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Monthly Meetings in "The Swiss Observer" were so greatly enjoyed by all readers, a new Press Reporter was to be elected; likewise a new Delegate of the Society to the N.S.H. Unfortunately, there was no rush to fill these appointments and the Meeting left it to the President and his Council to find in due time the right persons for these openings.

The Elections having been terminated, Mr. Meier submitted to the members two applications for admission and one resignation, which were unanimously accepted.

The President also said that it was with great regret he had to inform the Meeting of the passing of Mr. J. H. Ungricht, a former President and a Veteran of the Society, at the age of 83. Mr. Ungricht, who had lived in retirement at Worthing for many years, last attended 'Swiss House' when he received the plaque for 50 years' membership of the Society in 1953. The members rose, to pay the departed a last, silent tribute.

Mr. Meier also announced that in future there would be a slight increase in contributions for membership and the A.H.V.

Lastly, the President read out a letter he had received from Madame M. Daeniker, appealing for funds for the French Hospital in London and of which appeal she is a Patron.

This brought the Meeting to a close at about 9 p.m. and Mr. Meier expressed the hope that

members would attend future Monthly Meetings with the same enthusiasm as they had shown on this occasion.
W.D.

SWISS WOMAN CONDUCTOR AT THE FESTIVAL HALL.

On Tuesday, February 19th, Hedy Salquin, who is principally known in Switzerland and in other Continental countries as a pianist — although she has frequently appeared in European countries also as a conductor — made her début at the Festival Hall.

Born in Lucerne, she started studying the piano-forte at the age of 6, and at 11 entered the Geneva Conservatoire, studying under Dinn Lipatti. In 1949 she received her final concert diploma with distinction, and won International prizes at Ostend and Geneva. At the Paris Conservatoire she was the first woman to be admitted to the orchestral conducting class, where in 1952 she won first prize for conducting, and also first prize for piano accompaniment. In 1953 she received the first Coolidge Medal of the Harriet Cohen Foundation in London.

She appeared at the Festival Hall with the Pro Arte Orchestra — which was founded some two years ago and consists of professional players — in a mixed programme which included one symphony — Dvorak's "New World" — and several items for solo artists.

We are pleased to say that the attendance was a very satisfactory one, considering that she, as well as the two soloists — Desmond Bradley, an Australian violinist, and Austin Miskell, the American tenor — were practically unknown to English audiences.

From the various critical notices which appeared in the daily Press, we give the following in abbreviated form:

The Times: "Miss Salquin is evidently a prompt accompanist, with a clean tidy beat. Musically she seemed not entirely sure of her own views, and she imposed too many variations of pace in ritornellos of the concerto."

Daily Telegraph: "Her clear beat and unaffected style drew sympathetic response from the players but too often she showed little feeling for interpretation. This was particularly noticeable when accompanying Desmond Bradley in Brahms' violin concerto."

Daily Mail: "She knows the effects she is after even if they sometimes fail to come off. Her enjoyment, when the orchestra is in 'full cry' is infectious. I would like to see Hedy in command again when she has had a few more years' experience."

The conducting (without score) of Dvorak's Symphony No. 5 in E minor was most impressive, and a befitting conclusion to an enjoyable performance. This young and competent artist will, no doubt, in time make a name for herself, and we hope to see her again conducting one of the bigger orchestras.

Her début in the Metropolis can be considered a success.

After the concert H.E. The Swiss Minister and Madame Daeniker held a reception at the Legation for the artists, which was attended by members of the Government, the Diplomatic Corps and the Press.

ST.

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