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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

This Society, which has been for the last twelve months again very active, held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

Dr. H. W. Egli was in the Chair and there were about 60 members present, amongst them H.E. the Swiss Minister, Dr. Armin Daeniker.

After the Minutes of the last General Meeting had been read by the Hon. Secretary ad interim, Miss L. Meierhofer, the chairman proposed that the Council's Annual Report for 1956/57 should be considered as read, the members having received a copy a few days prior to the meeting. This was accepted and the Hon. Treasurer, M. R. Weist, then presented and explained the accounts, which showed, as for the last four years, a deficit, amounting this year to £31.15.10. The auditors, Messrs. M. A. Rothlisberger and D. E. Bonnet, in their report certified that they found the accounts in good order, wherefore the Hon. Treasurer received his discharge. At this juncture the President announced that Mr. Weist, owing to a recent illness, was unable to continue as Treasurer, and had in fact tendered his resignation. He warmly thanked him for the long and faithful services he had rendered to the Society. (Applause.)

The next item on the agenda concerned the election of the Council. Voting slips were distributed. For some reason or other — very likely to save time

— no Chairman *pro tem* was proposed or elected, consequently the outgoing President did not vacate the Chair (as he should have done), but announced that all the former members of the Council were willing to serve for another year. He mentioned that three new members to complete the Council were added to the list, namely Mr. L. S. R. Asch, who, by the way, has agreed to take over the office of Hon. Treasurer, Dr. P. Bohny and Miss L. Meierhofer.

When the voting slips were inspected, Dr. H. W. Egli declared that both the old and new members were unanimously elected, and expressed his thanks to the meeting for the confidence which had been shown. As there was no President *pro tem* in existence, whose task it would have been to thank the former President and the Council members for the services which they had rendered during the last twelve months, I take it upon myself to express herewith the members' appreciation.

The two former auditors agreed to carry on their task for another year, and were duly re-elected.

Before the meeting was concluded, it was decided to increase the annual subscription from 15/- to £1.0.0, and the President invited all members to do their utmost to enrol new supporters.

* * *

The company then adjourned to the large dining room, where an *apéritif* was offered by the Society, followed by dinner. The menu was simple, consisting of soup, followed by "Bratwurst and Rösti" and a sweet. It was nicely served and well cooked, and the "chefesse" of the Hostel can put a feather in her new bonnet. The service stood the test well, which was largely due to the efficient supervision of Miss R. Preiswerk and Miss Klara Hagenbuch.

Shortly before the dinner was concluded, Dr. H. W. Egli welcomed the many official guests, amongst them H.E. the Swiss Minister (Madame Daeniker was unavoidably prevented from attending), and Mlle Isabelle Nef, the well-known harpsichord player.

Café was then served in the spacious lounge, during which the Swiss Minister gave an excellent address, recalling his association with both the mother society and its London Group, and expressing thanks on behalf of the Federal authorities for the useful and patriotic work the Society is rendering in various spheres, amongst them the holiday scheme for Swiss children in the U.K., in connection with Pro Juventute and the Swiss Benevolent Society, for which, he said, Mr. & Mrs. W. Renz deserve much gratitude. Monsieur Daeniker then introduced Mlle. Isabelle Nef, who, he mentioned, had come to London in order to give a harpsichord concert at the Wigmore Hall.

Mlle. Nef, although having landed at the London Airport only a few hours previously, kindly consented to give a piano recital — thus innovating the new grand piano given to the Hostel by the N.S.H. in Switzerland. Her exquisite playing was greatly enjoyed and was rewarded with spontaneous applause. Dr. H. W. Egli warmly thanked the artist for her "beau geste".

This second part of the evening was indeed a happy family party throughout which a homely atmosphere prevailed. All in all a successful evening.

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NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE (London Group)

Council's Annual Report for 1956/57.

The last Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 20th March, 1956, at the "Schweizerbund", followed by the Annual Dinner. Since then the following Open Meetings were organised by the London Group of the N.S.H. :—

Talks and Film Shows.

- 1) May 8th, at Bush House: "Das Werk der Stiftung 'Pro Juventute'", a talk in German by Mr. J. Kunz of Zürich, Pro Juventute.
- 2) May 12th, at Bush House: Luncheon in honour of Mr. Olivier Reverdin of Genève, Chief Editor of the Journal de Genève and President of the Auslandschweizerkommission.
- 3) May 22nd, at the Schweizerbund: "Schutz der Schweiz vor Spionage und Verrat", a talk in Berndütsch by Dr. W. Balmiger, former Director of the Swiss Federal Police.
- 4) June 1st, at Bush House: "Wandlungen im Schweizerischen Föderalismus", a talk in German by Mr. Peter Zschokke, Regierungsrat of Basle.
- 5) July 10th, at Bush House: "Souvenirs of the early years of the London Group of the N.S.H.", a talk in English by Prof. Lätt of Zürich, the first Secretary of the London Group, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the London Group of the N.S.H. The talk was followed by a discussion on the forthcoming Journée des Suisses à l'Étranger (Locarno 25th/26th August).
- 6) October 22nd, at the Schweizerbund: "The Swiss Scientific Expedition to Mount Ararat", a talk in German with a profusion of coloured slides, by Prof. Dr. Emil Egli of Zürich.
- 7) November 20th, at Park Lane House: "The Swiss Army in the Atomic Age", a talk in German (with a Swiss Army film), by Lt.-Col. W. Koch, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation, London.
- 8) December 11th, at the Fifty-Five Park Lane Restaurant: "Das Schweizerische Vormundenschaftswesen", a talk in German by Mr. Carlo Grassi, Amtsvormund der Stadt Zürich. The talk was followed by questions and a discussion with the assistance of an expert in English Law.
- 9) January 12th, at 21, Tothill Street, S.W.1.: "Annual Film Show" Montage d'Actualité Ciné-Journal Suisse — Destin d'une Cité — Genève. These films were put at our disposal by the Auslandschweizer Sekretariat, Berne.
- 10) February 26th, at the Schweizerbund: "The development of Hydro-Electric Power in Switzerland — its human and social aspects", a talk in French by Prof. André Geux of Lausanne.

At the last Annual General Meeting the Council's Report and the Treasurer's Report were discussed and duly agreed to by the Meeting. Once again a considerable deficit of £31.15.10 was incurred by the Society in the course of the year. The possibility of increasing our subscription was discussed at last year's A.G.M. in order to avoid further recourse to reserves, but it was decided to leave the subscription unaltered for the time being.

Council Affairs.

All the outgoing members of the Council were re-elected by the A.G.M. with the addition of Mr. M. Wiesendanger. The 17 elected Council members were: Mrs. A. Bachofen, Mr. E. J. Bachofen, Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. P. Bessire, Mrs. E. Boller, Mr. A. Boller, Dr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Mr. Th. Haller, Mr. J. Huber, Mr. A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. R. Schneider, Mr. R. Weist, Miss M. Wolfer, Mr. M. Wiesendanger.

It is deeply regretted that during the year the Society lost one of its Council members Mr. E. J. Bachofen, due to his premature death. The Society's sympathy goes out to Mrs. Bachofen in her bereavement.

In the course of the year since the last A.G.M. the Council has held 6 meetings which were usually attended also by our Honorary Vice-President Mr. A. F. Suter, and Mrs. Suter. We are grateful to our Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, and other members of our Legation for their continuing support of the activities of the N.S.H. One of the highlights of our last year's programme was the lecture by Lt.-Col. W. Koch. Mr. Jakob Huber's continuing membership of our Council is much appreciated, as the advice which our Consul is able to give us is invaluable from the point of view of close co-operation with the Legation, which we all desire.

The "Swiss Observer" continues publishing extensive reports of our activities as well as carrying our announcements of meetings and our advertisements. We are grateful to its Editor, Mr. A. Stauffer,

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and its Publisher, Mr. O. Boehringer, for this indispensable and generous support of our work. The Swiss National Tourist Office has again helped us repeatedly with the showing of films, for which our thanks are due to the General Manager, Mr. H. O. Ernst, the Publicity Manager, Mr. A. Kunz, one of our Council members, and the ever-obliging film operator Mr. Brown.

We regret that none of our functions of last year was suitable to be held jointly with the Anglo-Swiss Society which deserves fuller support by our Colony.

There were one or two lectures organised by another Society in the course of the year, which could have provided first class occasions for the co-operation of a number of our societies. Not only could the number of functions in our Colony thereby be reduced, a thing which everybody seems to regard as desirable, but better attendances could be assured on that basis. Furthermore, it would seem only right to offer everybody in the Colony the possibility of attending lectures of particularly well-known personalities from the home country. In this spirit of mutual co-operation the members of the N.S.H. have recently been invited by the S.M.S. to attend their monthly meeting at which the project of a Fonds de Solidarité was discussed. Thus there was no further need for our Society to hold a separate meeting on the same subject.

Our Annual Film Show had to be postponed till January this year as the Ciné-Journal film could not be despatched from Switzerland in time for a showing in December. We are grateful to the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger for providing these annual selections of news films, as well as for its organising

and financial aid in securing prominent lecturers from Switzerland for our benefit. Mademoiselle A. Briod and Dr. H. Christ deserve our warmest thanks.

Children's Holiday Scheme.

For the fifth time, our Vice-President, Mr. W. Renz, and Mrs. Renz have carried through the exacting labour of love of organising the annual children's holiday trip to Switzerland. As usual the project was also supported by "Pro Juventute" and the "Stiftung Schweizerhilfe" in Switzerland. 22 children, transported by Swissair, have enjoyed the advantage of this scheme last year, some of them with the help of the Swiss Benevolent Society. The Colony's thanks are due for this to all the organisations concerned as well as to Mr. and Mrs. Renz. This was the eleventh time that our Society had the honour of carrying through this excellent scheme.

Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger.

Last year's Journée was held at Locarno, where about 400 delegates from Swiss Colonies abroad and Officials of the Federal Government as well as of various supporting organisations were warmly welcomed by the hospitable Ticinese. Our Colony was represented by Dr. H. W. Egli and Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Suter, that of Manchester by M. H. Monney, and that of Yorkshire by Prof. J. Inebnit and Mrs. L. Inebnit. A full report of the meeting at Locarno was published as usual in the "Swiss Observer".

Swiss Hostel for Girls.

In order to assist in the furnishing of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Bachofen, accompanied by Dr. H. W. Egli, presented in the course of the year the residue of their accumulated net receipts from the functions of the Swiss Youth Club, which was sponsored by our N.S.H. Group, to Madame Armin Daeniker as Chairman of the Council of Management, amounting to £683. This generous gesture of Mr. & Mrs. Bachofen has enabled the Hostel to furnish its lounge. The Hostel has accepted an offer from our Society to take over on loan our library and bookcases which have remained unused for some years and kept in storage.

Membership.

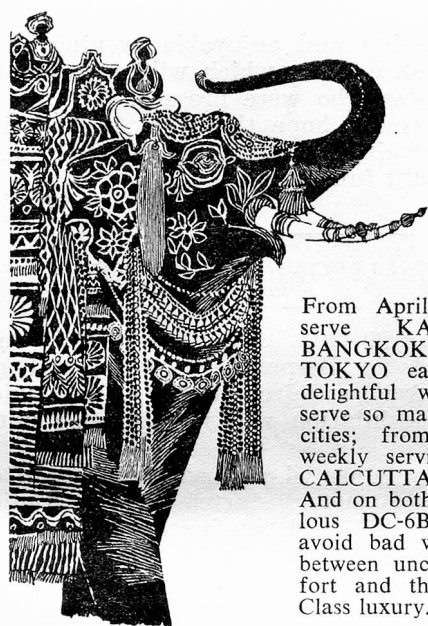
Once again we have to record the sad loss of two of our members who died in the course of the year: Mr. E. J. Bachofen and Mr. E. A. Gassmann. Eight other members resigned mainly owing to departure from London. Fortunately, we secured fourteen new members of our Group. Our paying membership has increased from 180 to 184.

On behalf of the Council

H. W. Egli,

President.

March, 1957.



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