

The editor's post-bag

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Home News—(Continued)**SOLOTHURN.**

The shoe manufacturing firm of Hug & Co. in Herzogenbuchsee intends to move their works into the canton of Solothurn owing to the excessive taxation by the Bernese income tax authorities. *B.*

FRIBOURG.

M. G. de Reynold, Professor of History at the University of Berne, has been appointed to the same position at the University of Fribourg.

GENEVA.

The judicial authorities have opened an inquiry at Confignon, in consequence of repeated complaints received from various parents, that their children have suffered excessive punishment from one of the teachers. It is alleged that on different occasions pupils of this school have been thrown into a fountain in the playground, and that they have been pricked with needles. A medical examination has proved that one boy was covered by numerous pin pricks. *J.G.*

Doctor M. Bourcart, the well-known gynaecologist, has died at Geneva at the age of 67.

Mlle. Fanny Guillermet, a noted writer and widely read in the French part of Switzerland, has succumbed to an attack of influenza. *T.G.*

NEUCHÂTEL.

M. A. Clottu, member of the Conseil d'Etat, has tendered his resignation as President of the cantonal Liberal Association for reasons of health. M. Clottu occupied this responsible position for over 13 years.

THURGAU.

The Unemployment figures at the end of last December are as follows: Totally unemployed: 835, partially unemployed: 3000 persons. *N.Z.Z.*

VALAIS.

One girl was killed and two severely injured when a landslide took place between Bitsch and Morel. *N.Z.*

VAUD.

M. A. Monnier, a former President of the Federal Tribunal, has died at Lausanne at the age of 84.

Mr. Alfred Galland, British Consul at Lausanne, celebrated last week his seventieth birthday and his forty-fourth year as Consul. *T.G.* whilst Marshall, an inhabitant of Geneva, was found dead. *N.Z.*

ST. MORITZ.

Four members of a ski excursion on the Piz Nair have been overtaken by an avalanche. Three persons were rescued by another party.

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**

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

A. Witschard, "Colours and Styles." V. Steger (Miss), "Alice in Wonderland." E. Hug, "Bee Culture." O. Benz, "English People." H. Kubly, "Equal Work, equal Pay." H. Roth, "Cheese." A. Moeri, "Anzio." G. Pfeiffer (Miss), "English Operettas and the Geisha." W. Tanner, "An Accident on the Mountains."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in favour of a Channel Tunnel?" Proposer: P. Bertschmann. Opposer: E. Hug.

On Friday evening last, January 23rd, the students had a very enjoyable and instructive lecture from Mr. W. H. Jackson on "The Romance of the London Docks." Mrs. Paull who introduced the lecturer, told the audience that Mr. Jackson was in business with a firm of ship-repairers who had docks right along the River Thames and thus the lecturer had very intimate and special knowledge of his subject. Mr. Jackson gave a short historical survey of the growth of London as a port, tracing its rise in pre-Roman days, to its position at the present day, and showing its growth from a very small centre of trade, to its position as the premier port of the world. We realised from the many lantern slides Mr. Jackson showed, what a tremendous concern the Port of London is, how many ships come in, are fitted up, and repaired, and what tremendous stocks of almost every commodity they bring to London for world-wide distribution.

The lecturer was loudly cheered, and the vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Paull, heartily seconded by Mr. Kubli, one of the students present.

Afterwards the students listened to a very enjoyable concert, at which Mrs. Paull and her visitor, Mrs. Avger, sang solos and duets, while students, including Mr. Seiler and Mr. Rosenberger, also added to the enjoyment by recitals and violin solos.

On Saturday morning about 100 students went with Mrs. Paull to visit the Tower of London. The weather was beautiful and all parts of this historic building were visited and described in full, if somewhat rapid English, by one of the "Beefeaters."

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

In the *Swiss Observer* of the 17th January the Society made an announcement of a Concert to be given at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, on Thursday the 19th of February, and made an earnest appeal for support.

We feel sure that readers will be interested to know that the arrangements for the Concert are rapidly approaching completion. The Orchestra is endeavouring to live up to the high standard set at the last Concert and has accordingly secured the services of two well-known Concert artists of outstanding merit in Miss Olivia Hilder, soprano, and Mr. George Owen, tenor.

Tickets and programmes will be available in the course of the next few days, and the members of the Orchestra wish again to express their desire that readers of the *Swiss Observer* will give their support in connection with this ambitious venture.

Once more—the date—February 19th, the place—Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., W.6. To the Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

Dear Sir.—After reading H. Sch's letter, one is bound to confess there is some truth in what he contends. On the other hand, he seems to swing to the opposite extreme to that of the City Swiss Club. One apparently indulges in extravagant social functions, whilst the other would almost abandon them.

The pride of the Swiss people lies in their democratic spirit, yet the City Swiss Club must adopt the rendezvous of princes, dukes and millionaires, instead of a more democratic resort.

Knowing that business is bad, one would have thought that members of the City Swiss Club, realising this, would have held their functions at a less expensive but no less satisfactory meeting place. Also they might have thought of their numerous compatriots engaged in the restaurant trade, and reasoned that business must be bad for them too. By holding their social functions at a house belonging to one of their own nation, they would be helping to brighten up things for some Swiss.

To argue that because business is bad, people should not spend money on banquets and dances, shows little consideration for those in the catering and restaurant lines which depend largely on these functions for their trade. The reduction of these banquets would mean less business and, instead of helping to improve economic conditions, it would tend to make them worse.

Again these affairs give an opportunity for meeting on a basis other than that of business. Also, they are very often the means of raising funds for the benefit of the needy.

To me it appears that the solution lies in a compromise: a compromise between the ideas of the City Swiss Club and those of your correspondent.

Yours,

G. A. NOTARI.

P.S.—Since "ck" is "always willing to help and give advice on any subject," ranging from domestic science to beauty culture, may I suggest he offers his solution! *G.A.N.*

UP-TO-DATE EPISTLES.

We are indebted to a subscriber for the following amusing examples of present-day correspondence:—

Dear Sir,

For the following reason I regret I cannot send you a cheque.

I have been held up, held down, sand-bagged, walked upon, sat upon, flattened out and squeezed by the Income Tax, the Super Tax, the tobacco tax, the beer tax, the spirits tax, the motor tax, and by every society, organization and club that the inventive mind of man can think of to extract what I may or may not have in my possession for the Red Cross, the Black Cross, the Iron Cross, the Double Cross and every Hospital in town and country.

The Government has governed my business till I do not know who owns it. I am inspected, suspected, examined and re-examined, required and commanded, so that I do not know who I am, where I am or why the Hell I am here at all.

All I know is that I am supposed to be an inexhaustible supply of money for every need, desire or hope of the human race, and because I will not go out and beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed, discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked at, lied to, lied about, held up, rung up, robbed and damn near ruined.

The only reason I cling to life is to see what the Hell is going to happen next.

D. AMBROKE.

TEN YEARS.

A brief summary of the more important happenings in the Swiss Colony reported in our columns during the period 1920—1930.

(Continued.)

Issue No. 409 (August 24th, 1929).

Four hundred Swiss Boy Scouts arrive in England for the World Jamboree at Arrowe Park.

Issue No. 410 (August 31st, 1929).

Death of Mr. Adolphe Hoegger.

Issue No. 418 (October 26th, 1929).

Swiss Mercantile Society: Introduction of Mr. Levy, the new Head Master of the S.M.S. School.

Helvetica Lodge: Ladies' Festival at the Café Royal. In the Chair: Mr. R. Marchand.

Issue No. 420 (November 9th, 1929).

Death of Mr. John George Sigg.

Issue No. 421 (November 16th, 1929).

Swiss Choral Society: Annual Banquet and Ball at First Avenue Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. E. Bommer. Principal guest: Monsieur de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation.

Recital by Mme. Sophie Wyss at the Grottrian Hall.

Issue No. 422 (November 23rd, 1929).

Union Helvetia: Annual Banquet and Ball at 1, Gerrard Place, W. In the Chair: Mr. A. Indermaur. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 423 (November 30th, 1929).

City Swiss Club: Annual Banquet and Ball at Hotel Victoria. In the Chair: Mr. E. Werner, President. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 425 (December 14th, 1929).

Swiss Rifle Association: Annual Banquet at 1, Gerrard Place, W. In the Chair: Mr. Alfred Schmid. Principal guest: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 426 (December 21st, 1929).

L'Escalade: Dinner at Pagani's Restaurant. In the Chair: Mr. de Cintra.

Issue No. 427 (December 28th, 1929).

Swiss Mercantile Society: Students' Xmas Dinner at the First Avenue Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. M. Paschoud, President of Swiss Mercantile Society.

Issue No. 428 (January 4th, 1930).

Foyer Suisse: Reunion of the old people of the Colony at Upper Bedford Street. In the Chair: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Issue No. 430 (January 8th, 1930).

Fire at L'Eglise Suisse.

Death of Mr. O. J. Walser.

Issue No. 431 (January 25th, 1930).

Death of Mr. Peter Stoeri, well-known member of the Swiss Colony.

Issue No. 433 (February 8th, 1930).

Swiss Mercantile Society: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel. In the Chair: Mr. M. Paschoud. Principal guests: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister, Monsieur de Sonnenberg, Councillor of Legation, Monsieur de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation, Monsieur Clement Rezzonico, Head of the Commercial Division, and Monsieur P. Hilfiker, Chancellor of Legation.

Issue No. 435 (February 22nd, 1930).

City Swiss Club: Dinner in honour of Monsieur G. Motta, Federal Councillor, at the May Fair Hotel. In the Chair: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

Swiss Mercantile Society: Visit of Federal Councillor G. Motta to the Swiss Mercantile School.

Issue No. 436 (March 1st, 1930).

Death of M. François Henri Besson of the Swiss Bank Corporation.

Issue No. 438 (March 15th, 1930).

Mr. Charles Studer wins 2nd prize in the "Mincing Lane Commercial Sale Rooms Billiard Championship."

Liverpool Swiss Club: Annual Dinner at the Bear's Paw. Principal guests: Dr. Schedler, Swiss Consul at Manchester, and Mr. Montag, Swiss Consul at Liverpool.

Issue No. 439 (March 22nd, 1930).

Unione Ticinese: Annual Banquet and Ball at Restaurant Monaco. In the Chair: Mr. W. Notari. Principal guest: Monsieur Clement Rezzonico, Secretary of Legation.

Union Helvetia, Glasgow: "Surchrut Abig." Principal guest: Monsieur Max Graf, Swiss Consul at Glasgow.

(To be continued.)

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