

La nouvelle société helvétique

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SWISS CENTRAL CLUB HOUSE.

The following letter, dated November 2nd, has been received by the above from the Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society:—

At its recent meeting the Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society considered and discussed at length the very interesting proposition of the foundation of a Central Club House for the benefit of the London Swiss Colony.

We regret that there has been an unavoidable delay in bestowing thorough-going attention to your communication of September 12th last, for this Society has had very important matters of a domestic nature to take care of first, but these affairs have now been disposed of with very gratifying results, thus leaving us free to devote closer attention to a matter of wider and more general interest.

We fully recognise and appreciate the fact that, if the project under review is capable of an early and satisfactory realisation, such achievement will reflect great credit upon the London Swiss Colony and add, moreover, materially to the individual and collective comfort of our compatriots in this large metropolis. We would, therefore, emphatically assure you that you must not treat this letter in the light of any criticism, for our policy is a constructive and not destructive one—being anxious to support your laudable efforts by sound suggestions as well as hearty and useful co-operation.

We do feel very strongly, however, that in matters of this kind there is generally far too much "academic talk," and the good intentions and sound suggestions are often allowed to "glide" far too long above the earth (which now appears to have become a favourite pastime), while in our opinion it is essential to alight on *terra firma* with a concise and well-defined scheme, whatever its shortcomings might be in the earlier stages of its conception. Once a nucleus does exist and offers a "jumping-off" point, it will be much more easy to create real enthusiasm for the project and suitably weave around it, so as to embody the *desiderata* of the various interests which it is proposed to unite in the venture.

It further strikes us that the scheme as described in your letter of September 12th is somewhat too ambitious, if it is intended to embrace the WHOLE of the London Swiss Colony. When one considers that at least two Clubs do exist which offer their members all the accommodation and comfort they can possibly ask for, it would seem, *prima facie*, that we cannot reasonably expect a great deal of support from those quarters. Even if this were not so, it appears to us that the members of those particular Societies would surely feel out of their element if their specific requirements were embodied in a Central Club House, as projected.

It would seem to us that the scheme should, therefore, be confined to the London Swiss community engaged in mercantile or industrial pursuits, their individual interests running far more closely in one clearly defined direction, thus offering reasonable chances of an atmosphere being created which would assure uniform geniality for all the supporters of the proposed Swiss Central Club House.

To resume, we would strongly recommend that a definite plan be worked out in all its aspects, based upon the views of two or three experienced members of the commercial community in our Colony, and this without first applying to various Societies to fill up question sheets and the like, since in our considered judgment this would only prove waste of time and would not lead us towards a speedy realisation of the project. Once a well thought out and clearly defined scheme (preferably on alternative bases) is available, and the nature of which is such as would seem to warrant a fusion of interests and is likely to be attended by gratifying results, we feel convinced that useful suggestions and moral as well as material help will be forthcoming from the various Societies and unattached individuals.

LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

The lecture on "Die gegenwärtige deutsch-schweizerische Dialektbildung," delivered by our secretary, Dr. Paul Lang, at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, October 27th, fully justified what it promised. Dr. Lang understood how to bring the audience at once into close contact with the subject by using our vernacular dialect in expressing himself. It was an excellent idea to do so, as there was a homelike atmosphere in the room from the beginning to the end of the lecture.

Dr. Lang started by giving a very clear idea of the rôle of the Swiss dialects with regard to the written form of the language. He pointed out that the "Schwyzerdütsch" is intimately connected with the democratic feelings and conceptions of the Swiss people. After that the lecturer went on to give a clear outline of the evolution of vernacular poetry in Alemannic Switzerland, naming the outstanding representatives of the respective vernaculars and characterising the distinctive features of each. Special stress was laid on the richness of the Bernese vernacular poetry with the gorgeousness of its modes of expression and its forcible and pithy originality and imagery.

After the splendid introductory part of the lecture, Dr. Lang proceeded to the reading of a great number of well-chosen specimens of lyrical and humorous poems, giving full evidence of the beauty and force of vernacular verse. The lecturer turned out to be not only a competent judge of what is beautiful in poetry, but, what is more, he proved a perfect interpreter of all the feelings and ideas hidden in the modest forms of the native verses.

The hearty applause given to the masterly recital of the poems proved how much Dr. Lang had appealed to the hearts of all listeners. The lecture was a literary treat in the full sense of the word, and should have deserved a far better attendance on the part of the German-speaking Swiss Colony.

E. Z.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BAG.

E. E., Bridlington. — "The Swiss Observer" is posted regularly on Friday afternoons and should reach you in the course of Saturday. We have received repeated complaints from subscribers about late delivery and can only take the matter up with the Post Office in specific cases where the complaint is accompanied by the wrapper.

L. S. — Your opinion about the Matriculation card is, no doubt, shared by the majority of the members of the London Colony. We hear that in the near future there will be some slight modification.

C. A. A. — With reference to our article headed "A Warning" (see "S.O." No. 73) the following has been received from a subscriber:—

"I have tried hard to find out what this 'warning' means, but fail to see where its usefulness comes in. It does not apply to me personally, and I would not dream of encouraging or defending any infringement of the official regulations. However, this does not alter the fact that the regulations in question are greatly resented by the young Swiss who are desirous of coming over in order to learn the language and broaden their commercial knowledge. Those who have stinned against these regulations by accepting employment, whereas they should only be students, frequenting schools, no doubt know exactly to what dangers they expose themselves, and no 'Swiss Observer' warning is necessary for them."

The line of argument seems hardly logical. In the first instance, it is the duty of every foreigner to observe strictly the laws and regulations of the country whose hospitality he enjoys, and although the regulations in question are greatly resented, this is no excuse for disregarding them. As a matter of fact, a good many young Swiss apply for visas in Switzerland for the purpose of making studies, whilst their real object is to seek remunerative employment. It stands to reason that this procedure does a considerable amount of harm to the Swiss in general and is not calculated to enhance our prestige over here.

A True Observer. — Your remarks contain a good dose of wholesome truth, but we incline to the view that the publication of your letter would not be desirable or opportune under present circumstances. The terminological inexactitudes in the cutting you send should not be taken too literally nor judged too severely.

J. J. S. — So far as we know nothing definite has been arranged yet as regards the Swiss Art Exhibition in London. At the opportune moment we shall not fail to pass your letter on to the organisers, who will, no doubt, be very thankful to you for your disinterested offer.

P. A. C. — We thank you for the amusing extract, which we hope to reprint in our next issue.

SWISS BANK FOOTBALL CLUB.

SWISS BANK 1st XI v. AMERICAN EXPRESS CO. 1st XI (LONDON BANKS SENIOR LEAGUE) on our Ground at Preston Road.

A very scrappy game. Goubach, the Bank's centre forward, and his left wing early tested the Amexco goalie. After about a half hour's ding-dong play, Goubach headed a fine goal from one of Holton's nicely placed centres. Schwendener followed suit a few minutes later with an express ground-shot. Half-time: 2 to 0. The home team was soon pressing after the interval, and Rufer increased the lead with a well-placed cross-shot from a pass from his inside left. Holton scored the fourth goal with a nice dropping shot from 30 yards out. Zurcher made two brilliant saves hereabouts. The Red's left wing again passed across the goal mouth, and Rufer beat the opposing left back, scoring his second goal. Mention must be made of the fine game played by the home team's centre-half, Way, and by the Amexco captain. They were two of the outstanding players on the field. Result: Swiss Bank 5, Amexco 0.

Swiss Bank team: Zurcher; Herzog, Kurz; Schwendener, Way, Bornand; Hickson, Rufer, Goubach, Tobin, Holton.

SWISS BANK 2nd XI v. CREDIT LYONNAIS 2nd XI (LONDON BANKS JUNIOR LEAGUE) on our Ground at Preston Road.

Although favoured by fine weather, a very poor game developed. The home team, with a strong breeze on their backs, soon took the lead, scoring at intervals and bringing up the score 5 to 0 before half-time. In the second half the visitors' defence, in spite of the wind being in their favour, was not sound enough to hold out against the continuous pressure of the Reds, and had to concede four more points. In the closing stages the visitors started to be dangerous at times, but succeeded only once to convert the raid. We think they have worked very hard for this point. Result: Swiss Bank 9, Crédit Lyonnais 1.

Team: Grob; Peter, Zurlinden; Bonjour, Steiner, Kronauer; Higgins, Schranz, Smith, Scherz, Hillebrand.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 12 Nov., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Vismar. 4.30.—Répétition du chœur. 6.30.—Pfarrer U. Wildholz.

MARIAGE.

Otto Matthias MAUERHOFER, de Berthoud (Berne) et Joyce Mary BARNES, de Londres—le 2 Nov. 1922.



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We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles G. Murbach, of 36, New River Crescent, Palmers Green, N.13. Mr. Murbach was well known in the embroidery trade, in which he represented a St. Gall manufacturer. For some time past Mr. Murbach had suffered from serious chest and throat trouble, and it was hoped that a stay in the Bündner Heilstätte, Arosa, might restore him to health. Unfortunately these hopes have not been fulfilled, and on the 8th November, at the early age of 36, Mr. Murbach died at Arosa, leaving a wife and two young children.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, Nov. 13th, at 8 p.m.—LECTURE, entitled "Rambles in Switzerland, France and Italy," with about 250 Lantern Views, by Mr. Georges C. Dimier in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Albert Road, ILFORD. Admission FREE.

Wednesday, Nov. 15th.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Council Meeting. A report on the "Fascist Movement"—at 74, Charlotte St., W.1. Friday, Nov. 17th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by T. G. Harper, M.A., on "Social Lessons, Old and New."

Friday, Nov. 17th, at 7.15.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Smoking Concert, preceded by Supper, at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, at 7.15 p.m.—Association of British Members of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB: Annual Dinner at Gatti's Restaurant.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Dance at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, S.W.1.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Concert and Dance at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. Friday, Nov. 24th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture in English by Dr. W. Wegelin on "Finance Reforms in Switzerland (incl. Capital Levy Initiative)"—at Central Hall, Westminster.

Friday, Dec. 1st.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at Prince's Restaurant.

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel.

Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at 3 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Concert at Steinway Hall.

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