

Forthcoming events

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to the opinion of others.

Mrs. Meier was seated alone at her little table, adjudicating the questions and taking notes for the report she will send to Berne, while we were couched in Swiss Hostel armchairs, musing on the higher political issues facing the motherland. The debate never flagged and this was not only due to our general interest and Mrs. Meier's chairmanship, but especially to Dr. Egli, who was thoroughly versed in all the issues, and showed a wide background knowledge and very definite opinions on each of the questions put forward in the questionnaire. He provided the informative basis to our verdict and I can say that I ticked my questionnaire under his guiding inspiration. One point where, I believe, there was an unbridgeable difference was the question of giving the right of vote to the Swiss Abroad. Dr. Egli and most of the elder members present were opposed to giving a right of vote to the Swiss Abroad. One or two younger people however took the opposite stand.

I shan't describe the debate in detail, as there will be other opportunities to examine the problems set by the revision of the Constitution in the near future. This theme will, as you know, be discussed by the Swiss Abroad in their Zofingen meeting in August. However, it was quite clear that the Swiss of London, as represented by a small cross section at the N.S.H. two weeks ago, are conservative and not really keen in seeing the Constitution overhauled. Although the Swiss Colony does not officially have a say in the running of Switzerland, I'm sure that our masters in Berne will take note of its position with interest and probably find that it agrees with the general feeling in Switzerland.

(PMB)

THE WALDFEST

The "Waldfest", which is the yearly highlight of the Swiss Rifle Association, took place on Sunday afternoon, 28th June, under an occasionally cloudy, but altogether inviting and shiny sky. There were not too many people, and we have to apologise here to those people who might have been misled by a faulty indication in the Swiss Observer concerning the date of the Waldfest. We hope that this error in our communications with our printers has not led to anyone missing this important and friendly event. There were in fact very few Swiss Rifle Association members present. Those who were there and spent most of the afternoon at the Siberia Range were the old regulars, those who collect the medals and clean the guns. Your Editor had a bash at the 10-point "A" target at 300 m and (readers will be glad to learn . . .) reaped one or two 7's, an abundance of 8's and even a handful of 9's. No bulls-eyes, alas.

While these few Association regulars were perfecting their marksman-

grass to lie on, to bask in the sun and read the Sunday papers.

Mr. Adolf Schmid doyen of the Association, presided over the success of the afternoon, handing out Brissagos and offering kirsch coffees to the younger generation. He told me that he remembered the days when the Waldfest drew hundreds of compatriots. He was surprised that the Schiessverein should have such a small attendance at present. After all, he maintained, marksmanship was not just any sport: it was a discipline lying at the heart of our Swiss history and culture. But although the heyday of the Swiss Rifle Association may be over, there can be no doubt that its most recent Waldfest was as enjoyable as any of its predecessors.

If any trigger-happy outsider to the Swiss Rifle Association reads this, he should know that there are still three shooting sessions this year, taking place all day on the Sundays 13th moved into one of two vast international lorries that had miraculously made their way on the tortuous stone track to the Siberia range and the party got started in the lorry. The drivers were friends and customers of Mr. Armin Loetscher, alighting at the club which he manages in the West End, the "St. Moritz", after their regular long treks from Switzerland. Mr. Armin Loetscher, it should be said, was the driving force behind the Waldfest and was responsible for the supply in booze and schnapps as well as the organisational details.

Dancing in the lorry was not the only physical exertion practised by the young participants to the Waldfest. A game of football was organised in which the girls took place. It was a joy to see our buxom Swiss lassies charging for the ball, tackling the men and scoring like Jairzinho. Football is definitely a sport for women too. For the indolent, there was a soft and luscious ship, there was a lot going on in the beer tent. This tent, replacing the plastic panoply of former years, had been pieced together out of Swiss Army individual tent sheets. They had been mailed over as a gift by the Swiss team which came for a friendly competition with the Swiss Rifle Association last year. A long table and benches were set in the tent and fully occupied by a crowd of young Swiss enjoying themselves. Very few Colony members were to be seen and these young people, some coming from the Swiss Centre, others working as Embassy clerks and a few brought along by the former were in the great majority. A hired van parked next to the tent was filled with Warteck beer and kirsch. Cervelas were sizzling and bursting on a charcoal grill and although we were geographically somewhere in Surrey, gastronomically we were smack inside Switzerland.

A loud record-player was bellowing yodel and youtz inside the fun tent. Eventually pick-up and records were

September, 27th September and 11th October. The range is the "Siberia" range, which lies at the end of a narrow road branching off on the left shortly after the main N.R.A. Bisley range as one drives in from Brookwood. As the surroundings are beautiful it is very appropriate to bring the family along. The patrons of the Swiss Rifle Association are a charming lot and anyone who comes to Bisley is in for a friendly afternoon! As a newly-found saying goes, a .22 bullet is made to make friends.

(PMB)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Every Thursday from 6 to 7.30 p.m. Discussion Circle in English. Young men especially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Room, YMCA, Gt. Russell St., W.C.1.
- Secours Mutues des Suisses à Londres. No meeting until October.
- Friday 31st July. Swiss Club Manchester. 1st August Celebrations at Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford, at 8 p.m.
- Saturday 1st August. SWISS NATIONAL DAY AND GALA DANCE at the Wimbledon Town Hall at 19.30. Yodel, choral, alphorn and flag-throwing performances. Dancing and enjoyment all night! Tickets at 6/- available at the door.
- Sunday 2nd August. Swiss Church at Endell Street. The German and French-speaking parishes meet for a service in common at 11 a.m.
- The Swiss Societies take a break in summer, but we remind our readers that the Swiss Rifle Association shoots all day at the Siberia range on Sunday 13th September, Sunday 27th September and Sunday 11th October.

SWISS CULTURAL EVENTS

- Up to 25th July at the Gimpel Fils Gallery, 50 South Molton Street, W.1. Exhibition of Metal Reliefs by Willy Weber.
- Monday 20th July. Westfield College Chapel, Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, at 8.15 p.m. Recital by András de Töszeghi, viola, and Anne de Dadelsen, piano. Works by Bach, Schubert, Kodaly, Brahms. Admission free.
- Wednesday 15th July and Thursday 16th July. St. Paul's Cathedral, at 8.45 p.m. "Music without distraction" presented during the Festival of the City of London.

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About Willy Weber's exhibition

The technique is altogether new: metal plates are seeded with explosive charges, the explosions produce plastic deformations of the initially flat surfaces. Charges applied to the front of the plate result in concavities, those applied to the back produce convexities. The process itself is not without interest: a previously formed object, in this case the plane surface of industrially manufactured aluminium or steel plates, is destroyed by the concentrated bursts of energy generated by trinitrotoluol. This act of destruction might be construed as a critical reconstruction of the action of missiles, and in the last definition of the atom bomb. But Weber's highly dramatic and dangerous

working method has another aspect: above and beyond the perhaps puerile pleasure of playing with explosives, he is also giving the individual's proud answer to the inarticulateness of the accurately dimensioned but anonymous industrial product. Semi-finished goods are here diverted from their ordained application by a deliberate and arbitrary act.

The violent destruction of the two-dimensional surface produces something new: a three-dimensional body exposed to and pervaded by space. Space is also created when the metal plate is not merely plastically deformed but actually perforated by the explosion. Holes of this kind, which have disappeared from Weber's more recent

work, remind us that there is space both in front of and behind the surface, that surfaces are in fact only membranes stretched in space.

With these perforations Weber consciously established contact with the "spazialismo" of Lucio Fontana.

THE SWISS CHURCHES

Pfarrer Marcel Dietler wishes to clear a misunderstanding stemming from my report on the General Assembly of the Swiss Churches in London appearing in the last issues. In it, I wrote that Sunday attendance at the German-speaking Church was dwindling. This is not the case. Although the German-speaking youth club has suffered a momentary loss in

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