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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Wednesday, March 12th. The President, Mr. W. Meier, extended a hearty welcome to the members and visitors present, including a number of students from the College.

The Chairman reported that a joint meeting of the newly elected Committees and the Council had been held the previous week, when Mr. L. W. Krucker was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Council and the future programme of activities was discussed. This will be made as varied as possible and will include lectures and entertainment of a lighter nature such as informal concerts, card and games evenings, etc.

A musical programme has been arranged by the Ladies' Group for the Monthly Meeting on April 9th, the artistes having been recruited entirely from amongst the members of the Society. On this occasion, a presentation will be made to Mr. and Mrs. Boos as a token of the members' gratitude to our former President.

At the Monthly Meeting on May 14th, Dr. V. Umbrecht, Secretary of Legation, will give an outline of the latest financial arrangements concluded between Great Britain and Switzerland. Members will also have an opportunity of meeting M. Paul Clottu, the newly appointed Social Attaché at the Swiss Legation, and Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Commercial Attaché and Counsellor of Legation, hopes to be present to introduce the two speakers.

The S.M.S. will be represented by Mr. J. J. Boos at the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Interlaken on May 10th and 11th, as well as Messrs. K. E. Ammann and F. Streit, who will be in Switzerland at the time of the meeting.

The Chairman referred to the efforts being made by the S.K.V. for the adoption of the Swiss Old-Age Insurance scheme, in opposition to which a referendum has been launched in Switzerland.

Following the meeting, Dr. A. R. Lindt, Press Attaché of the Swiss Legation, gave a most interesting account of his Red Cross Mission to Germany in 1945, in conjunction with the Don Suisse (Schweizerspende).

He described in great detail the conditions prevailing in post war Germany. His extensive travels afforded him an opportunity of obtaining first hand knowledge of what is going on both in the countryside and the large towns, where people eke out a precarious existence, often in appalling circumstances. Dr. Lindt

dealt at great length with such complex problems as that of refugees, expellees and displaced persons. He described life in the ruined cities, the disintegration of large communities, infantile mortality and many other aspects of a country where community life has almost completely broken down. He explained the purpose of the mission, which was to bring succour to starving children and sick persons with a view to combating the spreading of disease, which he said knew no frontiers. When describing the plight of Germany, he emphasised that it was essential to bear in mind the equally bad conditions prevailing in some of the countries which had been overrun by Germany, as only thus was it possible to see things in their proper perspective.

It was indeed a grim story which the lecturer had to tell and all listened with rapt attention to the masterful way in which he related his experiences and observations.

Following his address, Dr. Lindt answered many questions put to him by the audience and thus came to a close a most interesting and instructive evening.

WB.

"LUEG UND SING."

Unter diesem Titel ist in der Schweiz ein allerliebtestes Kinderliederbuch erschienen, das seinen Weg nicht nur in den Kindergarten sondern auch in unser Heim finden dürfte.

Das reizende Büchlein ist aus 23 Kinderliedchen mit einfacher Klavierbegleitung zusammengesetzt und durchwegs bunt und lustig illustriert. Die meisten Lieder sind im Dialekt gehalten und würden unsere Kleinen dieselben leicht und rasch erlernen, wenn die Mamma oder der Papa sich bemüht die einfache doch aber klangfarbige Melodie dem Kind vorzuspielen.

Die schöne Sammlung erscheint im Musikverlag Zum Pelikan Zürich zum Preis von sFr.4.50. Die Lieder sind bearbeitet von Fräulein Scheiblaue, Leiterin der Schule und des Seminars für musikalisch-rythmische Erziehung am Konservatorium Zürich und Hauptlehrerin am Seminar für Kindergärtnerinnen an der Töcherschule Zürich und von Fräulein Pfisterer, Lehrerin am städtischen Kindergärtnerinnen-Seminar in Basel. Die mehrfarbigen Bilder, die das ganze Büchlein schmücken, stammen von dem bekannten Bündnermaler und Graphiker Hermann Klöckler.

E.P.D.

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