitan).

Sonntag, den 19. März:

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst, Pfr. E. Bommeli
7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst, Pfr. E. Bommeli.
11 Uhr Sonntagschule 186 Aldersgate.

Mittwoch Nachmittag: Schwyzerchränzli von 2.30 an, 15, Bedford Way (Zwanglose Zusammenkunft der jungen Schweizerinnen im Foyer Suisse, wozu alle Schweizerinnen freundlich eingeladen sind).

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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