

The one really bad year, the worst in the Society's history, was 1933, when the Swiss Club Bonds from Mr. Gallati had to be written off. If 1940 produced another decrease by \$942.46, at least it was caused by the pressing needs at home, when \$1000.00 were donated to the Swiss War Relief Fund, which proves what can happen, and how soon we would have to tap capital funds in case of recurrence of dire necessity.

One of our compatriots was long helped by a private family. In 1934, he had to be placed in the Shelter for Homeless Men, and helped with a small monthly allowance, reporting in 1945 that he was getting along with a pension. He disappeared in 1956. Mr. Rohrbach found him after some search at Wills Eye Hospital. While endeavors were being made to place him in a home a year later, he died.

In 1936, \$50.00 were allocated for the relief of Swiss victims at Johnstown, Pa., and an equal sum for others, through the American Red Cross. The decrease in demands on the treasury for local needs justified the action particularly, President Reichling held. The State Pension had begun to reach some of our old beneficiaries. Others had obtained work and could support themselves. 'Very meager immigration of young Swiss' continued. He was not very optimistic about the general situation. 'If business in general keeps on improving, as we all hope, there is no doubt that we will see more young Swiss again, in the near future, particularly as the conditions in our Home Country seem to be getting from bad to worse. As long as the frictions between the leading European countries cannot be ironed out, there is only faint hope that the general anxiety can be lifted, and business improved.' But also 1937 goes down in the annals of the sbs as 'uneventful.'

A particularly pathetic case was brought before the Board by Vice Consul Rohrbach in February 1938: He found a Swiss woman in deplorable condition as virtual prisoner of a half-brother. She wanted to go home, and credit up to \$150.00 was granted. But in 1939, efforts were made to place her with the Little Sisters of the Poor, as the best solution, and a monthly allowance granted until she would benefit from the Old Age Pension. In 1940, she was boarding with a private family. To move her belongings, it cost \$3.50! She was brought to Mrs. Hodecker, a former nurse, who also cared for a Mr. Gyger, with the help of \$50.00 monthly from the sbs.

At the AGA of January 31, 1940, President

Reichling commented: '. . . we may look forward to an appeal for financial assistance from our beloved mother country before long, in which case our Treasury as well as our individual members will be called upon to help carry the enormous financial burden, which dear old Switzerland has to endure on account of this new uncalled-for war in Europe.' Already in February, Consul Rohrbach advised the directors that the Legation had opened a list for contributions to the Swiss Relief Fund, for which \$500.00 were allocated at once, then duplicated two months later, when Consul Rohrbach mentioned the dire, urgent needs. Dr. Carl Bruggmann, Minister of Switzerland in Washington, expressed the appreciation of the Swiss Government for the Society's quick and generous contributions.

The enumeration of cases receiving direct assistance was dropped from the Annual Reports about that time (1941). The low marks of 77 members are registered for 1947 and 1953. Since then the membership went slowly but steadily up. For 1942, there are on record: \$25.00 to the American Red Cross; \$100 each to the Refugee Children in Switzerland, the International Red Cross, and the Swiss Soldiers' Relief Fund. In 1943, donations were made to the American Red Cross, the International Red Cross, the Motta Fund and the Swiss Refugees. The Motta Fund was oversubscribed, and a Foundation created with the surplus, for the benefit of large, needy families, in the spirit of the illustrious deceased.

Direct assistance remained in low figures in 1944, with new appropriations for the American, International and Swiss Red Cross, and to the Swiss National Donation.

March 2, 1945, was set for the Swiss Evening at Town Hall, organized by the Joint Committee of the Philadelphia Swiss Societies, as benefit performance for the International and American Red Cross, with consent of the latter, since we very strongly felt the International Red Cross deserved support too. It was a good presentation, which yielded \$2103.20, equally divided between the two charities, and our effort earned us a Certificate of Merit. The above figure represents total revenue. The expenses, amounting to \$1267.42 were fully covered by donations by all Swiss societies and generous contributions from businesses and individuals.

A member of the colony for some years had to be committed to the Norristown State Hospital in April 1945, where he has been a patient ever since.