

Letter box

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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. GROUPE LONDONIEN.

The big room of Pagani's was filled with about eighty members and friends on Friday, May 18th, when the N.S.H. gave its spring dinner there. A congenial atmosphere reigned throughout, towards which the different musical items with which the members of the Swiss Institute Orchestra brightened up the dinner contributed not a little. After the really wonderful menu which Pagani had prepared had reached its natural destination, Mr. J. Baer, the president, called upon Mr. Theo. Schaerer, the delegate of our Group to the Auslandschweizertag at the Basle Samples' Fair, to report on his impressions. Mr. Schaerer said that there was little left for him to say, as *The Swiss Observer* had already reported so fully on the matter. He thought Mr. Boehringer and Mr. Martin, of the Legation, deserved the heartiest thanks for having so perfectly organised this special trip to Basle. The Auslandschweizertag itself was a great success, and the mercurial Mr. Stucki was indefatigable in seeing to things. Professor Nabholz in his address having already given much praise to, and many details of the activities of, the London Group, Mr. Schaerer could only convey the greetings of the Group and express our satisfaction that the Central Committee was so fully informed of our doings. He added to that that it was mostly due to the enthusiasm and the devotion of our President that the Group could go on successfully. Mr. Baer was an optimist and an idealist—qualities which at the present moment are very scarce indeed. Mr. Schaerer also mentioned Mr. Suter's and Mr. Wuthrich's devotion to the cause.

Proceeding to the events of the Auslandschweizertag, Mr. Schaerer said that many delegates from abroad grasped the opportunity to utter complaints about grievances which were difficult to be righted. The Swiss Consul from Stuttgart, Mr. Suter, gave a most interesting lecture on the duty of the Swiss abroad towards their native country. Another item of discussion was the question of decorations, in which Mr. Schaerer participated. He pointed out the particular status of the Swiss abroad, who could not very well refuse decorations from the country in which they were residing. For Swiss at home the situation was quite different, and they certainly ought to insist on the strict enforcement of the law.

Mr. Schaerer paid special tribute to the address of National Councillor Micheli on how to preserve the national sentiment in Swiss children abroad. He added that Mr. Micheli hoped to come to London in the near future and to get into direct touch with the Group. The speech of Federal Councillor Motta was the greatest event of the evening. Perfect silence reigned when he delivered his words, imbued with the purest patriotism. One had the impression that so long as Switzerland has leaders of the force of character, the integrity and sincerity of Mr. Motta, who, without any doubt, realised to the full the responsibility of his position, the country will be well managed and looked after. It was of the utmost importance for the Auslandschweizer movement that we had the support of such eminent members of the Government at our gathering.

Mr. Schaerer added special words of thanks to the management of the Swiss Federal Railways, who had granted tickets at half-price, and to the people of Basle, who had in every way magnificently cared for the Swiss abroad who were their guests. He drew special attention to the picture museums of Basle, with their splendid opportunities. In conclusion, he asked the members present to drink the health of Mr. Motta and the Central Committee of the Auslandschweizertag.

Mr. Baer, in thanking Mr. Schaerer, pointed out that the London Group had sent the right man in Mr. Schaerer, but that they had also sent the wrong one, because he had spoken too well of the President of the Group. He wanted to say that if the Group had achieved anything, it was due only to the kind help and assistance the President had received from all the members.

A very nice programme had been compiled by the Entertainment Committee, whose members (Messrs. Kiefer, Neuschwander and Schmid) were afterwards thanked very heartily for their splendid preparation of the event. Messrs. Allen, Arber, Dick and Pellet and Mr. Graham Lancaster gave a number of instrumental pieces and songs, which greatly pleased the audience. Mr. Victor Neuschwander did some very amusing tricks with cards, which made one wonder no end at his cleverness.

It was altogether a very charming evening. Messrs. Pagani, of course, deserve extremely well of the Group, both for the richness of their menu and the service, which not only came up to, but passed beyond all expectations. Zic.

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LETTER BOX.

F. P. (Beira).—We thank you for your postcard, and have since received remittance for Frs. 12.—which will cover your subscription to end of March. Any time you feel inclined to write down your impressions or send some notes about the doings of the Swiss colony over there, we shall be delighted to publish same.

L. S.—We cannot very well, without her consent, disclose the identity of your fair correspondent, but we have sent your letter along to her, and trust that she will communicate with you.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

J. H. Ungricht (152), P. A. Chatelanat (150), Miss E. Egli (126), Swiss Mercantile Society (143), Th. Becker (112), Mrs. Smith (115), J. Ott (122), L. de Wytenbach (151), H. Jenne (148), Chas. Schupbach (110), A. Haller (150), P. Marti (151), T. Lunghi (124), Chas. Strubini (151), O. E. Spencer (150), A. Daeniker (126), Ch. Buzzi (151), F. Streit (126), Ch. Mottu (151), O. Uhlmann (112), Miss F. Wellauer (112), R. Weist (124), Miss E. Weidmann (115), A. Steiner (124), R. Rudin (128), A. Frick (155), F. Pfister (147).

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Dimanche, 27 Mai, 11h.—M. Bernard Terrisse, Missionnaire en partance. Collecte en faveur de la Mission Suisse Romande.

6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

BAPTEMES.

Lily Alma Rosa KRAMER, née le 21 Nov. 1920, et Freda Emily Irene KRAMER, née le 8 Août 1922, filles de Charles Kramer et d'Alice née Hawken, de Galmitz (Fribourg)—le 18 Mai 1923.

Hermann Desmond STRAUB, né le 28 Janv. 1923, fils de Hermann Straub et d'Ada Louise née Hopson, de Belp (Berne)—le 18 Mai 1923.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, May 26, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Friday, June 1st, at 5.30 p.m.—UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Gower Street, W.: Public Lecture by Dr. Paul Lang on "Carl Spitteler." In the Chair: The Swiss Minister.

Friday, June 1st, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture by Director H. Tobler on "Die Schulreform und die Landerziehungsheime."

Tuesday, June 12th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.

Friday, June 15th, from 5 till 10.30 p.m.—FÊTE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Westminster, W.

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