

Swiss Mercantile Society

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"A GOOD SPORT."

"Two voices are there—one is of the sea,
One of the mountains—each a mighty voice."

Wordsworth.

"Kiburg's" reference to the Swiss Navy, and its reminder of that phantasmal figure so dear to the hearts of English humorists, "The Swiss Admiral," prompts me to mention a son of Switzerland, not unfitted, according to the account I had of him, to fill that position.

About six years ago an English friend of ours, an artist in whom the spirit of wanderlust is strongly developed, turned up at our home with no other luggage than a sombrero and a pair of seaman's dungarees. He had walked in the South of France, in Spain, and had finished up by signing on at Marseilles on a ship that plied between the French and the African coasts with cargoes of fertilisers.

The crew of the vessel was mixed; there were Scandinavians, Maltese and Greeks, our English friend and a Swiss, one Gerber (we never learned his Christian name), from Bern. "The best sailor and the best man on the ship," said our friend, as he told us of his Swiss shipmate. Neither wild nor dissipated himself, Gerber had a fund of tolerance for all his mates, the shady characters, scallywags and wastrels. He found room in his scheme of life for all of them, and by his manner of treating them, left them a little better than he found them.

"There was one slimy fellow," our friend said, "I wouldn't have trusted him a yard. When we were in port Gerber sent him to buy a mattress for him. I looked at Gerber dubiously as I saw that furtive chap pocket the purchase money for the mattress, and stroll away down a Marseilles street lined with drink-shops." "He'll come back," said Gerber quietly. And Gerber was right. To be trusted had been good for that weak character, who invited suspicion and knew it. All the rest of the journey Gerber could do anything with him.

And Gerber was a good sailor, too, quiet and handy at all things, taking the weight of the heavy labour, when he worked with a man weaker than himself, continually giving me, the amateur seaman, little tips that made things easier. I asked him once why he left the good Swiss countryside and the farm on which he was bred, for the hard and uncertain life of the sea. "Well, my people are good people, not rich, but they have enough, and I know they would be glad to have me home. But the sea—is good sport—I must have sport!"

Was it danger, adventure, he meant?

I know that G—, our friend, the artist, who also has tasted of that same "sport" that lies in an uncertain and adventurous life, will honour the memory of his Swiss shipmate always. The last words he said of him to my husband were, "He was a fine chap, your compatriot. And he sang a good song, too. He taught me another version of 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor.' It goes . . ."

HELEN EGLI.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The committee of the city swiss club has decided to have the proceedings at the monthly meetings more fully reported in the hope that such reports will interest members and encourage them to attend the meetings in ever increasing numbers

It has therefore appointed a special reporter whose duty it will be within the limits of the patience of the Editor and the exigencies of space to comment from time to time in the columns of the swiss observer on current topics pertaining to the social moral and other activities of the club. The committee has not been induced to make this appointment the holder of which in order that he may be free and untrammelled by any restriction will not be a member of the committee by any back thought that the attendance of members at the meetings of the club is not satisfactory

Such a thing is of course outside the bounds of contemplation but it has been inspired by a wish to keep those members who are prevented by illness or the importance of public or private obligations from otherwise being present in touch with what has taken place at the meetings

In making this appointment the committee might have chosen some celebrity such as the chief character in a celebrated cause and this might have proved a success for one might have been chosen who could equally well have described the various incidents of the swiss sports or descanted delightfully on the dresses at the summer meetings or it might have asked an eminent author who would naturally have refused but it preferred to appoint one unknown to journalism free from professionalism ignorant of the art of writing but who in order to fit himself for the proper performance of his arduous duties has recently been submitted to a course of modern literature with the disastrous result as will be seen from this article that he is suffering from an attack of indigestion caused by an unsuccessful attempt to assimilate james joyce. We are further interested to hear that the committee is employing the force of the concentrated essence of its united brain power to devise new attractions which will make the summer meetings at hendon an outstanding event in the social amenities of the swiss colony.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Miss G. Frey, Lucerne: "Business Letters." Miss E. Keller, Zurich: "My First Impressions of England." W. F. Scotoni, Zurich: "Socialism." H. Hintermeister, Winterthur: "Petticoat Lane." R. Honberger, Richterswil: "By Car Round the Mediterranean." L. Bacileri, Locarno: "Mussolini." Miss E. Weimann, Herrliberg-Zurich: "Lying." F. A. Mermod, Ste. Croix: "Injuries Caused by Electricity." H. Weimann, Zurich: "Channel Tunnel" and "Advertising." H. Dippel, Kreuzlingen: "Outline of a Nature Cure." H. Schiesser, Aarau: "Lago Maggiore." E. Keel, Vernayaz-Valais: "Electrification of Swiss Federal Railways." R. Luetzelmann, Basle: "Paris." H. Winkler, Turbenthal: "Two Days in a Monastery." B. Viret, Lausanne: "English Customs." K. Isler, Schaffhausen: "Lancashire's Cotton Industry."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in favour of Casino Games in Switzerland?" Proposer, A. Kohler; Opposer: F. Ferraris.

Friday: A lecture was given by H. Elford Gulley, Esq. on: "Here and there in the United States of America."

Saturday: Visit to the Science Museum, South Kensington.

SWISS CLUB, BIRMINGHAM.

The Swiss Club Birmingham held its Annual General Meeting at the Grand Hotel, Comore Row, Birmingham on Thursday, April 11th. The accounts for the past year of the Relief and the Social Society were presented, approved and entered on th Minutes. In spite of the long and continued assistance rendered to an old compatriot who is unable to work, the accounts of the Relief Society show a substantial increase, whilst those of the Social Society close with a small deficit.

The Officers of the retiring Committee, most of whom have held office for a number of years, to the great benefit of the Club and the entire satisfaction of the members, expressed a definite wish to be relieved of their duties, and as they could not be prevailed upon to reconsider their decision the new Committee was elected, as follows:—Mr. P. Brun, *President*; Mr. C. Kunzle, *Vice-President*; Mr. H. Gatticker, *Secretary*; Mr. H. Schenkel, *Treasurer*; Mr. E. Brunner, *Relief Officer*; and Messrs. C. J. Reinhart and R. Schenkel were re-elected Trustees. A donation to the Tir Federal in Bellinzona was also voted from the Social Club funds.

At the same time the merits of the *Swiss Observer* were brought to the notice of the members and a special appeal was made to them to assist in its aim and support its endeavours, which met with a satisfactory response as quite a number expressed a desire to become subscribers of the paper.

It ought to be pointed out that the principal object of the Swiss Club Birmingham, which, unfortunately, has only a small membership, is the relief of and assistance to poor and deserving compatriots and charitable institutions, whilst the social side is provided for by monthly meetings, which are held on the second Thursday in the month at half past seven at the Grand Hotel, Corporation Street, to which our compatriots who may be visiting Birmingham are heartily welcome.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. F. Beck from Zurich, a young member of the Swiss Colony. Mr. Beck, who was 24 years of age, had been employed with Messrs. Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd. in Farringdon Street. He was seized with heart failure when attending a staff dance about a week ago, and died shortly afterwards. The cremation took place on Wednesday last at Golders Green Crematorium, the Rev. Pfarrer Hahn officiating. The Swiss Mercantile Society, of which deceased had been a member, was represented by a Committee member, whilst his employers had delegated one of his colleagues, Mr. King, to attend. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the father, who had to come to London on such a sad mission, and to his family.

J.H.B.

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at every meal—for Health!

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M. T. NEWMAN

(25 years a member of the Swiss Merc. Soc.)

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SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital - - £6,400,000

Reserves - - £1,960,000

The WEST END BRANCH
opens Savings Bank Accounts on
which interest will be credited
at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

Swiss Rifle Association

Headquarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1
Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

Shooting Practice

AT THE RANGE

EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Luncheons and Teas provided for on Sundays.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),
(Langue française.)

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.3.

Dimanche, 21. Avril 11h.: "Malentendus d'aujourd'hui"
(Luc XII. 19-20. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30: XXVI. Etude sur St. Paul: l'Eptre à Philémon.

Dimanche, 5 Mai: "150e Sermon de Charité."

Collecte spéciale en faveur du Fonds de Secours.

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
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 21. April, 1929.—11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst u. Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Chorprobe.

KREMIERT wurde am 17. April: Friedrich Jakob BECK, von Zürich, geb. am 1. September 1904; gestorben am 11. April 1929.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche
Mittwoch, 4-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen, etc. erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane. Telephone: Chiswick 4156.

DEUTSCHE KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE,

47, Adler Street, Commercial Rd. E.1.

Sonntag, den 14 April, morgens hl.—Messen um 9 Uhr, 10 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Deutsche Predigt um 9 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Abendgottesdienst um 7 Uhr mit deutscher Predigt.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, April 18th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Concert at Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, W.1.

Thursday, April 25th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Serata Familiare (Dinner and Ball) at 74, Charlotte St., W.1.

Friday, May 3rd, at 6.30 p.m.—FAREWELL DINNER followed by a Presentation, to Monsieur F. J. Borsinger, Counsellor of Legation, at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.

Saturday, May 25th, at 2.30.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon.

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