

<b>Zeitschrift:</b>	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
<b>Herausgeber:</b>	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
<b>Band:</b>	- (1922)
<b>Heft:</b>	72
<b>Rubrik:</b>	Swiss Mercantile Society

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 16.01.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

**HERE AND THERE.**

By J. H. Corthesy.

The head cow of the herd on the green pasture of the Swiss Alps looked round. She had heard her name called. She looked in every direction, but saw not the herdsman. Yet his voice was close to her ear. She was not mistaken on this fact. Again she heard the call "home." Other cows also heard it. Lifting their heads from the ground, they prick up their ears and open widely their big eyes, perplexed, astonished at the sound of the voice and at the absence of the man they knew so well. The cry was repeated. The order was unmistakable, although unnatural. Then the bells, which, for a "listening in" moment, had been ominously silent, changed their previous rhythm caused by the grass-biting head motion to the walking one. Thus even the intelligent bovine race had fallen into line with the march of scientific progress.

This is one of the possibilities of the future for wireless telephony, a discovery which has upset many old and solid credences on the limitations of things, sets the trends of our imagination upon roads reaching the infinite, and is another marvellous step towards Truth.

Camille Flammarion, the French astronomer, has always been convinced that the inhabitants of the planet Mars were signalling to us on the Earth. However, other savants dismiss the idea because the temperature of that planet is far below what is essential to the existence of human life, so far as our earthly knowledge allows us to understand it. But now it is being asked if the mysterious tapping noticed not long ago by Marconi may not originate from beings in Venus, our neighbouring sister planet on the side nearer the sun—the conditions of which appear mostly to favour life—life of an electrical power greater than ours.

\* \* \*

Whether Venus is "broadcasting" to us or not, the future may reveal. An important fact, however, remains. "Broadcasting," so far as we on this earth are concerned, has come to stay; to enable its inhabitants to hear each other talk, even when separated by vast distances, as if close together in the same small room; to enable all, including the sick patient in bed, to participate in the pleasure of listening to music, speech and the news of the world in general, when the ear can act as the receiver; to be a comparison alike to the solitary dweller in a far away home and to those who traverse the boundless deep.

The cost is small, compared to the value. It ranges from about four pounds upwards. The receiving apparatus will be, of course. By powerful is meant the effective range of the instrument.

There are numerous makes, and the recent exhibition of wireless, held at the Horticultural Hall in London, fully demonstrates both the popular interest due to the rapid increase of broadcasting and the number of branch trades that have sprung up in connection with the production of the various parts of the apparatus. But of the several systems seen it is evident that the Marconi one easily holds the field for simplicity of construction, easy regulation or tuning-up and cheapness.

Marconi—the magician of wireless, of the ether, of the magneto-electric waves, who was sneered at when he began his researches, but who triumphed so masterfully over all difficulties, solved the problem many eminent scientific men had tackled and fully deserves his immense success.

Marconi has not been the only dreamer of the potentialities of wireless hidden in that strong treasure chest of Nature, which contains a vast number of unfathomable mysteries. Faraday fore-saw the wireless possibility. Maxwell confirmed it in 1865. In 1884 Edison handed over his "bulb" to W. K. L. Dickson to test, and to this bulb the Flemming and other valves owe their origin. In 1888 Dr. Henri Hertz made some experiments which proved the similarity of certain properties of electric waves to those of light. But it is said that the propagation of electric waves at a distance was carried out by Marconi and by Popoff in 1895.

It may also be stated that in 1879 David Robert Hughes, a professor of music, transmitted electric signals without wires in the same manner as is done at present. His transmitter consisted of a clock-work interrupter, which made and broke the circuit of a single electric cell through an "extra current" coil, the waves resulting from the sparks thus formed. The receiver was made up of a telephone, a single cell, and a device which was substantially a "coherer"—a conductor hanging loosely against a metal ring coated with lamp black. Hughes, says *Everyday Science*, used to start the clockwork in his flat, and walk down the street with the coherer and cell in his pocket and the telephone at his ear. With this home-made apparatus he got wireless signals up to a distance of 300 yards. When he told the Fellows of the Royal Society of his results, they pooh-poohed them. Now he is honoured as a pioneer, and his apparatus is exhibited at the Science Museum in South Kensington!

\* \* \*

The "wave-lengths"—corresponding to the number of interruptions of an electric circuit in a given time, say, a second—which form the "key of the

lock" in wireless, also exist in Nature and may be the cause of many hitherto unexplained mysteries, since they affect other elements, e.g., water. They similarly appear to solve the mystery of the attraction of the male moth, at a considerable distance, to the female. The entomologist Fabre, who discovered this phenomenon, attributed it, in his ignorance of this new important factor of waves, to a particular odour of the female moth, which somehow seemed to reach the male.

To-day "wave-lengths" has become a familiar expression to the man in the street, which proves that wireless has been accepted as one of the necessities of modern existence. Wireless has annihilated distance. The earth is getting smaller and smaller, and with the rapid spread of "broadcasting" let us hope that this huge advance in progress will result in a world-wide union of thought towards one aim: "Peace and Prosperity."

For this our thanks are pre-eminently due to one man: Signor Marconi.

**LONDON BANKS F.A.**

SWISS BANK 1st XI v. ANCLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANKS 1st XI

at Preston Road, 14th October, 1922.

A fast, evenly contested game. The Swiss Bank were early prominent on the left. Both goals had narrow escapes, both defences being in form, and the ball being transferred very quickly from end to end. Way sent the ball out to the home left wing, and as a result of Holton's perfect centre, Rufer opened the score for the home team. Tobin increased the lead five minutes later. The second half started very lively, the visitors' centre half set his forwards going, and Dwellen, an enterprising and dangerous raider, reduced the lead with a fine shot. The same player scored again a few minutes later, and a third goal was scored by a miskick by the home left half. Zurcher made a fine save just previous to this reverse. The Swiss Bank team pressed continuously, and at last Gourbach gave Tobin a perfect pass, which was quickly snapped up by this player and equalised with a long ground shot. Result: Draw 3 to 3.

Swiss Bank team: Zurcher; Herzog Kurz; Schwindenbauer, Way, Bornand; Tobler, Gourbach. Dr. Rufer, Tobin, Holton.

SWISS BANK 2nd XI v. ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANKS 2nd XI.

Our 2nd XI were visitors, on Saturday last, to the A.S.A. on their ground at Teddington. In losing the toss, we had to face the sun, with which disadvantage we had to kick off. The visitors were soon prominent, but the home defence did not fail to spoil dangerous positions. After 15 minutes' play the Swiss Bank got ahead by one goal, being the result of nice footwork by Schranz, with the finishing touch by Smith. The ball was travelling up and down the field, and the visitors' goalie had to deal with some smart shots, as well as the home goalie, and the Swiss succeeded in half-time. After changing ends the A.S.A. did every possible thing to retrieve their loss, and they put the score level by netting the ball twice within half-an-hour. Play was very exciting and lively, and the Reds got ahead again, which point had also to be credited to Smith. A minute before the final whistle went the A.S.A. forced a corner, and from this kick they did not fail to equalise an evenly contested and very enjoyable game. Result: Draw 3 to 3.

Swiss Bank team: Grob; Peter, Zurlinden; Bonjour, Floyd, Kebbell; Rueff, Schranz, Steiner, Smith, Hillebrand.

SWISS BANK 3rd XI v. GRESHAM HOUSE FOOTBALL CLUB 3rd XI

on the first-named Club's ground at Preston Road.

The Swiss team had to play several new men, and considering this fact the combination was rather lacking. After an exciting and very enjoyable game our opponents won by 4 to 3 goals.

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.**

Ordinary Monthly Meeting held at the Union Helvetia, on October 18th, 1922.

(Communicated.)

Mr. De Brunner explains that the meeting had to be held on the third Wednesday in order to be able to report the decision of the Trustees of the Educational Fund with regard to the acquisition of the new premises for the classes. The customary supper could not take place, as the large room was not available and the very poor attendance of the last meeting did not justify to make the necessary catering arrangements. Mr. De Brunner suggested that the meetings should be held on the second Thursday of the month, as the City Swiss Club, to which a great many of our members belong, takes place on Thursday. But this alteration was not deemed necessary, as Wednesday is more convenient for the majority of our members.

The minutes of the last meeting are read and approved, and the following new members were elected: Messrs. E. Berger, W. Deucher, E. Franck, Miss E. Gloor, Messrs. L. Houlmann, H. Marolt, E. Schenkel, E. Scheuch, J. Schmidlin, A. Schüle, W. Schürch, E. Stahl, E. Staerkle, J. Tschudin, L. Wildi, J. Witschi.

Resignations to hand and accepted: Miss Sommer, F. Hediger, A. Reichlin, H. Gerber.

Mr. Luscher tends his resignation as assistant secretary, as his new work does not allow him time enough for this duty.

Paid Secretary.—Two members have applied personally to the President for this post, and other applicants are asked to come forward. It is suggested that the duties of this post should first be clearly defined: He would have to write the addresses for the circulars, keep the records of membership, control the stationery, assist the committee in the correspondence, assist the chef de cours. Mr. Veil is of the opinion that we cannot expect to find a man to do all this work for £1 a week. In principle the equivalent of time should be 10 hours per week, which is agreed to be apportioned by the Committee. The two applicants not coming forward, the

the post is still open. It is decided to send a circular to all the active members, stating the duties and the salary offered.

Rooms for the Classes.—The Trustees have declined the offer of the Foyer Suisse and recommend the acquisition of a suite of six rooms, situated in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on the 5th floor, and the President is asking to ratify this proposition, the inclusive rent being £279. With the expenses of cleaning, light, heating, lift, etc., the total would not exceed £350. This sum is considered quite reasonable by the Trustees and in accordance with the resources of the Educational Fund.

The President requests Mr. Pfäffner to express his opinion on the subject. In every respect he recommends the members to ratify the proposition, which is carried unanimously.

In view of this acquisition of accommodation Mr. Werner suggests to retire from the scheme of the Swiss Club House Committee, but it is not deemed necessary, as our new tenancy agreement will contain a clause for subletting.

The Chef de Cours gives a brief statement with regard to the classes, of which there are 90, with a membership slightly higher than last year.

Various.—The Hon. Secretary is requested to ask Zurich to let us exactly know our portion of the Federal Government subsidy and to try to obtain the sum of fr. 1,040 which was not paid to us.

The President urges the members, especially the young, to come forward with suggestions and to take advantage of all the facilities offered by the Society. He would like to see them taking a much stronger interest and strive to make the meetings more attractive. He proposes to have the next meeting followed by a smoking concert. Mr. Werner proposes to allow a grant of £5 to £6. After discussion with regard to the date it is decided to hold the next ordinary meeting on the 8th November at 8.30, and a smoking concert, preceded by a supper, on November 15th. A credit of £10 10s. is voted.

Members are requested to prepare their suggestions for the Annual Dinner.

The subscription of £5 5s. for the N.S.H. for our financial year 1920-21 is voted.

The President urges the members to try to join the Choral Society, and closes the meeting at 11 p.m.

**Swiss Postal Travellers'****Cheques.**

The Swiss Postal Authorities have arranged for the issue in Great Britain of Postal Travellers' Cheques, which can be cashed

Office in Switzerland. These cheques may be obtained in London from the

**SWISS BANK CORPORATION,**  
43, Lothbury, E.C.2 & 11c, Regent St., S.W.1.

**CHIROPODIST - PÉDICURE.****MR. A. L. MONELL,**

110, STRAND, W.C.2.

Hours: 11-5. Phone: REGENT 5265.

Visits Private Residences Mornings and Evenings.

**EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C.2.**

Dimanche, 22 Oct., 11h.—Mr. Frank Reymond. Collecte en faveur de la Mission. 6.30.—Pfarrer R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Dimanche, 29 Oct., 6.30.—Service Commun en deux langues (culte d'adoration) pour grouper tous les compatriotes.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

Friday, Oct. 27th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Lecture by Dr. Paul Lang at Westminster Central Hall on "Die gegenwärtige deutschschweizerische Dialekt-Dichtung."

Saturday, Oct. 28th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant.

Friday, Nov. 3rd, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by R. Cromwell Edwards, Esq., on "Marriage: Its Social and National Importance."

Saturday, Nov. 4th, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel.

Friday, Nov. 10th, at 8 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Lantern Lecture by Mr. G. Dimier, at King George's Hall (Y.M.C.A.).

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, at 7.15 p.m.—Association of British Members of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB: Annual Dinner at Gatti's Restaurant.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Dance at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, S.W.1.

Friday, Dec. 1st.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at Prince's Restaurant.