

Association of British members of the Swiss Alpine Club

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branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying: Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest."

"And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the City was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said: This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

It is the story of advent, which we again find in the Scriptures of Christ's Passion.

The preacher opens by referring to this being the first Sunday in the new Church Year and returns thanks to God for the countless blessings and favours received during the past.

Then he fastens on to the great sentence from his Text:—"Thy King cometh unto thee" and most beautifully elaborates its meaning. He reminds his hearers especially that this King is one Eternal, who was, is and will be; a King everlasting.

But we are also reminded that this King, bountiful though He is, requires the submission and co-operation of His subjects, if they are to share to the full that which He offers them. And the same guidance on the one hand, and response on the other, must exist also between the Pastor and his flock, if the work of the Church and the Parish are to be fruitful and blessed with the Heavenly spirit.

The preacher then dwells on God's infinite compassion and instils upon his congregation that only those can aspire to the Kingdom of the Lord, who retain the meekness and trust of those little one's, of whom Christ said, that theirs truly was that Kingdom. Finally Pastor Hahn brings home to us the duties we owe to God, to each other and to ourselves and enjoins the congregation to remain faithful to our Church and to give every support to his successor.

The congregation is deeply moved by this inspiring farewell message, this powerful sermon, delivered with a striking conviction; for, did not the preacher tell us in the course of his delivery, how—in spite of many difficulties—he loved his great work and that, if he had to make his choice afresh, he would not hesitate one moment, but embrace again the ministry of Christ.

Another hymn followed and then Pastor Hahn, who has descended from the pulpit, addresses the congregation once more, from the lectern. First, in English, for the benefit of his many friends who might not understand either of our national languages and afterwards in Italian, to say a few words of farewell to our compatriots from the sunny Ticino. He thanks every one for the love and trust that have been extended to him from all sections of the Swiss Colony in London—comprising all denominations—and asks forgiveness of those whom he might have misunderstood or offended at any time. No man—and certainly no one of his calling—can please, or agree with, every one at all times, if he wishes to be true and faithful to his convictions.

The speaker is deeply grateful for all the prayers, which he knows will accompany him and his wife to their new destination and in their new work and hopes that the affectionate contact between the Parishioners and them will not be broken by their departure.

A beautiful special prayer, the Benediction and a last hymn bring this momentous and beautiful service to a close and to the mighty strains of the organ the large congregation files slowly out into the winter sunshine. Beneath the porch each one shakes hands once more with their beloved Pastor and Mme. Hahn, who have a last few kindly words of farewell for young and old.

This farewell service, however, will always be a treasured memory, that will never fade, to all who have attended it.

God's blessings on our departing friends.

GALLUS.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB ANNUAL DINNER.

At the Hotel Great Central, on Wednesday,
November 23rd, 1938.

The Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club held its Annual Dinner at the Hotel Great Central, on Wednesday, November 23rd, the President, Mr. C. T. Lehmann, being in the Chair. Owing to illness and a number of members being now engaged in Voluntary Aid Service, the attendance was not as large as usual, but perhaps this only made for a greater intimacy and freedom, and certainly no gathering could have been in a more convivial mood than that which sat down at 7.45 to the excellent dinner prepared by the hotel, in the Regent Suite.

The Swiss Minister, Mr. Paravicini, being away for a well-earned rest, his place was taken by Mous. Charles de Jenner, whose reply to the toast of the Swiss Confederation showed that in the two years since last he had spoken at this dinner his knowledge of English has grown to the point of perfection, and his understanding of the English mentality to making it possible for him to prepare a speech that went straight to the hearts of those who heard him.

Brig-Gen. Bruce was in his usual happy vein in proposing the Alpine Club and Kindred Societies, among which he reminded us that we must not forget the Himalayan and American Climbing Clubs. And to hear the reply by Sir Claude Schuster, President of the Alpine Club, was like watching a pretty piece of passing by two Rugby threequarters.

Mr. E. S. Herbert, Secretary of the Alpine Club, in proposing the health of the Guests, reminded Dr. Burgin, the Minister of Transport, who was the principal guest, that years ago he had sat at his feet learning the rudiments of legal lore, and that the admiration he conceived for him then was in no way diminished by the fact that nowadays he so often had to cross swords with him in his professional career.

Dr. Burgin, who was educated in Lausanne and speaks French and German fluently, gave us an admirable demonstration of how one can reply to a speech of this description, and was certainly at his best.

The toast of the Association was proposed by Gen- Sir George McMunn and replied to by the President, who gave a brief account of the year's activities and at the same time reminded his hearers that 30 years ago the Association set out with certain aims, chief of which was to induce British climbers to become members of the Swiss Alpine Club and thus to show that they were not only learning to know the Alps but also learning to appreciate the many virtues of the Swiss people, and contrasted the general welcome now accorded to all English visitors to Switzerland with the enthusiastic but perhaps limited reception given to a few eminent Alpinists in the earlier days.

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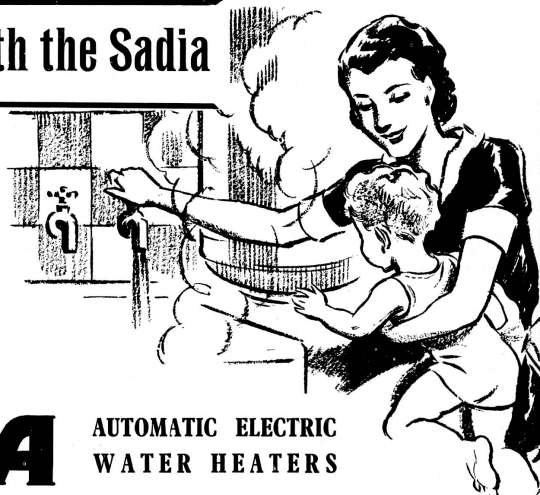
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