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the monthly publication of the Swiss Alpine Club, "Les Alpes," for this year up-to-date, which are now at the disposal of members. There is no need to emphasise the interest of this publication and the many unique and beautiful pictures contained in it each month, and we feel sure that members who do not receive copies of it themselves will only be too glad to know that it can now be seen at, or obtained from, the Secretariat, for we are always willing to send members anything they may wish to see by post.

After bringing several circulars received from the Secretariat des Suisses à l'étranger to the notice of the meeting, the most serious question of the evening, namely, the future of the Secretariat in 1926, was approached. Mr. Suter, Hon. Treasurer, read a letter he had received from the Secretary of the Ashburton Club, informing us that 28, Red Lion Square, had passed out of their hands, and that we were consequently given formal notice of dismissal for the end of December, 1925. Since receiving that letter we had, Mr. Suter went on to say, obtained a list of offices to be let in the neighbourhood, and several of them had been already looked at. The conclusion came to from this inspection was that it should be possible to get a suitable room, though the rent to be paid would probably have to be rather more than we now give. The whole question would have to be gone into thoroughly at as early a date as possible, as there was really no time to put off.

#### SWISS INSTITUTE.

(Communicated.)

"The Humour of our Streets" was the subject of a lecture given by Lt.-Col. J. Atkinson, D.S.O., O.B.E., at the Swiss Institute on Friday evening, Oct. 23rd, which thus opened its programme of the winter season under the auspices of a very good and encouraging attendance.

It was certainly the humour promised that attracted a large number of auditors to the first lecture of this season, and their expectations were surely fully realised.

Mr. Atkinson told amusing stories obtained from the conversations going on the streets, for instance, among street urchins, street sellers, bus conductors and passengers.

"I'm sorry I haven't a penny," said one lady, tendering half-a-crown to a bus conductor. "Don't you worry, miss," came the reply, "you'll soon have 29." And a lady passenger, standing in a full-up bus, replied to a gentleman who called her attention to the fact that she was standing on his feet, "If you were anything of a man, you would be standing on them yourself."

The street performers who are entertaining the crowds waiting at the theatres, and who are in ever-constant strife with the police, add greatly to the humour of the streets. The sellers sometimes bring forth the most amusing proofs for the efficiency of their articles. A quack medicine vendor addressed the crowd as follows: "6d. a bottle. Founded on the researches of modern science. Where should we be without science? Look at the ancient Britons, they hadn't got any science, and where are they now? Dead and buried, everyone of them."

A good deal of the humour of our streets lies in their names. A timid lover could just take his girl through Love Lane, Idol Lane, Duck Lane, Darling Row to Huggin Lane and Poppings Court and perhaps the names of the streets would speak for him and succeed in touching the girl's heart.

There are names of streets for every taste, for the lover of flowers, for the patriot, and even for the gastronomer.

Equally amusing are certain names of houses. Where does "Mon Repos" take its name from if it lies on a busy tram and bus route, has a laundry at its right, a boy's school at its left, and a boiler factory at the back?

Among the houses there are the aristocrats and the plebeians. The aristocrats are those which think themselves entitled to look down upon the "lower classes" because they have railings and gardens, whereas the plebeians have got none of such things. It seems that the "roads" are chiefly the aristocratic centres, which on their turn look down on the more democratic "streets," where the shops are and where there is no room for gardens.

Distinction exists even in shop windows, especially at drapers, among the tickets and labels. "Latest Fashion," "Very Choice," or even the French "Le Beau Monde" are much more distinguished than the more modest ones, such as "Good Value" or "Cheap." Of the French labels, a suburban shopkeeper, complacently surveying his window exhibition, said: "Well, if these bits of French don't fetch 'em I don't know my Brixton."

There is so much human in all these little everyday things. Many of the amusing features which Mr. Atkinson pointed out had perhaps escaped our notice so far, others squared with our own experience. If we look at them with open eyes and a sense of humour, we shall probably spend many more merry hours obtained from our own observation, whereas this time the humour of our streets was presented to us by Mr. Atkinson in a most witty and entertaining manner.

#### SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRA.

Once again have our musical friends taken to their bows, horns, clarinettes, drums, etc., to prepare for what, it is hoped, will prove a very interesting winter programme. The leaders of this sympathetic section of our community are striving to procure for every instrumentalist in our colony an opportunity of exercising his skill under very auspicious conditions. Their purpose is also to serve the colony, and everybody who has attended any of the concerts or fêtes in the past knows that the orchestra has played its part well. The good wishes of all are sure to accompany these gentlemen in their renewed endeavours to develop this centre of musical culture and increase its artistic efficiency. Surely, efforts to foster this union of all amateurs of music who cultivate their art for art's sake must appeal to all!

However restricted its programme may have been in the past, there is for the orchestra a vast field of activities to which to look forward, that will satisfy the most ambitious amongst the artists whose sincere desire is to do their share in everything the orchestra undertakes. Greater things can, of course, only be achieved if the leaders can count on the best individual efforts of every one of their followers, on their good will, discipline, and in particular a regular attendance at rehearsals. There must be many Swiss who are watching the progress of the orchestra with the keenest interest, and hope that the latter will attain one day to a standard of efficiency which will permit of more ambitious schemes requiring the absolute and full co-operation of all the musical forces of the colony.

Let it be said at once that if the orchestra is to reach the final goal, it is necessary that new recruits should come forward and assist in the department for which they are suited. Readers of the S.O. unable to take an active part themselves can show their interest by encouraging any lady or gentleman artist of their acquaintance to join the orchestra. To attend a rehearsal once a week for a few months should be within the powers of any amateur musician who loves his art. By joining, he will find there his own pleasure, and many will be his opportunities to enjoy the satisfaction of sharing in the tribute which the Swiss Colony never fails to pay generously to the achievements of the orchestra when the latter appears in public. As to the gentlemen whose absence lately has been justified by domestic or other duties, we believe that at headquarters their reappearance and valued co-operation will be particularly welcome. There are big things to be done if only everyone will show that he possesses the right spirit, love for his art, and—last, but by no means least—a true patriotic fervour.

*Notice.*—In connection with the above, any lady or gentleman wishing to join the orchestra, or requiring information about same, is kindly requested to apply to one of the following gentlemen:

W. Pellet, Esq., 12, Bassett Road, W.10;  
E. P. Dick, Esq., 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2;  
M. Bonnard, Esq., 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

#### SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.

The Swiss Gymnastic Society have arranged a display for Sunday, December 6th, at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. The display will be run on new and original lines. A portion of the official mass exercises of Geneva and St. Gall will be shown again, but a ballet and a "fête de lutte" will be new features, as well as an exhibition of club-swinging by Mr. R. Oberholzer. All this is apart from the ordinary gymnastics on the parallel and horizontal bars, pyramids and acrobatics.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

W. Bretscher (261), A. Wyss (268), Max Grether (243), Secr. des Suisses à l'étranger (244), Ch. Bernheim (271), Jos. Donat (271), Dr. K. Eckenstein (271), Ch. E. Kuderli (271), C. T. Lehmann (271), Dr. M. Schroeter (271), Peter Stoer (271), H. Stucki (271), P. Bessire (273), Th. Bruderer (273), J. C. Dekker (234), O. Frei (273), Miss H. Heierle (273), L. Guggenheim (273), J. Obrist (273), A. Palliser (273), A. M. Scholer (273), Swiss Mercantile Society (273), G. Wuthrich (273), O. Zingg (273), F. Zogg (273), Arthur Baume (279), Dr. Devegny (274), J. L. Veil (239), W. Eichenberger (271), J. J. Eberli (273), A. G. Hegnauer (247), C. Baerlocher (274), F. Dammeyer (274), J. J. Schneider (274), A. Secretan (274), Rob. Bessire (272), F. Gruber (234).

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#### ERRATUM.

A disturbing printer's error in last week's report on Mr. Lesueur's recital has unfortunately remained uncorrected; the quotation in the 38th line should read: "La fille aux cheveux de lin."

#### Divine Services.

#### EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2 (Langue française.)

Dimanche, 8 Nov., 11h.—"L'énigme du monde"—6e étude sur le Christ. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 3.15.—Anciens catéchumènes au presbytère. 6.50.—Culte: Philippiens 1, 12 et suivants. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7.30.—Répétition du Chœur.

#### BAPTÈMES.

Jean Jacques Charles ZWICKY, né le 21 Sept. 1925, fils d'Edouard et de Juliette Ernestine Louise née Rochat, de Mollis (Glaris)—le 25 Oct. 1925.

Gottfried Gordon ZURBRUEGG, né le 9 Sept. 1923, and Thomas Robert Nisbet ZURBRUEGG, né le 29 Juill. 1925, fils de Gottfried et de Susan née Nisbet, de Frutigen (Berne)—le 1 Nov. 1925.

Peter Claude FISCHER, né le 19 Mai 1925, fils de Willy et de Wilma née Baenziger, de Meisterschwanden (Argovie)—le 1 Nov. 1925.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 8. November, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst. 6.30 Uhr abends.—Gesangsgottesdienst.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12-1, St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2; Mittwoch, 12-2, Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1 (am Wohnort des Pfarrers). Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.

Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 8 p.m.—FOYER SUISSE: Lantern Lecture by Mr. C. Bertschinger on "Dr. Rollier and Leyzin."

Wednesday, Nov. 11th.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOC.: Monthly Meeting at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Thursday, Nov. 12th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Concert and Dance in aid of the "Fonds de Secours" at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, Nov. 27th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Victoria Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.

Sunday, Dec. 6th, at 3 p.m.—SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY: Gymnastic Display at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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