

The "first of August" celebration of the London Swiss Colony

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THE "FIRST OF AUGUST" CELEBRATION OF THE LONDON SWISS COLONY.

Three Societies had arranged special programmes for celebrating the 631st Anniversary of the Foundation of the Swiss Confederation. These were: The Swiss Institute, the Union Helvetia, and the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund."

THE SWISS INSTITUTE

had engaged Morley Hall for this occasion and had framed an attractive programme, the entertainment side of which was carried out by the Swiss Institute Orchestra, conducted by Mr. E. P. Dick, Mr. Pressia, a delightful violin soloist. Signora E. Lunghi, reciter in Italian, and the Double Quartette of the Swiss Y.M.C.A.

After the overture, M. Preiswerk, from the Swiss Legation, rose to express regret on behalf of the Swiss Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, who was unavoidably prevented from being present to address the gathering. He concluded by reading a telegram of felicitation from the Minister and then intimated that M. Maxime Courvoisier would deliver the speech of the evening.

And right well did M. Courvoisier perform his task; basing his allocation on the text of the Pact of 1291 of the peoples of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, which to this day forms the essence and guidance of our country's policy; he developed with forceful simplicity a stirring speech, enjoining the audience always to remember the weighty and irrefutably just sense and spirit of the Pact and to act according to its tenets for the good of our country, its people and the world at large.

After the applause had subsided, Mr. H. Joss rose to thank the numerous gathering for their attendance, Messrs. Preiswerk and Courvoisier for their speeches, and the artistes for their assistance in making the evening's entertainment a complete success.

UNION HELVETIA, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

The spirit which dominated this large assembly is best expressed by a sentence, quoted from "William Tell," act 2, scene 2, which appeared on the front page of the programme and runs thus:—

"We are all one heart, one blood, one race!
We are one people, and will act as one."

Two honorary members of the Union Helvetia, Messrs. V. Burkhart and F. Maeder, took leading parts during the evening, the former acting as chairman, in which capacity he paid homage to the King and the Royal Family of the country whose hospitality we enjoy, while the latter addressed to the gathering a patriotic and inspiring speech on the motive of the celebration, and the duty which devolves upon us Swiss to live up to our motto: "Einer für Alle—Alle für Einen."

The Swiss Gymnastic Society's Tableaux Vivants, the display of the acrobatic Theo Brothers, Master Edward Maeder, who with skilful dexterity adapted his mastery of sleight of hand to "Patriotic Magic" and further displayed linguistic talent by reciting in English, French and German, all contributed handsomely to the evening's enjoyment, as did also the steward of the Club, Mr. A. Wyss, who rendered a song with such great gusto that the entire audience was carried away with delight. Popular Swiss songs sung by the assembly complemented the lengthy programme which came to a conclusion just after midnight, releasing at last the pent up feelings of the devotees to dancing, which then had a loose rein until the inexorable "Time, please" intervened and put a period to the proceedings in the early hours of the morning.

SWISS CLUB "SCHWEIZERBUND."

It was unfortunately "early" when we reached this old home of the Swiss Colony, for the programme had been disposed of when we arrived, but judging from the throngs that were surging to and fro in the various rooms, the programme must have been entirely to the taste of the guests, otherwise they would have dispersed earlier.

One aspect of the "First of August" celebrations strikes us forcibly, and that is the lack of centralised efforts to offer to the entire Swiss Colony in London an opportunity of assembling at one time and in one place on an occasion of this importance.

The manifestation might then assume such a character and proportions as would be commensurate with the importance of the "Fête Nationale." This could surely be arranged, so as not to interfere with the individual interests of the various Clubs, for the programme could well be terminated early enough to enable members of the various Clubs to adjourn to their respective club houses in good time for the refreshment of the inner man and for the enjoyment of such social intercourse and amusement as have hitherto been usual in celebrating this National Anniversary.

W.

PRINTERS' ERRORS.

In printing, the omission of a single letter of type may make a vast difference to the meaning of a sentence. It is said that the whole edition of an old English primer, through the omission of the letter "c," was printed as follows:—

When the last trumpet soundeth,
We shall not all die,
But we shall all be HANGED
In the twinkling of an eye.

Mr. W. L. Courtney has put it on record that, though he has written thousands of reviews, once, and only once, has a proof reader let him down. He had written something about "woman's rights," but unfortunately it came out in the proof as "woman's tights," and it was not corrected.

Humour is not often found in obituary notices, but a printer in an American paper did his best in that direction. The editor, commenting on the death of a lamented lady, wrote: "It is feared that her husband will not be able to bear her demise," but the 'comp.' improved the occasion by stating: "It is feared that her husband will not be able to wear her chemise."

CHILDREN'S NURSE wanted for French-Swiss family; some knowledge of English.—Replies, with references, to "Children's Nurse," c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. 62-3.

Pension Suisse 20 Palmeira Avenue, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA

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EVERY COMFORT.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 15 AOUT, au Restaurant Nuthall à Kingston-on-Thames, et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7.30 heures (sh. 6/6 par couvert).

Cet avis tient lieu de convocation. Tous ceux désirant y participer sont invités à s'annoncer en temps utile au Trésorier, M. G. Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. 4 (Téléphone: Central 1321).

Les dames seront les bienvenues car l'on dansera après l'assemblée.

Ordre du Jour.

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| Procès-verbal. | Banquet Annuel |
| Admissions. | Divers. |
| Démotions. | |

A Motor Coach has been engaged for the return journey to Kingston. The Coach will leave Mansion House Place, E.C. 4 at 6.15 p.m. sharp, and return from Kingston for Trafalgar Square at 11 p.m.

The cost of the return journey will be from 3/- to 4/-, according to the number of participants. Seats should be booked at once, as same are limited, from Mr. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. Telephone: City 4603.