

Swiss Gymnastic Society

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1926)**

Heft 263

PDF erstellt am: **02.05.2024**

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in England comes to be written in about a century's time, this effort of Sir Henry Wood and his Orchestra will probably be regarded as one of the chief agents.

But in spite of the great output of music, and the reasonable charges, the enterprise would not succeed without a head—someone spectacular, indefatigable, and soundly *musicien*. In Sir Henry Wood the "Promenades" have all this, and more besides. I have known him for some months, but have never heard him utter a single word that was connected with music. He seems to me to be always concentrated upon his work, the professional, *par exemple*. He has also what the Americans call "an old-world air" which fits the position finely. Last week I saw Sir Henry lead upon the platform a British Ballad Singer, and he did it with such an air and a grace that one would have thought it was Patti herself. Personally, I rather like the old-fashioned habit of leading a lady on to the Concert Platform which still obtains in London. On my first visit here, being engaged to sing in one of London's enormous theatres, I had to take the arm of a fine great Bandmaster. His uniform, his figure and his medals were a source of great comfort to me in that nervous moment, so much so that I almost forgave him for the "Death-March-from-Saul" kind of tempo to which the stern and conscientious man pinned my poor trills and tried desperately to be gay!

To return to the Promenades. All kinds of artists are engaged. Some good, others—not so good. The persistent patron of the "Proms." must have heard all the artists resident in the country. And there are so many that it is difficult for newcomers, whoever they may be, to be heard. Indeed, I know a Swiss singer who has been unsuccessfully trying for nine whole months to obtain the favour of an audition from the august bodies who control the engagements. It would be invidious to mention a few names of Promenade artists, where so many are excellent, but I cannot finish this article without recalling that of the pianist, Orloff. His clarity, his light, quick touch, and the breath of humour and glory in his musical outlook, combine to make him an ideal exponent of a Mozart concerto. Then there is Hislop, with the shadows of great Opera Houses so obviously and delightfully mixed in his personality; and Austral, the soprano of the lovely notes, singing in no recognisable language.

But it is not the Artists who make the Promenades. It is, as I have said, that fierce spirit of organization and commerce that impels the English business man to work and work until he can produce something cheaper than anyone else. This is at the back of the success. And at the front of it, there is of course Sir Henry Wood. Sir Henry, who rehearses and conducts more concerts than any other man in his position; and who yet has time to bring his creative ability in music to re-score various classics for modern purposes; who has a heart big enough to help and encourage new-comers; and who, for his holidays, goes and conducts more concerts in California! Indeed, when one says "Promenade," the word is in itself a toast to Sir Henry!

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

A special General Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 25th, at 1, Gerrard Place, W., with a view to discussing and reaching a decision regarding the purchase of an 8½ years' lease of Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, W., offered to the Society on very favourable conditions by its Trustees.

The President, Mr. A. C. Stahelin, opened the Meeting at 9 p.m. by laying before the Members all the facts which recommended to the Committee the advisability of giving this proposition their serious consideration. The chief one was, that owing to the popularity of the Day School, which is now in its 4th year, having continually increased, i.e. the daily attendance amounting now to over 150, the accommodation at 1 & 2, Henrietta Street has become too small, and therefore, larger premises have to be found, as the Society do not wish to limit the number of students. For several months past the Committee have endeavoured to find better accommodation, and this offer was, in every way, the most favourable they had received.

The Swiss House consists of numerous and spacious rooms. After placing sufficient of them at the disposal of the School, there still remains others which can be used as Offices, Club and Reading Rooms for the benefit of the whole Society, whilst also all Meetings can be held there.

After a lengthy debate which, however, was throughout in favour of the idea, the Meeting unanimously decided to authorise the Committee to effect the purchase, firstly, for the purpose of furthering the S.M.S.'s Educational Activities, and secondly, to make use of the said premises for the business and social purposes of the Society. O.A.J.

There is an old saying that "All the world loves a wedding," and no exception was proved to this rule when, on Friday the 3rd inst., the Committee and students of the S.M.S.'s School, together with their friends, enjoyed a Soirée at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W., to celebrate the marriage of Miss Mann and Mr. Masterman Smith, teachers at the Day School, which happy event took place some little time ago.

After the supper Mr. A. C. Stahelin, the President, addressed a few very appropriate words to the gathering and presented to the happy bridal couple a Silver Tray from the Educational Committee, intended to express the appreciation felt for their valuable services in the Day School and the warm wishes and congratulations of the whole Society for their future happy life together. Then both Mr. and Mrs. Smith were toasted in true matrimonial fashion.

Mr. Masterman Smith, in his reply, intimated his thanks and incidentally his happiness, and dwelt on his work and interest in the school. Space was then quickly cleared for those who were eager to give vent to their feelings by dancing on this happy occasion. For all the music and singing entertainment those present were indebted to the kind endeavours of the Students, who contributed in a true hearty Swiss manner, and their musical efforts were very much appreciated.

Well, it would be a good thing if the bonds of matrimony appealed to a few more in the Swiss Colony, and each time such jolly evenings were to be shared and enjoyed. A.J.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. Wilhelm Lanz, Berne: "Bookkeeping in a Factory." Miss Martha Schoch, Zurich: "Welcome for Mr. Masterman." Mr. Max Roessler, Rorschach: "A few reflections on the possibility of a new European war." Mr. Robert Eibel, Zurich: "Siteraria, A.G., U.S.A." Miss Bertha Meyer, Lotzwil: "A simple Fairy Tale." Mr. Heinrich Zublin, Glarus: "Travelling." Mr. Emil Fais, Bern: "Market, Exchange, Fairs-Exhibition." Mr. Gottlieb Mosimann, Blankenburg: "Alsace-Lorraine." Mr. Robert Eibel, Zurich: "Salt." Mr. Fernand Boss, Bienne: "Aviation." Miss Anny Aeberhard: "Why I like to be a girl." Miss Frieda Rihs: "Swiss National Costumes."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Has the League of Nations justified its existence?" Proposer, Mr. Paul Haenly, Koelliken; Opposer, Mr. W. Lanz, Berne.

"Which is preferable: Mixed or separated Education?" Proposer, Mr. R. R. Riethmann, Zollikon; Opposer, Mr. Willy Kern, Berne.

"Is Cinema an art?" Proposer, Mr. Olivero; Opposer, Mr. Eibel.

SWISS GYMNASIUM SOCIETY.

JUNIOR SECTION.

There is nothing better for cultivating a healthy body and mind in our youngsters, than an hour's physical drill and exercises under expert tuition and personal supervision. This is offered by the newly formed junior section of the Swiss Gymnasium Society, which meets every Sunday morning at 10.30 in the gymnasium at 74, Charlotte Street, W. 1. Any boy from 11 upwards may join; there are no fees, the only conditions being punctual attendance and submission to the necessary discipline.

Swiss Girls and the July Examination.

We notice with pleasure in the list just issued by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board the name of Dorothea Pfirter who obtained a higher certificate with distinction in French. We extend our congratulations to the proud father, Mr. H. Pfirter, all the more as his younger daughter, Hilda, also successfully passed the matriculation examination last July.

The Swiss Yodlers

(Treble Quartette) are coming!

Please reserve the
22nd October, Union Helvetia Club,
 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.
23rd October, Wigmore Hall,
 36, Wigmore Street, W.1.
24th October, Swiss Club, 'Schweizerbund',
 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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Dimanche, 12 Septembre 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
 "Venez, car tout est prêt."—Luc 14-17.

Dimanche, 19 Septembre—Jeune Fédérale. Services spéciaux matin et soir, suivis de Ste. Cène.

N.B.—Les cultes du soir reprendront régulièrement à partir du 19 ct.

BAPTEME

Evelyn Marguerite SCHAEFFELBAUM, née le 25 Mai, 1926, fille de Henri et de Clara née Baerlocher, de St. Gall—le 8 Août, 1926.

MARIAGE.

Adolphe BAECHLER, de Kreuzlingen (Thurgovie) et Lilian Rose COOCH, de Burnham—le 21 Août, 1926.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 12. September.—Gottesdienst.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 in der Kirche.
 Mittwoch 3-5 im 'Foyer Suisse.'

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc. an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, September 19th, at 3.30.—SWISS Y.M.C.A.: Celebration of the Eidg. Dank-, Buss & Bettag, at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting) Shooting Practice at the Range, Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp). Lunch provided on Sundays.