

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS HOSTEL FOR GIRLS

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Company took place at 9/11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3, on Tuesday, 28th May, under the chairmanship of Mrs. M. Daeniker.

After greeting the members present and thanking them for their continued interest in the Hostel, Mrs. Daeniker announced that to her deep regret she had had to accept the resignation of Miss C. Hagenbuch, who, after 6½ years of devoted service as Assistant-Warden, is returning to Switzerland. She expressed to her both in a personal name and on behalf of the Council of Management her warmest thanks and best wishes for the future.

Following the reading of the Secretary's and Warden's reports, Mr. J. P. Christen, Treasurer, presented the Balance Sheet and Accounts for 1962. This was a year of extensive repairs and redecoration work which brought awkward restrictions in the use of a number of rooms, reduced to almost nil the modest yearly profit, and imposed considerable strain and worry on the Management.

It is all the more deserving of Miss Preiswerk, Miss Hagenbuch and their staff that they managed to put the home to such good use as is clearly shown by the following extracts of the Warden's annual report.

"... With 21,374 (1961: 21,136) overnight stays and an average of 58.4 (1961: 57.8) beds let per night, our numbers again show a slight increase. Much to our regret we had to apply our policy of admitting only a limited number of girls of other nationalities more strictly than ever before. We accommodated only 70 non-Swiss girls from 12 different countries. On the other hand we had more girls who were destitute or in ill-health, who enjoyed free accommodation or reduced terms until their case was settled and they could move on. Some of these problem-girls were a real headache, especially when ill-health was due to mental disturbance and we had to be on the alert night and day..."

"... Our activities have been much the same as in former years. For the first time we held a Wedding Reception for one of our residents who got married to an Englishman. At different times residents brought in a group of friends to dinner or had a party in the Games Room.

"After an interruption of several months we have resumed our monthly Dances. They seem to answer a real need among young Swiss people. It is regrettable that there are not many nice and inexpensive places in London where dancing in a congenial atmosphere is available.

"Considerable time was devoted by the Wardens in trying to help solve personal problems or in giving advice on careers and other important matters. Frequently this was followed by extensive correspondence with parents. Not seldom have we to try and make them understand their daughter's natural longing for independence and personal freedom. All too often do we come across the still deep-rooted idea that the only thing a daughter has to achieve, is to get married to a wealthy man, all the better if he holds a university degree!

"During the past year we have opened our doors more widely to members of the Swiss colony. Apart from the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Unione Ticinese is now using the Hostel as their regular meeting place. Every Thursday the Corale practises in the Games Room and many Committee Meetings and special functions and parties have been held. We like these cheerful and friendly people who seem to know the secret of how to keep alive the spiritual patrimony among Old and Young..."

PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the death on 29th May of Mr. Jean Walter Frick, of 33 Woodcroft Avenue, Mill Hill, N.W.7, who has been in this country since September 1908.

We regret to have to inform readers of the death of Mr. Constant Bourquin, of 22 New Road, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex. He was taken ill on his way to London and died on 25th May in his 76th year. Mr. Bourquin was one of the best qualified watchmakers and his advice was appreciated by everyone in the trade. Besides his many friends he leaves a widow, a son and three daughters.

We send our sincere sympathy to the families in their bereavement.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The Swiss Ambassador and Maname Daeniker gave a Cocktail Party to members of the Anglo-Swiss Society on Wednesday, 19th June.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 12th July. We shall be glad to receive manuscripts and reports not later than Wednesday, 3rd July, and short news items by 5th July.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscription: Mrs. M. Gfeller and Messrs. W. Altenburger (Sydney), J. J. Boos, W. O. Bosshardt, E. Gallizia, A. J. Gluck, J. J. Huber, R. Mathez and A. M. Zullig. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

The London Group

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

Monday, 8th July 1963, at 6.30 p.m.

at the

FRENCH INSTITUTE THEATRE

Queensberry Place, S.W.7

(near South Kensington Tube Station)

LES MOUETTES

and

LE VEGNOLAN

a choir and a dance group of the
ASSOCIATION CANTONALE DU COSTUME
VAUDOIS

in a programme of

FOLK MUSIC

and

FOLK DANCING

Tickets: Reserved at 5s. (strictly in rotation)

Unreserved at 2s. 6d.

obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office
458 Strand, W.C.2 (near Trafalgar Square)

(if ordered by mail send stamped and addressed envelope
with cheque payable to Nouvelle Société Helvétique)
or at the door on the evening of performance from 6 p.m.