

Music and charity

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Swiss Club, and in a Club meeting in June our Vice-President, Mr. Bolliger, who will represent us at Zofingen, gave explanations on the very complicated questions put before us. Some 25% of the questionnaires have been returned and the views therein forwarded to the A.S.A. I cannot go into details here, but I would like to stress that the fact alone of the Swiss abroad being consulted in such a vital matter is for all of us most reassuring. For the 300,000 Swiss living outside their homeland, a new era seems to have begun in the last decade or so; we are officially recognised as an important part of Switzerland.

Mr. Tschudi, this year's President of the Confederation, in his message to the Swiss abroad confirms it when he says:

"You have made an essential contribution to the reputation of Switzerland by your successful work and by your helpfulness. Switzerland owes you gratitude for it".

Let me now turn to some other aspects. What part does our small, neutral country take in world affairs? We Swiss often have the tendency to think of ourselves as a special case. Are we not one of the oldest democracies? Do we not enjoy the only direct democracy in the world? Do we not know how four linguistic and cultural groups can live together peacefully? Can we not set an example to the rest of the world?

It is true: some great ideas have had their impact beyond our borders, as for instance, the ideas of a Henri Dunant which culminated in the foundation of the International Red Cross, or the new educational ideas of a Pestalozzi. A positive echo can also be found on our political and financial stability. The achievements in both the technical and industrial fields, are widely recognised and our scientists, engineers and technicians contribute in a high degree to our economy and thereby to the image of Switzerland abroad.

But this is not sufficient. Other problems have to be tackled, such as

Switzerland's position in the economic integration of Europe; our share in the aid to developing countries; our participation in international technical co-operation; the problem of our relations with the family of the United Nations; the task of the preservation of a healthy environment, and many others. The ideas of Dunant and Pestalozzi, although still recognised, belong to the past. Ahead lies the fascinating task for our country of helping to find practical solutions to these international problems. Let us hope that Switzerland will be able to contribute to this, in her small way, with patience and common sense.

May I conclude by conveying to you the greetings of our Ambassador in London, Dr. R. Keller. He has asked me to present to you all his very best wishes for a healthy and happy future.

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MUSIC AND CHARITY

On Saturday, 3rd October, the World Day for Animals will be celebrated by a special event at the Humane Education Centre (Crusade Against all Cruelty to Animals Ltd.), at Avenue Lodge, Bounds Green Road, London, N.22 (7.45 p.m.) The commemoration will be in the form of a concert in association with the European Liszt Centre in London (12-14 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1).

The concert is of special interest to Swiss readers for two reasons. Firstly, Mr. Lennart Rabes, the brilliant Swedish pianist who is also organist at the Swiss Church in London, will take part. And secondly, the distinguished Swiss soprano, Miss Madeline Baer, is coming over from Switzerland specially for the concert. Miss Baer is the niece of Mr. Frank Conrad who is well known in the London Swiss community.

There will be music by Frank Liszt, also works by Schubert, Pfitzner, Schumann, Debussy, Bartok, etc. featuring "Animals in Music". The Lord Somers will address the audience.

Admission will be by programme only which should be applied for as soon as possible at 10/- each from the above Crusade address. Seating is limited.

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