

Swiss Y.M.C.A.

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SWISS Y.M.C.A. Annual Report.

In reflecting upon the activities of our Y.M.C.A. in the retrospect of another year, it is appropriate to emphasize that our motto has been: "RENDER SERVICE". In stating this, it will be realized by the reader that the service which a Young Men's Christian Association is called upon to render in London is very manifold. It may mean for us to find accommodation at short notice for a young Swiss who has received our address from another Y.M.C.A. centre in Switzerland. Another young man may be in need of advice and guidance once he is here. Again, another may feel so lonely and homesick that an invitation to the home of one of our members will break the monotony and he gets new encouragement. All these various forms of service may appear insignificantly small to an outside observer, but in their accumulated total they represent a great deal of attention spent in the service of one's fellowmen.

The weekly meetings in our clubroom, which started at 6 p.m. and were followed by active discussions, were given special importance. Among the many interesting lectures which were given we should like to mention those by Rev. Wm. Nicholson on Charles Dickens and Sir Walter Scott, by Prof. E. Krause on Thinking, Faith and Knowledge, and by Dr. P. Posener on Faith and Professional Work. The main object of our meetings, however, was to deepen our faith in God, as we felt that it was the best preparation for the tests of life which any man has to face. As much as the Christian faith stands in jeopardy in our days, a study of its foundations shows that it has a spiritual power of its own which is far beyond any intellectual knowledge. Many who are not acquainted with this aspect of truth find it difficult to believe that God is able to speak to us, and yet He does if we are ready to listen. It is true that this search for God requires a mind free from prejudice, a calm judgment and a patient determination, but to know what God has to say about our life is of paramount importance to anyone who has been thinking about the purposes of life at all. At the same time it should be stated that to confess one's adherence to Jesus Christ as Lord requires courage, and is therefore an excellent training for one's faith and character.

We also kept in touch with English Y.M.C.A. centre which offered us special opportunities for such sports as swimming and athletics.

Unfortunately many of our visitors and even the students cannot stay very long in this country, and many a young man has to say good-bye to us soon after he has been brought into contact with us.

We wish to thank our donors in London and Switzerland for having so kindly continued their support. To those in Switzerland who read this report we would say: "Make the Y.M.C.A. known among the young who go abroad; we should like to meet them!"

W.F.

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