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UNION HELVETIA CLUB.

36th ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL.

MENU.

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The last—but not the least successful—of this season's annual banquets took place on Friday, May 4th, at the spacious club premises at 1, Gerard Place, W.1. The large hall, renovated and specially decorated for the occasion, was well filled by a large gathering, under the chairmanship of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister. Over 120 members and ladies sat down to one of those excellent dinners for which the steward of the club has earned a well-merited reputation.

The loyal toast having been duly honoured, Mr. A. Rhyn, a former president of the U.H., proposed "La Patrie," warmly appealing to the patriotism of his countrymen. M. Paravicini rose to return thanks for the enthusiastic way in which this toast had been received. He was delighted to be able to preside; for many members of the Colony the duties of a Swiss Minister meant simply representing the Confederation on such-like occasions; he thought that, after his 23 years' experience, he might say that he was doing this now to their entire satisfaction. He found that these gatherings invariably revealed something new every year, and he was flattered that Mr. A. Wyss, the steward of the club, had gone to the extreme trouble of telling him what the actual Swiss Minister really was. In looking at the menu they would get all the information they required; he evidently—and quite truly at the moment of speaking—was a mixture of soup, fish, sauce and sweets; he also harboured traces of "Royalty" and "Imperialism" which did not quite harmonize with Swiss aspirations. Mr. Wyss, in expressing thanks for the appreciative reference, said that if M. Paravicini had only realized the time it took to concoct the menu he would not have so cruelly torn it to pieces; the long and somewhat awkward name of the present Swiss Minister was really to be blamed for the extended and diversified nature of to-night's dinner.

Mr. A. Indermaur, in submitting the toast to the Central Society, gave a short *résumé* of the history of the British section. He mentioned that, in recognition of 25 or more years' membership and devotion to the interests of their organisation, the head office had awarded to a large number of their members in England specially engraved gold medals. A good many of them resided in the provinces and were unable to be present, but he was gratified to observe the presence of Messrs. V. Burkhardt, J. Emmenegger, A. Haller, F. Mäder and L. Stoss (who were subsequently decorated personally by the Swiss Minister). The other recipients are:—J. Aebersold, A. Amrhein, A. Bachmann, J. Bachmann, N.-Bardet, J. Blum, J. Cochet, L. D'Albert, C. Dällenbach, L. Diserens, C. Feutz, J. Fontana, A. Gretener, V. Gruener, F. Halbritter, J. Hasler, A. Heller, E. Hofmann, F. Janker, F. von Kaelen, F. Kähr, E. Krebser, R. Kressig, J. Küng, A. Meichtry, A. Naepfli, G. Ramseyer, E. Rohr, V. Roesli, E. Roth, A. Scheuber, K. Schmidt, V. Siegfried, S. Steudler, C. Staub, K. Trachsel, V. Trottmann, C. Waltherdt, A. Weltert, J. Wieser, G. Zubler.

Mr. V. Burkhardt, who was loudly applauded, expressed on behalf of himself and his colleagues their appreciation of the honour bestowed. He was proud to be one of the founders of the U.H., but he wished to remind them that at its foundation, 37 years ago, the London club was quite independent of the central society in Lucerne, with which it became affiliated at a later date. Their society had always singled out and acknowledged individual merit—a policy which in a large measure had contributed to its present success.

"The Guests" were then proposed by Mr. A. Finger. After expressing his gratification at the Swiss Minister's presence, he welcomed the official representatives of the other London Swiss Societies, viz., Mr. and Mrs. Audemars (Secours Mutuels), Messrs. Rueff and Marchand (City Swiss Club), Messrs. Notari and Biucchi (Unione Ticinese), Mr. and Mrs. Paschoud (Swiss Mercantile Society), Mr. F. Riederer (Schweizerbund), Messrs. F. Maeder and J. Emmenegger (Administration U.H.), Mr. and Mrs. Manzoni (Swiss Choral Society) and the Rev. U. Wildbolz (Swiss Church). Whilst some of the visitors were evidently contemplating a suit-

able reply, M. Paravicini rose to return thanks, adding how pleased he was to see amongst those present Mr. Neuschwander, one of the veterans of our Colony.

Mr. F. Isler was in charge of "The Ladies"; he pretended to be in serious trouble in his effort to do justice to this delicate duty. To hear him extol the virtues and charms of the fair sex, one could not but regret the unkindness of Fate, which apparently has condemned him to eternal celibacy. Like the Chairman, he was very much concerned about the dinner; he thought it was a very lucky thing for him and the other diners that he, with his short and commonplace name, had not been called upon to take the chair.

During the banquet the choir of the Swiss Choral Society entertained the audience to some new songs, which were greatly appreciated by the audience. Dancing started in good time, and there were very few who had to catch last trains. The perfect arrangements contributed largely to everybody's enjoyment.

CITY SWISS CLUB

The summer meetings of the City Swiss Club have for the last few years been held at Kingston-on-Thames, which is one of the beauty spots on the river. We hear that this "tradition" will be continued this year, at all events for the next meeting, which takes place on Tuesday, June 12th, but the procedure will be somewhat varied. The new president, Mr. A. Rueff, a great adept in the terpsichorean art, is resolved that the ladies should have their fair share and that the oratorical celebrities of the Club should for once take a back seat. The official part of the meeting will, therefore, be considerably shortened, so that dancing can be indulged in much earlier than used to be the case in previous years. The management of Nuthall's can be depended upon to do their utmost for the comfort of those present. It is also intended to run a special motor coach from the City and Westend for the convenience of those few members and friends who have not yet obtained delivery of their own cars. Full particulars will be given in our issue of June 2nd.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

(Communicated.)

The concert of the Swiss Choral Society, held on Sunday, April 29th, at Steinway Hall, proved again a great success from the musical point of view, and it is greatly to be regretted that more supporters of the Society's efforts could not be present on this occasion. One could not fail to notice, soon after the concert commenced, that under the able direction of the conductor, Mr. Walter Meyrowitz, remarkable progress has been achieved by the Choir. Amongst the items which they rendered the opening piece, "Nos Montagnes," and the final, "The Song of the Jolly Roger," the latter accompanied by Miss Klingenfuss, were deservedly well received, and although all the work done calls for general commendation, we are unable, for reasons of space, to deal in full detail with each item. Madame Teify Davies, the Welsh singer, again charmed the audience with her songs rendered in various languages, whilst the violin solos of Mr. Ben Loban were also a great success. Other excellent solos were given by Mr. Gerber and Mr. Kronauer, both members of the Choir. Miss Pauline Theurer was, unfortunately, prevented from fulfilling her engagement, but a capable substitute was found in Mr. A. Rhyn, who gave delightful Zither solos. The Accordion solos, given by Mr. W. Hausermann, were also much appreciated by those present.

The Double Quartette were hardly at their best in their opening song, but fully atoned for this afterwards.

We must also re-echo the wishes expressed by the chairman, Mr. J. Manzoni, in a speech made during the afternoon, when he called for a greater measure of support for the Society, owing to the fact that a large number of members had returned to Switzerland. It was urgently desired to fill their places, and we sincerely hope that this plea will find a favourable response from those interested in the Society's work.

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Dimanche, 20 Mai.—Pentecôte.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, May 15, at 8 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS COMMITTEE: Important Delegates' Meeting at Gatti's Restaurant.

Wednesday, May 16, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W. (restricted to members).

Friday, May 18th, at 7 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Dinner, with causerie and entertaining programme, at Pagan's, 42-48, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Tuesday, May 22, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Informal Gathering at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 26, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Friday, June 1st, at 5.30 p.m.—UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Gower Street, W.; Public Lecture by Dr. Paul Lang on "Carl Spitteler." In the Chair: The Swiss Minister.

Friday, June 1st, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Lecture by Director H. Tobler on "Die Schulreform und die Landerziehungsheime."

Tuesday, June 12th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.

Friday, June 15th, from 5 till 10.30 p.m.—FETE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Westminster, W.

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