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others. The world has changed beyond all recognition since either the name of Birmingham was first entered in the doomsday book or since Switzerland came into being. This world, this human society, as we know it to-day, will change again and again. But I cannot believe that either creative effort or craftsmanship will ever be "derated" from their high places in the scale of human values.

As long as they are linked to moral values, they will open ever wider fields of new adventures for our youths. As long as they do so exist, we have no right to talk — or even think — about the end of our civilization."

#### SWISS CLUB, BIRMINGHAM.

A full report of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club, Birmingham, which took place at the Midland Hotel in Birmingham, on Saturday, November 20th, 1948, will appear in our next issue.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, December 17th, 1948, (one issue only, owing to Xmas holidays).

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Max Kimché, E. Steiner, L. Gempeler, F. Imhoff, G. Schwartz, Th. Erb, E. Ulmann, J. H. Speich, R. Weist, F. Kibiger, G. Ferrari, Mrs. F. L. Guggenheim, P. Bessire, O. Frei, R. Ryf, Miss B. Sandmeyer, E. Winzeler, John Zimmermann, J. A. Donat, O. Gambazzi, A. F. Clemence, J. H. Buchi.



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#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 8th, at Swiss House. It is a long established custom in the S.M.S. to meet on the second Wednesday of the month and the change of date was made to enable the delegates from Switzerland, who attended the 60th anniversary celebration to be present. This unfortunately prevented some members from being able to attend but it was, nevertheless, a fairly numerous gathering, including a sprinkling of the fair sex.

Apart from the distinguished visitors from Switzerland, the meeting was attended by Monsieur P. Clottu, Labour Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, and Dr. H. W. Egli, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. They were all extended a cordial welcome by the Chairman, Mr. W. Meier, who announced that in view of the special nature of the meeting, the usual business agenda would be dispensed with.

A message of greetings and best wishes from the parent association was conveyed to the assembly by the Central President, Mr. K. Strickler. He expressed thanks for the reception accorded to the delegates and underlined the friendly relations between the Central Authorities and the London Section. He said that the activities here were necessarily confined to education, employment service and the social side. This, however, in no way diminished the importance of the S.M.S. as an outpost of Swiss commerce and industry. He reiterated that the association were proud of the Section in London, the largest abroad, and particularly



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its College. He regretted that, unlike the other three delegates, he had been unable to bring his wife with him to London.

In a spirited address, Monsieur Emile Losey, *Secrétaire Romand*, brought greetings from the French speaking Sections, to the delight of our compatriots hailing from his part of the country.

Mr. A. Meier-Ragg, Central Secretary, who holds the post of "Minister of Education" within the S.K.V., expressed his pleasure at having been able to make his first trip to London and thus renew his acquaintance with many of the members present, who at one time or another had represented the S.M.S. at Delegates' Meetings in Switzerland. He also stressed the pride which the S.K.V. took in its College in London, which he termed the jewel of S.K.V. educational establishments.

National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, whose popular figure is well-known amongst the Swiss in London, added his personal good wishes and referred to the steadfast work which numerous members had carried on for many decades and often in difficult times, in the interest of our country in general and the association in particular. He expressed the hope that the Society may continue to flourish and to prosper.

The meeting then took the opportunity of discussing the Swiss Old Age and Dependents' Insurance scheme and in particular its application to Swiss living abroad, with National Councillor Schmid-Ruedin, one of its chief architects and a member of its administrative council.

Mr. E. A. Hueni outlined a questionnaire which

it was proposed to send to members and on basis of which an analysis of the members' reaction to the scheme could be made.

Several speakers, including Dr. H. W. Egli and Monsieur P. Clottu, took part in the discussion and National Councillor Schmid-Ruedin explained the salient features of the scheme, throwing light on many points which had not previously been fully elucidated.

Finally the meeting passed a resolution requesting the Federal Authorities to postpone the final date of entry from December 31st, 1948, to March 31st, 1949, with a view to enabling prospective participants to study the scheme more closely and to formulating suggested alterations for submission to the competent authorities.

Before leaving Swiss House, members had an opportunity of inspecting the new Reading Room, which had been furnished with tables, chairs and curtains presented by the S.K.V. All appeared to be impressed with the cosiness of the room and thanks are due to the House Committee and members of the Staff who had spared no efforts in getting the room ready in time for the meeting.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, December 8th, and will be followed by an address on "Swiss Trade Problems" by Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Counsellor of Legation and Commercial Attaché.

WB.

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### RE-OPENING & 70th ANNIVERSARY

#### DINNER AND BALL

Friday, December 3rd, 1948 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, the Swiss Minister, will perform the official opening at 7 p.m.

All Tickets sold, Entrance by Special Ticket only.

Saturday, December 4th from 7 to 12 p.m.

DANCE (Entrance 5/-)

No special dinner, but meals will be provided in the Restaurant. Book your table early.

Sunday, December 5th, from 8 to 11 p.m.

DANCE (Entrance 5/-)


Saturday, December 11th :

FILM SHOW of the Swiss film "Marie Louise"

at 3 p.m. for children 1/-

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Evening 7 p.m. with DANCE to follow. (Entrance 6/-)



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