

# 50th anniversary of the Swiss Y.M.C.A.

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In the *First League*, playing in two sections, West and East, the programme has also come to an end. Chaux-de-Fonds are leaders in group West, 4 points in front of Vevey. In the East the playing strength of the clubs is much more evenly balanced, so that the position was quite open until the final whistle blew. The last two matches closely concerned F. C. St. Gall; they had to play Schaffhausen away and Concordia Basel at home. The latter headed the table with 28 points against St. Gall's 25; no-one else was left in the picture. To make matters more difficult, Schaffhausen had to win their last game if they were to escape relegation. And St. Gall had to make full points if they were to become sectional leaders, whilst a draw would suffice for Concordia. Let me apologise to my old friends for ever comparing them with inconsistent fickle Chelsea. They came out of the fray with flying colours, beating Schaffhausen by 1:0 and Concordia by 3:1 though playing almost the entire second half with but 10 men. St. Gall and Chaux-de-Fonds will now play for the First League championship (home and away), an honour which incidentally entails promotion to the National League.

And the final for the Swiss Cup has still to be replayed as between Servette and Grasshoppers. When, I do not know.

On June 4th the World Championship starts its first round proper in France. Switzerland meet Germany strengthened by some Austrians in Paris. Of that perhaps more anon.

M.G.

### 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWISS Y.M.C.A. At Westgate House, 28/29, Bedford Place, London, W.C.

The Golden Jubilee of this Association, as it has been called, and a Golden Jubilee it was in every sense of the word indeed took place recently. While looking back and trying to write a short *resumé* of these memorable days May 14th to May 19th, we are proud of the fact that it has taken place, and proud of the ONE who is the Creator, Leader and Supporter and Centre of our Association, Christ our Redeemer.

On Saturday, May 14th a dinner was given at Westgate House by the Association, assisted by the wives of our Members, to the Representatives from Switzerland. The "warming up" took place there and then, when preliminary hearty speeches of welcome and of thanks were given to the six old Londoners from Switzerland, headed by Mr. M. Ernst Walder, from Zurich, Mr. Daeniker, Zurich, Mr. E. Wirz, Cantonal Secretary C.V.J.M. from Olten, Mr. Dejung, Stäfa, Mr. Hiestand Richterswil and Rev. D. Witzig from Aarau. This was a memorable beginning for an occasion of high importance for Christian Workers.

Sunday, May the 15th, at 11 o'clock, a Festival Service took place at St. Annes, Gresham Street, the place of worship of the German-speaking Swiss Community. The Service was led by Rev. C. Th. Hahn, and a well balanced and greatly inspired address followed by Rev. D. Witzig, from Aarau, who spoke with conviction, persuasion and encouragement about the work that is the object of the Association. Indeed a sermon that was memorable and surely carried high in the hearts of all present.

In the afternoon at 4.30 the Delegate and Principal gathering took place at the home of the Swiss Y.M.C.A., Westgate House. The Chairman and President of the Association, Mr. J. Scheuermeier, welcomed seventy in number which were present and with pride do we mention the names of Delegates and Friends which honoured the Association by their presence:

Monsieur de Rham, representing Monsieur Paravicini, who was unavoidably prevented from being present.

Rev. D. Witzig, Aarau, Delegate of the Bundes Komitee Swiss Y.M.C.A.

Mr. E. Wirz, Y.M.C.A. Cantonal Secretary, from Olten.

Old Londoners, Messrs. Ernst, Daeniker, Dejung and Hiestand.

Mr. Soldan, President of the German Y.M.C.A. Messrs. Forner, Mueller and Osthof, also Mrs. Osthof, from the German Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Waterworth, of the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s.

Mr. Dallen, of the Kingston, Surbiton and District Y.M.C.A.

Rev. C. Th. Hahn, Deutsch Schweiz. Kirch Gemeinde.

Rev. Ch. Pummell, on behalf of the English Churches.

Mr. Th. Ritter, Swiss Benevolent Society.

Mr. M. Schneider, Swiss Mercantile Society.

Mr. J. Weber, Eglise Suisse de Londres.

Mr. Favre, Société Helvétique.

Everyone was heartily welcomed, the well laid tables and the beautiful floral decorations added greatly to make this meeting very successful.

The Chairman also read greetings and extracts of letters from "Old Londoners," unable to be present. A letter from Mr. Tobler, of Heiden, who was one, and to-day the only living Founder of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. He describes in simple and beautiful words, that took us almost back to 1888, to the first meeting of the Y.M.C.A. at which they sang: "Die Sach ist Dein Herr Jesu Christ," the very hymn with which the gathering was opened.

A pathetic letter from Rev. Arnold, an Old Londoner of 1898/99, who was originally chosen for the Sunday Morning address. He writes from his sick-bed in pain and agony, wishing us a blessed time. Other greetings were from the Bundes Komitee, Swiss Y.M.C.A.'s, Swiss National Committee Y.M.C.A.'s, and many more from Old Londoners. Telegraphic wishes were received from Mr. R. Horner, New York, Son of the Founder of our Association, and from Mr. von Okolfski, from Aarau.

After a splendid tea we heard some memorable addresses from Rev. C. Th. Hahn, Mr. Soldan, Rev. D. Witzig, Mr. Ernst, Mr. Daeniker, Mr. E. Wirz, Mr. W. Mueller, Mr. de Rham, Mr. Waterworth, Rev. Ch. Pummell.

The splendid musical entertainment was kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Estelle, son-in-law and daughter of our Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Niklaus, whom we thank here for their magnificent rendering of beautiful Piano Recitals.

Monday, the 16th May, the six Delegates from Switzerland were taken for a trip to Oxford, Henley and Windsor in cars which were gladly lent by three members of the Association, a day which also turned out to be a memorable one.

The closing day of this Golden Jubilee was Thursday evening the 19th of May, when the Bible study was led by Sekretär, E. Wirz, with an introduction taken from Matth. 26 and its Text "Die Zukunft des Reiches Gottes" followed by the usual popular after-discussion. To part with our Friends, we enjoyed a well served little supper and our Member, Mr. F. G. Sommer, revived memories with Films of recent year, that took us back to Switzerland to the closing stages of an August Conference of Old Londoners, as well as happy times, some of us were privileged to spend in his own Home and splendid Garden at the time when Mr. Wirz was busy in our midst.

A memorable time from the beginning to the end and uplifting to many a heart. Praise be to our Lord, who is the Inspiration and centre of such an Association and our unforgettable gathering.

R.M.

### NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

A *resumé* of the last monthly meeting of the above Society and the lecture of Mr. Gottfried Keller will be published next week.

### HELVETIA SOCIETY.

A report of the Annual Banquet of the Helvetia Society, which took place on Monday last, will appear in our next issue.

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