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came the little ladies and gentlemen; his ecstatic oration appealed as much to the hearts of the kiddies as to the humorous sense of the grown-ups. He invited the budding talents amongst his audience to give a display, and the response was as eager as it was spontaneous. Little Christine Daellenbach and Betty Tschanz, the latter a tiny mite, recited each some poetry; Eva Hodgson, in her dance and song, betrayed the making of a music-hall star; and Master Sandoz, with his little sister, both exceedingly self-possessed, sang a charming duet in French. Chocolates and other dainties took the place of the customary flowers and bouquets. The audience, however, was not very attentive; they were evidently trying to divine what the next act had in store for them; the heaps and piles of parcels looked far too mysterious to let their minds and mouths remain at rest. The moment soon arrived: they were all lined up alongside the Christmas tree, first the babies-in-arms, then the girls, and lastly the boys. Each and all received appropriate presents, and a few lucky ones who drew a winning number in the tombola had the surprise of their life. A visit from Father Christmas, whose basket had to be continually replenished, brought the evening to a close.

Thanks are due to the Organising Committee of the Club, which had spared neither labour nor expense to offer the utmost comfort and enjoyment to the large family party which they entertained so liberally and successfully.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the above Society was held on the 17th December, at 8.30 p.m., at the Union Helvetia.

Thirty-one members were present when the President, Mr. R. H. Cornu, opened the meeting.

Various matters of importance had to be discussed, and after the minutes of the last Monthly Meeting had been duly passed, admissions and resignations dealt with, Mr. Stähelin, the Chef de Cours, opened the discussion with regard to the proposed "Debating Society." This proposal was made with a view to stimulate the interest of the members. The "Debating Society" should by no means be an independent body within the Society, but only a gathering where discussions and debates on selected topics could be arranged, in order to "overcome nervousness in addressing a meeting." After a debate of some length it was decided that a first meeting of the new "Debating Society" should take place on the 7th January, at 8.30 p.m., at the Union Helvetia when the matter could be gone into more thoroughly. A number of members present signed on, and a good attendance is looked for on the date mentioned.

The next item on the agenda was "Evening Classes." A detailed prospectus had been sent previously to all members, which largely helped and shortened the discussion. Special attention was drawn to the decision of the Trustees of the Education Department to allow a certain part of the legacy of the late Mr. G. Dimier to be devoted annually to the payment of class fees in the case of members who are desirous of taking advantage of the Evening Classes, but have not the financial means to do so. It was thought that the memory of the late Mr. G. Dimier would be better served by using part of the legacy in this way, than by putting the amount simply to the credit of the Education Fund.

The Chef de Cours further informed the meeting that he was looking forward to a great many applications for the new session of the Evening Classes.

With reference to the Annual Banquet it was decided that it should take place on the 4th April 1925. The Annual Meeting will take place on the 4th February, and members are requested to make it a point to be present.

After a somewhat prolonged discussion about the "Zentralblatt" and "Invaliditäts-Kasse" the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

### NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. GROUPE LONDONNIEN.

Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 17th Dec., at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.

1. The Treasurer reported two admissions and no resignations.

2. The President made several intimations, the most important of which were as follows:—(a) The invitations to our Dinner will be sent out on Dec. 29th. Owing to the Christmas holidays, it was thought inadvisable to send them out any earlier, but an announcement will appear before that in *The Swiss Observer* in order to give everybody good notice of the date (Tuesday, January 13th). (b) Having learned that January 30th has already been booked by another Swiss Society for one of its functions, we thought it advisable to postpone our reading of Monsieur Recordon's lecture on "La N.S.H. et le problème de l'éducation nationale" until March. (c) In spite of our endeavours, it is feared that, after all, it is unlikely we shall find an English publisher who will undertake to

bring out an English edition of "Ur-Ethnographie der Schweiz" in the meantime. (d) Dr. Agéor Kraft, who acted as Secretary of our Group for six months this last summer, has now been elected Chairman of the Lausanne Group of the N.S.H.

3. A letter was read from Dr. E. Steuri, Secretary of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger, informing us that he was now going to resign from that position. A letter has been sent to him expressing our regret and thanking him for everything he has done for the Groups Abroad.

4. Several circulars from the S.S.E. were brought to the notice of the Councillors, and there was some discussion as to the question of giving an annual donation to the Secretariat in Fribourg, as requested in Circular 51. As the Swiss Government has agreed to grant the S.S.E. a subvention for three years on condition that the balance of its necessary financial resources be subscribed by those interested in the movement, it was felt by the majority of the members that, in spite of our monetary difficulties, it was a moral obligation on the part of our Group to give what support we could to the S.S.E. in this instance. As our own finances are so uncertain, and we cannot foretell from one year to another what our income is likely to be, it was finally decided that we would send £10 for 1925 and whatever sum we were financially in a position to give in succeeding years.

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prochaine

#### Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 6 JANVIER au Restaurant  
GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à  
6.45 h. (5/- par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

#### Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2  
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 4 Janvier, 11h. et 6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7.30.—Répétition du Choeur.

#### BAPTEME.

Irene Grace BAUMGARTNER, née le 16 Nov. 1924, fille d'Ernest et de Hilda, née Hainsworth, de Münstingen (Berne)—le 28 Déc. 1924.

#### MARIAGE.

Henri BALLY, de Bousvens (Vaud), et Marie BERBUTO, de Bruxelles (Belgique)—le 27 Déc. 1924.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Mountview 1798.)  
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutsch-Schweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 4. Januar, 11 Uhr vorm. Neujahrsgottesdienst  
Pfr. W. Dietsche.

6.30 p.m. (im "Foyer Suisse")—Abendgottesdienst  
Pfr. W. Dietsche.

Für jegliche Mithilfe zu Bescherung und Weihnachtsfeiern herzlichen Dank!

Requests for Pastor's visits, Baptisms, Weddings, etc., can be made on Sunday morning after the service, or to the Treasurer, C. Bertschinger, 114, Fore St., London, E.C.2.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Jan. 3rd, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Fancy Dress Ball at the Midland Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.

Saturday, Jan. 3rd, at 3 p.m.—ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY at Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. For tickets (reserved to children) apply to Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6.

Tuesday, Jan. 6th, at 6.45.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Tuesday, Jan. 13th, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Dinner at Pagani's Restaurant, 42-48, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Saturday, Jan. 17th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant, 436, Strand, W.C.