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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

Monsieur A. Escher, Counsellor of the Swiss Legation, was the speaker at the monthly meeting of the N.S.H., held at Conway Hall on October 15th. Mr. W. Renz, in the chair, cordially welcomed the speaker as well as Professor and Mme. Rappard, who honoured us with their presence.

M. Escher spoke in German on the subject "Gedanken zum Begriff der Freiheit" and prefaced his address by saying that he did not propose to deal with philosophic questions nor would he enter the domain of internal politics. He then proceeded to show that, although an elementary notion of liberty might be "the right to do as one pleases," the gradual grouping of mankind into communities, i.e., families, tribes and nations, led to individuals renouncing their right to do as each one pleased in the interest of common welfare, while the object of communal living was originally protection against aggression from without, the rights and liberties within the community were also protected and developed on the lines of mutual regard for the liberty of others. This tendency found further expression in truly democratic legislation governing industry and social welfare. M. Escher also drew attention to the abuse of liberty by factions, who seek to advance their own one-sided interests, rather than consider the interest of the community, as seen in recent "unofficial" strikes and other manifestations.

In a necessarily brief account of M. Escher's address, which covered a wide range of thought, much must remain unsaid, but his remarks might perhaps be summarised by saying that respect for the freedom of the individual, freedom of speech and action within the constitutional limits, freedom of faith, and mutual tolerance form the basis of true democracy.

During an animated discussion which followed, Professor Rappard thanked M. Escher for his thought-provoking address and invited listeners to give their views on freedom in Britain and Switzerland. In response to his call, a number of those present spoke of their impressions and related their experiences, revealing the manifold aspects and the deep spiritual sources of freedom.

The meeting was closed soon after 8.30.

A. St.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will, D.V., be published on Friday, November 15th, 1946. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind donations: A. Koerber, A. Homberger, F. Medam, C. Bertschinger, G. Bozzini, A. C. Baume, J. Donat, A. Zullig, P. Isacco, R. Mathez.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

A short intermediary meeting was held on Tuesday, October 22nd, 1946, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, at which 35 members were present. The meeting authorised the Committee to subscribe an amount of twenty guineas towards the General Guisan Funds. Admission 1; Resignation 1.

The meeting was followed by a very enjoyable card party; no fortunes, nor tempers were lost.

VIOLONCELLO RECITALS.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to two violoncello recitals by our compatriot Henri Honegger, at Conway Hall, Henrietta Place, Cavendish Square, W.1, on Monday, October 28th, and Thursday, October 31st, 1946, at 8.15 p.m.

PERSONAL.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Miss Rose Marie Erb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Th. Erb-Dysli, of Glasgow, on her marriage to Mr. Albert Brown. The marriage took place on the 19th of this month at the Methodist Church, Balleol Road, Liverpool.

We present our best congratulations* to Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, of 35, Carlton Drive, Putney, S.W.15, who celebrated on the 15th of this month their 25th wedding anniversary.

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