

Each in our best French, Secretary Leo and I thanked our hosts. Leo stressed the many welcomes he had enjoyed in Calais before and immediately after the war and in France ever since. I said that we had not forgotten the Norman Conquest or Napoleon but also remembered the Field of Cloth of Gold and the Anglo-French Entente of 8 April 1904. There have been lapses of friendship but with Calais Accueil and the Dover Society they were unlikely to recur.

One may well say "a busy day" but it was instructive as well as pleasant and we now better understand the differences between Calais Accueil and the Dover Society. Although we, too, have a social programme which includes instruction as well as entertainment, we concentrate on taking part in the local economy, local

planning and local government. Calais Accueil, branches of which are nationwide, was a response to the massive internal shifts of population from post-war economic changes and was, by contrast, designed to minimise the inevitable resulting tensions. Consequently the programme, whilst organising visits (e.g. to Rochester for Christmas shopping) and walks, concentrates on offering classes in languages, French as well as English, German and Russian. Astrology and "Sophrologie" are also taught, there are "Keep-Fit" and sewing classes and lots of meetings for philatelists. So, as ever with our cross-Channel neighbours, there are important differences of emphasis and detail in shared concepts of voluntary educational and social activity.

L'Association France Grande-Bretagne

LEO WRIGHT

The second organisation has aims which are expressly pro-British. The Association was founded in Paris in the dark days of 1917, looking back to the Entente Cordiale of 1904. Their central aim is to work for ever closer understanding between our two countries. The Calais branch was founded

in 1947 when Dover and Calais were both in ruins.

We received a group of their officers at the Churchill in March last year and some of their members joined our Côte d'Opale trip. They have since invited us to three of their functions, two of which we were very pleased to be able to attend.

Assemblée Générale

JOAN LIGGETT

It was with some trepidation that Richard and I agreed to represent the Dover Society at the Assemblée Générale of the Association France-Grande-Bretagne which took place at the Restaurant du Cap. Escalles (a restaurant to be visited again!) In the event, the experience proved highly enjoyable due to the friendliness and hospitality of our French hosts. We were delighted that our schoolboy French enabled us to commun-

icate, helped no doubt by the wine!

The business part of the meeting was concluded with commendable brevity and informality and followed by an excellent meal and much conversation. The time flew by until we were almost too late to reach Calais for the last ferry. Our return to the port, driven by M. Tailliez under instruction from his wife, will remain an exciting memory for some time, culminating in a spirited dash to the Terminal!