

Gasser, Francis Schaefer, Karl Tschopp. Mr. Schaefer has earned the thanks of the Society for serving now as 'Realty Committee of One' for several years. The new year developed badly with the early demise of the wife of President Reichling, beloved in the entire Colony, followed in June by the untimely death of our Recording Secretary, Alfred Knup. During the year, too, President Reichling had moved to Bethlehem, and so, after 19 years as vice president and an equal number of years as head of the Society, relinquished his office at the AGA 1953. His exceptional stature and remarkable services were memorialized by Consul Rohrbach, and, with a standing ovation, the Assembly made him Honorary President. The subsequent Director's Meeting elected Consul Maurice J. Rohrbach to the chair, and P. H. Reichling was returned as Recording Secretary, the Society enjoying his services to this day.

A Committee of eminent Philadelphia Swiss and Germans set the Testimonial Dinner for J. Otto Schweizer, celebrating his 90th anniversary, for March 27, 1953, and the occasion was declared as Annual Dinner for the sbs. Funds had been raised to defray the expenses for a splendid biography of Mr. Schweizer by Prof. Jonkers. From the surplus of the collected funds, a 'J. Otto Schweizer Memorial Fund' was created, available for events with cultural purposes.

A special note of sorrow pervaded the AGA of 1955, because of the death of our beloved J. H. Reichling at the age of 86; Consul Rohrbach paying him a richly deserved tribute. Because of his heavy duties and commitments, Mr. Rohrbach did not feel he could carry on as President. The new Board, composed the same as for 1954, greatly regretted his resignation, and in his place elected John C. Schoop to the chair, with Ernest Federer as Vice President. In appreciation of his outstanding, unrelenting services since his arrival here, the Hon. Maurice J. Rohrbach was made Honorary President with a standing ovation, repeated by the adjourned Annual Meeting, when the announcement was made.

The Society's best wishes were extended to Mr. J. Otto Schweizer on his 92nd birthday March 27, 1955. He was to pass away before the year's end. At the AGA 1956, President Schoop remarked: 'He has left to posterity a legacy of innumerable works of art, historical monuments, symbolical and allegorical reliefs and statues, henceforth to be acclaimed as classics. As a man and friend he has

no peer.' A tragic death also robbed us of Alphons Meier, member since 1925, while on a visit in Switzerland, and the sudden passing of John Doess, a director since 1952, was much deplored. At the Annual Dinner, October 20, 1955, at the Silver Lake Inn, as usual assisted by the New Helvetic Society and delegations from the Turnverein and the Helvetia Association, members of fifty years and over were presented with a commemorative plate: Schweizer Turnverein (1902); Robert J. Freitag (1902); Carl Tschopp (1902); H. C. Saalenbach (1903). Another party of merit should have been included: Dr. J. C. Hungerbuehler. His omission is regretted, and came about by a confusion of his name with his father. Dr. Hungerbuehler passed away just recently.

The sbs collaborated with the other local Swiss associations in a reception for Minister de Torrenté, February 15/18, 1956. In September, Consul Rohrbach explained the functions of the Swiss Solidarity Fund to the directors, and has taken every pain to acquaint us with its benefits on many occasions since.

The AGA 1957, brought together 73 members and friends, at the Turners' Hall. A member of the Board for twenty years, John Freudiger decided to retire, and was released with heartfelt thanks for his long services. Dr. Alfred Senn became his successor. The Executive Board remained intact, and is the same in the Centennial year. The Annual Dinner attracted 71 members and friends.

The Annual Meeting, January 29, 1958, at the Turnverein, saw a record crowd of over 150, because pictures taken by participants of the highly successful NHS Swiss Flight 1957, were shown. This meeting decided to celebrate our Centennial in fall, rather than at the next General Assembly, since the founding date is September 14, 1860.

The Monthly Meeting of June 6, 1958, took special note of the elevation of the Swiss Consulate of Philadelphia to a Consulate General, and congratulated the Honorable Maurice J. Rohrbach for his 25 year tenure here and his elevation to Consul General. The Colony sponsored a Commemorative Dinner of the occasion, which came off at the Philadelphia Cricket Club on December 6. The president of the sbs, perhaps longest associated with Mr. Rohrbach, and still here, became the main speaker, reviewing the remarkable record by his untiring efforts for the Swiss in his consular district. May it be further recorded in this con-