

Rotary's World President In Tunbridge Wells

PRESIDENT of Rotary International, Mr. Arthur Lageaux, leader of the 345,000 rotarians in 7,275 clubs scattered all over the world, was in Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday. Spending the first day of a five-day visit to Britain in the South-East, he addressed representatives of all the clubs in Districts 12 and 14 at the Assembly Hall.

President Lageaux, a member of the Rotary Club of Quebec, was accompanied by his wife. They had tea at the Assembly Hall with 140 British Rotarians, and there were nearly 250 at the meeting which followed.

They were headed by the two district chairmen, Mr. Tom Gardner of Bexhill (District 12) and Mr. Arthur Scales (District 14), with their respective chairmen-elect, Mr. Joe Judd of Folkestone (District 12)

and Mr. Leslie Bunker of Hove (District 14).

Both Mr. Gardner and Mr. Scales are Rotary International Representatives, and another R.I.R. present was Mr. Bowyer of Slough (District 9).

Apart from representatives of the 23 clubs of District 12 (which covers Kent and part of Sussex) and the 13 of District 14 (rest of Sussex and into Surrey), there was also present a member of the Rotary Club of Alexandria.

The world president, who was introduced by R.I.R. Gardner, said that if he had but one message to leave with the meeting it would be that Rotary was a kindly organisation.

"It responds to to-day's needs," he said. "It doesn't have a rigid, limited programme which would confine it. Rotary's programme can be expressed in one word, service."

"The heart of Rotary is an ideal,

HE HEADS 7,275 CLUBS

and ideals never die. We have seen them crucified on the cross of the swastika, battered by blows from the hammer and nicked by the sickle, but always they rise again with new power and a new challenge.

"Rotary is not synthetic — it is vital. It was born, not made, and it came to birth as the answer to a great and crying need. It was not something engineered for publicity or personal gain but in all honesty to interpret and respond to a need in the human heart."

Rotarian Since 1934

President Legeaux was thanked for his address by Mr. Scales. All arrangements for the meeting were made by Past President A. E. Hughes of the Tunbridge Wells Rotary Club.

President Legeaux, who is 50, founded his own firm of investment brokers in Quebec when he was 24. He joined the Rotary Club of Quebec in 1934 and became its president in 1941.