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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

A small gathering of our members was present for our monthly meeting on 9th September, presumably, because some of our members are still away on holidays. This was a pity for the absentees, for the meeting turned out to be quite interesting, especially in the informal part.

Mr. W. Meier had the sad duty of opening the meeting with a report of the deaths of Mr. E. Steiner, formerly of Volkart Bros. and of Mr. B. A. Tuescher, both well-known and well-loved members of our society and of the London Swiss Colony. The S.K.V. also lost one of its best known members, former President and honorary member, Papa Lutz, who died during the summer.

We had the good fortune of putting up a strong team at the Swiss Sports, which succeeded in winning the George Dimier cup for the highest number of points of the competing societies.

A surprise piece of news was that Mr. Bösshart, our former house-keeper for many years, after a brief holiday in the homeland, decided to settle down at Otmarsingen (Aargau). He has already carried his decision into effect. We are fortunately able to transfer his pension to him.

We were informed that Dr. V. Umbrecht, Commercial Counsellor of Legation, will soon go to Washington to take up an important appointment with the World Bank.

The proceeds of the collection of 1st August are to be devoted to the support of Swiss Schools abroad (mainly elementary). We have notified the Authorities that we consider our College should benefit from this collection. Should we be allocated any funds, we would use them for repair and maintenance of Swiss House.

A few days after the Employment Office had moved into the rooms allocated to it next door, the ceiling came down, injuring Mr. Zimmermann, and causing shock to a member of his staff, as well as some material damage. Mr. Zimmermann later supplemented this information, stating that two thirds of the ceiling came down, the neon light striking his

forehead, for which he needed hospital treatment, while one of his lady staff had to stay at home for two days owing to shock. The damage to typewriters is estimated at £22. — Mr. Krucker, President of the House Committee, called in the architect, who has reported that no similar experience is to be expected elsewhere. The implications of this event and the best way to recover damages under the various insurance policies were gone into but it was decided to await Mr. Krucker's return from Switzerland before making any decision.

Mr. Meier then introduced Prof. Puipe, Honorary President of the Martigny section of the S.K.V., who is in London for the first time since 1909. He expressed his appreciation for having had the opportunity of attending three classes of our College the same afternoon.

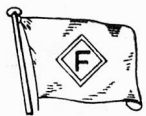
The Presidents Assembly met in July and decided not to submit any fresh resolutions to the Journée des Suisse à l'Etranger meeting in Coire in September. Instead they would emphasise:

1. The need for an agreement on double taxation.
2. Conclusion of a mutuality agreement in regard to A.H.V. and the English Old Age Insurance.
3. That the Military Tax be put on a more equitable basis. Anwartschaftliches Vermoegen should not be taxed.

Mr. Slade, head of our College, gave us a lively report on the summer refresher course to former students, which he conducted at Le Courtil, Rolle, and which was attended by 16 students, and of his two day visit to Zurich, where the S.M.S. Club was founded a year ago, whose present membership is 100, 60 of whom he met at a social function at the Congress Hall.

The meeting was then shown a varied and excellent collection of photos on our epidiascope, of the mountains of the Valais, the Bernese Oberland, the last annual delegate meeting at Zurich, of Scotland, the Swiss Childrens' Visit to London at the time of the Coronation. This is where the writer could not help thinking that the absentees had really missed something good, though the work of amateurs.

E.H.S.



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