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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

FRAUENVEREIN (WOMEN'S CIRCLE)

The Annual General Meeting of the Women's Circle of the German-speaking community of the Swiss Church was held on 28th March at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. It started with an excellent cold lunch including a huge piece of real "Schwarzwäldertorte". It was both a very pleasant and important occasion as the President, Mrs. F. G. Sommer, relinquished her office after 24 years of faithful service. She proposed Mrs. R. Senn as her successor, who in the absence of any other nominations, was unanimously elected. In the name of the thirty members Mrs. Sommer was thanked by Mrs. W. Meier and by Mrs. P. Moehr for her excellent work in the interests of the Frauenverein and the less fortunate compatriots since 1939. She was presented with a Parker pen. In a short speech Mrs. Sommer thanked members for the present and admitted that it had long been her secret wish to possess such a pen. She then went quickly over the 24 years of her presidency which she had taken over at the beginning of the war when the then President, Mrs. W. B. Sigerist, was marooned in Switzerland. She talked of the difficult war years when members had to come to the monthly meetings and leave again in haste in order to avoid blackout and bombing. What a difference to our pleasant gatherings now!

Mrs. Sommer mentioned the gift of a knitting machine by Madame Daeniker, which would help to keep up the quota of knitted garments for the old and needy Swiss in London. Mrs. F. Burgunder had kindly offered to give lessons in this craft. Mrs. Sommer encouraged the members to knit and sew hard so as not to be shamed by the splendid example of Madame Daeniker, who, in spite of probably being the busiest of Swiss ladies in London had again knitted a full two dozen pairs of socks in a year. Mrs. Sommer read some extracts from letters which the Swiss Benevolent Society had received from grateful recipients of garments at Christmas.

Mrs. G. Keller, who has been the buyer of material and wool since the war, resigned, and she was thanked warmly for her help. Mrs. H. Shepherd was elected to these duties. Mrs. P. Moehr was thanked for her work as Hon. Treasurer, and agreed to continue. It was agreed to put forward the meetings to 1.30 p.m. on every first Tuesday afternoon of the month (Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2). This will enable younger mothers to attend more easily and it is hoped that this measure will attract new members.

Finally it was decided to hold the next Annual General Meeting again at the Swiss Hostel, which is well suited for such a gathering.

P.Wh.

THE SWISS PUBLICITY OFFICE crave your indulgence for any slight delay there may be in answering correspondence.

Suitable arrangements are in progress and all contributors will be notified as soon as possible.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

Not for the first time the London Group of the N.S.H. had the privilege some weeks ago of hearing Monsieur W. Roch, 1st Secretary at our Embassy, talk on one of the countries where he has been posted in his diplomatic career and of seeing his slides illustrating the talk. On this occasion the subject was TUNISIA, where the lecturer spent three months in 1961 as Special Representative of the Swiss Government looking after the interests of France during the rupture of diplomatic relations between France and Tunisia. His talk, however, was devoted to the natural beauties of this lovely country on the North-African coast, its classic history centred round the ill-fated fabulous city of Carthage, the life and work of its fascinating population. It would be difficult to say what pleased his audience more: his beautifully phrased French account of all these things or the selection of coloured slides taken by himself with consummate skill and supplemented by taped sound reproductions of Tunisian music and the Moslems' call to prayer. It was as perfect a combination of all three elements of human communication as Monsieur Roch's earlier talk on Japan.

E.

PERSONAL

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Charles Studer, of 97 Abercairn Road, S.W.16. He had been ill for a long time and died at the age of 73 on 15th March.

Mr. Studer was born in Winterthur and was well known in the Swiss Colony. He was one of the founders of the Swiss Sports which were held at the Herne Hill Sports Grounds for many years. All his life he was a keen sportsman and won many silver cups and medals.

We extend our sympathy to his wife and daughter in their bereavement.

My family and I wish to thank all those kind friends who have sent us messages and letters of sympathy for the tragic loss of our dear Milton, who died at his desk on Monday, March 11th.

Milton and my husband were great friends and we all feel happy in our belief that they are now together and will be there to welcome us HOME.

NINA PFAENDLER.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group)

Tuesday, 23rd April, 7.45 p.m.
at Swiss Hostel for Girls.

OPEN MEETING

Miss L. C. WENZINGER,
editor of "Die Schweizerin", Basle,
will talk in English on "The Woman in Switzerland"
her changing position and activities.
Discussion to follow.