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He rose again and spoke the following: "Ladies and gentlemen, you may smoke!—an up-to-date invitation which did not fail to provoke merriment.

Mr. G. Colomb, the President of the Secours Mutuels, followed and thanked the Swiss Minister for having kindly accepted the office of chairman.

He further welcomed and tendered his thanks to the representatives of the following Swiss Societies who had responded to the president's invitation, viz.:—

City Swiss Club: Messrs. R. Rueff and J. Oltramare.

Schweizerbund: Mr. Riederer, accompanied by Mrs. Riederer.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique: Mr. Jean Baer.

Union Mercantile Society: Messrs. E. Werner and O. Gasser.

Union Helvetia: Messrs. A. Haller and A. Studer.

Unione Ticinese: Messrs. E. Biucchi and C. Togni.

To the ladies Mr. Colomb paid a special compliment by saying that his Committee were not only indebted to them for gracing the evening's function, but he also considered that particular tribute was due to the ladies who were looking so well after the health of their husbands, who were members of the Society, that the coffers of the sick fund are never seriously involved, and he thought it would not be extravagant if those ladies were made honorary members in return for guarding so jealously the Society's treasures.

The President also reminded the assembly that the Secours Mutuels offers great advantages to its members, who contribute but 2s. per month towards the Society's funds, from which 25%, viz., 6d., are returned to the members if they attend personally to pay their subscription, while they are entitled to draw sick benefits which in some cases have reached over £40 per annum. This fact may well be "broadcasted" through our wireless "Swiss Observer" for the profit of our readers.

Mr. Colomb concluded by inviting the members of the Secours Mutuels to drink the health of the guests of the evening.

In replying, the Swiss Minister expressed his pleasure in occupying the chair at so homely a meeting where ceremony was taboo. He recalled that this was not the first occasion of his being present at functions of this venerable and meritorious society, alluding in particular to the Bi-Centenary Celebration which took place in 1903 at the Hotel Cecil, on which occasion he accompanied his then chief, Minister G. Carlin. That is a good few years back, but what does this lapse of time signify when compared with the record of Mr. George Forrer, Honorary President of the Secours Mutuels, whose membership dates back to 1878, whom he was delighted to see present this evening and whom, he hoped, he would be able to greet once more, when the 250th Anniversary of the Society would be celebrated.

Mr. Paravicini also observed that he gladly noted the presence of two other members whose associations with the Secours Mutuels were slightly more ancient still; he referred to Mr. R. Gotz and Mr. A. Matzinger, who had become members in 1876 and 1877 respectively, and whom he was particularly pleased to greet, as they were also "engere Landsleute" of his, since they both hail from his own native Canton of Basle, which proves that Basle also plays a rôle of some importance outside its geographical borders.

The Swiss Minister concluded by raising his glass in honour of Mr. G. Colomb and the Secours Mutuels.

Mr. Jean Baer, the President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, then responded on behalf of the invited guests mentioning that it was the first time he had the pleasure of representing his society at an Annual of the Secours Mutuels. He terminated his address with sincere wishes for a long and prosperous life to this benevolent institution.

Mr. C. Campart proposed "La Patrie"; and the singing of patriotic songs, interspersed with entertainments by Mr. F. Golay and Mr. E. Durand, the Treasurer of the Society, kept the gathering amused until Mr. Colomb rose to announce that the finale of a pleasant and successful evening would be devoted to dancing. Here the usual order of things was reversed for once, for it was the "once stronger sex" which suffered for want of partners, a defect which, it is promised, will be remedied on the next occasion.

**COOK-GENERAL WANTED** in Doctor's house; four in family; no basement; housemaid kept; £42. — Mrs. Butler, 269, Goldhawk Road, W.12.

## THE GRASSHOPPER ROWING CLUB AND HENLEY REGATTA.

*July 5th—8th.*

We have not yet been able to ascertain from the proper authorities in Zurich the exact date of the arrival of the Grasshopper crews, who, according to advance information, are expected to reach London either Monday or Tuesday next.

This is rather unfortunate, as "The Swiss Observer" intends having the arrival and reception at the station filmed (also the training practice and results at Henley later on), adequate and proper arrangements for which cannot be made at the last moment only.

To arouse the interest of our readers and the Swiss Colony at large, we may mention the fact that since the club's inception, in 1906, the rowing section has secured:—

181 First Prizes.

60 Second Prizes.

30 Swiss Championships.

8 European Championships.

and one victory at the Olympic Games in Antwerp.

This formidable record inspires some hopes for Henley, and we hope the members of our Swiss Colony will not fail to muster in large forces to help stimulate by their presence at Henley the extreme efforts which our compatriots will be called upon to make when meeting the international competitors, whose prowess and skill it would be folly to underrate.

Therefore, members of the Swiss Colony, please show up in large numbers at the Royal Regatta and raise there the battle cry which our native crews are accustomed to hear in home waters: "Grasshoppers, come on!"

## AMATEUR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1922.

*Stamford Bridge Sports Grounds, Fulham Road, S.W. 6.*

There is almost an avalanche of important events in the sport's world here in which Swiss champions are due to compete.

In this instance, as the heading indicates, we are referring to the A.A.A. Championships, due for decision on Friday and Saturday next, June 30th and July 1st, at 5 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. respectively.

In our last issue we acquainted our readers with the names of the four Swiss athletes who will arrive in London on Thursday next, the 29th inst. They will make the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, their headquarters according to information kindly conveyed to us by its President, Mr. J. H. Rohr.

We wish to impress upon our readers and the members of the Swiss Colony that on this occasion, too, our sporting compatriots should receive every encouragement on the days when they are due to do battle. We sincerely trust that support will be forthcoming, afford comfort, and—if possible—lead Switzerland's representatives to victory!

**YOUNG SWISS LADY** requires situation as **CORRESPONDENCE-TYPIST**; thorough knowledge of French, German and Italian; fair English; French and German shorthand; three years' experience and references.—Please address replies to "Lady Correspondent," c/o. *The Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4.

**BOARD-RESIDENCE** at moderate terms offered to one or two Swiss gentlemen; comfortable home; good cuisine.—50, Aberdeen Road, Highbury, N.5. Phone: North 91.

**SWISS YOUNG LADY**, well educated, wishes care of children in refined family; needlework; per September.—Write, "E.W.", c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.