

An old Swiss custom

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FOOTBALL. "SWISS CUP" SECOND ROUND.

The 16 matches fixed for the 1st November led to definite results, with the exception of Fribourg-Monthey, postponed, and Basel v. Lugano 3 : 3. Lugano, the Cupholders, were leading 3 : 0 at half-time, but fell away later. Basel's new centreforward, Haftl (imported from Austria) proved a valuable acquisition. Next week a new (foreign made) centrehalf is expected to strengthen further Basel's team, now languishing at the bottom of the League table. Tempora mutantur.

The usual surprise-results were not wanting, Blue Stars, about the one and only team 100% Swiss, beating the National League Groupe I leaders Zürich 2 : 0, Servette, last in Groupe 2, conquering the leading club Aarau 4 : 1 and Bellinzona eliminating Concordia, (conquerors of St. Gall in the first round) by 3 : 0.

To prove the superiority of the National League: Chaux-de-Fonds v. Stade Lausanne 17 : 2 (3), Gloria le Locle v. Urania 2 : 10, Sparta Schaffhausen v. Grasshoppers 1 : 10, Old Boys v. Chiasso 4 : 1, and Winterthur v. Young Fellows 2 : 3.

The remaining fixtures ended as follows:—Lenzburg v. Kickers 0 : 9, Wohlen v. Brühl 1 : 2, Forward Morges v. Lausanne 1 : 6, Olten v. Young Boys 0 : 1, Racing Lausanne v. Biel 2 : 3, Le Locle v. Cantonal 1 : 3.

There are now left in the Competition 11 Clubs of the National League, 3 of League 1 and 2 of League II. We hope to publish the draw for the 3rd Round in our next issue.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor Swiss Observer.

Dear Sir,
Having regard to the contents of your report on "The Studienreise" in your issue of October 10th and a subsequent reference to same on October 24th, I wish it to be clearly understood that the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund," who accommodated the visitors on that occasion, had nothing whatever to do with the arrangements or entertainment of the party.—

At the same time I should like to inform the readers, that a famous "Hungarian Band" has been engaged for Sunday, November 8th, for a Concert and Dance (commencing at 8 p.m. sharp) to be held in place of the advertised "Joddlers' Concert," which had, owing to unforeseen circumstances, had to be cancelled.

The annual "Hospital Benefit Concert and Dance" has been fixed for Sunday, November 22nd, at 8 p.m.

*The Secretary.
Schweizerbund (Swiss Club).*

We gladly insert this letter, in order to clear up any misunderstanding, as we were, of course, quite aware that the arrangements for the evening in question, were not made by the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund).

The Ed.

AN OLD SWISS CUSTOM.

Tourists travelling in Switzerland have surely been attracted by the pretty wooden chalets and huts on the mountains. They are built on very steep slopes and you can't help wondering how people managed to get the timber up there, especially for the Alpine huts on Alpine pastures high above the woods where no tree is growing any more.

If you enquire or look up old chronicles you will see, that in these districts very few beasts of burden are kept because driving is impossible. Therefore customs were established which have been kept up for centuries and show the fine character of the mountaineers.

For instance, in the district of Abelboden, a well-known mountain station for summer and winter sport an old tradition of the so-called "timber carrying" is still kept up. If a mountaineer wants to build a hut, he gets all the timber ready, piles it up near a wood and if it is possible he leaves it there for a time to be dried. Then he invites all the younger fellows from his village to a timber festival which has to take place on a Saturday.

Four to five men form a group, each group carries the burden a few hundred yards, where, without putting it down, it is loaded on the following group. Even the heaviest beams are carried. The strongest men stand on the most difficult passages. Boys and girls bring refreshments to the voluntary porters who are glad to eat something before taking up the new burden. Only twice they are allowing themselves a short rest to take a simple meal of bread and cheese. When the distances are very long and difficult the hut builder uses about sixty men, for all the timber has to be carried to the building yard on the same day. On that day all the men are the guests of the builder. They don't want to accept money. That fine act is celebrated until late at night. They sit together relate interesting stories play games and enjoy a good drink.

Berne.

E. Dachsell.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS (Continued).

It's funny rather getting excited over Cornwall and our lovely holidays down there and then to turn a knob on our wireless and suddenly hear the Konkordia Gesangverein Berne sing the Beresina Lied by Volkmar Andree and to find out that the Berne studio is broadcasting an hour's music for the Swiss Abroad!

"In unsenen ewigen Bergen"!

Who does not know that wonderful song? Whose feelings so dulled, that the stirring, almost beseeching melody of that song could not touch his heart and make him yearn to be Home Again?

I must confess there is hardly a Swiss Song which has such a tremendous pull on my feelings as that song of our eternal mountains, and there was a distinct uneasy feeling in my throat as I sat at home, listening in to that beautiful, passionate Swiss air.

After all, the homeland is for each of us the land in which we first saw the light of day and that is, I think, why we feel that unutterable, passionate and bitter-sweet longing in our heart whenever we hear those songs of our homeland.

It was a very happy thought of Berne to give us that lovely Concert, even if it had to include that Swiss symphony without which it would have been even better. Not that I am criticising that symphony, but because we Swiss abroad want to hear our Folk-Songs and nothing else, when we want to be "at home" for once. In that respect we are quite different from our compatriots at home, who, it may be surmised, would prefer sometimes, to hear airs of other countries, as a contrast. Hear, Hear, Mr. ST.!

By the way, just one thought which may make some of you think:

Just because the homeland of each of us is the land in which we were born, do I think that Children born abroad ought to be allowed, even encouraged, to become citizens of the country in which they were born and in which they have grown up.—My contribution to the Nationality question!

MRS. T. MAESTRANI. †

It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the death at her residence, No. 22, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, of Mrs. Teresa Maestrani, the widow of Mr. Carlo Maestrani, the founder of the well-known café and restaurant which bears his name. Mrs. Maestrani passed peacefully away, at the age of 81 years, on Wednesday evening, 21st October, after an illness extending over some months.

Mrs. Maestrani has been a resident of Folkestone for fifty years and therefore had seen a good deal of the development of modern Folkestone. She and her husband came from Rochester in 1881, and they opened a restaurant in South Street, and some years later moved to Sandgate Road, where they opened a commodious café and restaurant. Mr. Carlo Maestrani died in 1902. During the whole of her residence in Folkestone Mrs. Maestrani has been connected with the Roman Catholic Church.

With the one surviving son and two daughters of Mrs. Maestrani and other members of the family, the deepest sympathy will be felt in their sad bereavement.

The interment took place in the family vault at Aquila, Switzerland, on Monday the 2nd of November.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, November 11th, at 8.30 p.m.—Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd.: Monthly Meeting, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, November 20th—City Swiss Club—Annual Banquet and Ball, at May Fair Hotel, Berkely Square, W.1.

Saturday, December 5th—3rd Grand Swiss Bazaar at 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.—Wide range of suitable Xmas presents.

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6.30.—M. M. Pradervand.

7.30.—Répétition du chœur.

Mardi 10 Novembre—réunion de Couture.

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

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 8. November 1931.

11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorpöbe.

Am Sonntag, den 15. November wird Herr Bishop H. Bury, D.D., Assistant Bishop of London die Fröhpredigt halten, wozu die Kirchenpflege herzlich einlädt.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmanden-unterricht und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde. C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Tel: Chiswick 4156).

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