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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

One of the first items to be dealt with by the new Swiss Parliament, which will meet at the beginning of next month, will be the appointment or re-election of speakers and ministers. The National Council will, according to tradition, be presided over by the former vice-president, Dr. Emil Hofmann (Democrat, Frauenfeld), whilst in the States Council Dr. G. Keller of Aarau will occupy the chair. As to the Federal Council, all the ministers will be re-elected, as no resignations have taken place. Mr. Heinrich Häberlin, of Frauenfeld, will be the new Federal President. In this connection it is interesting to note that the canton of Thurgau supplies the two men occupying the highest positions, though in home politics Mr. Häberlin and Dr. Hofmann are impetuous opponents.

Under a proposal, which the electors sanctioned by 3,020 "ayes" to 1,580 "noes," the present constitution of the Ticino is to be slightly modified by the creation of communal councils in districts of over 1,000 inhabitants. This new departure does not seem to arouse any particular interest, as only 15 per cent. of the citizens went to the trouble of recording their votes.

In an appeal last week the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne gave a decision which is of great interest to many Swiss residing abroad. Real estate in Switzerland is taxed at its net value, i.e., the mortgage, if any, is deducted; to enjoy this concession, however, permanent residence in the country is essential. The fiscal authorities of the canton of Thurgau insisted on the full tax on a property which last year was bought by a lady for Frs. 170,000. During the proceedings it transpired that the lady's brother, who is in business in Madrid, and who spent his holidays on this estate, had advanced her the whole of the purchase money, partly against a mortgage. The Lausanne tribunal held that, though the estate was ostensibly in the name of the sister, her position and own financial means deprived the transaction of its genuineness, so that her brother must be considered as the real owner, who, of course, is not entitled to the abatement referred to.

Contrary to a decision by the cantonal authorities of Appenzell A.R., disallowing two local dental practitioners the use of their American doctor degrees, the Federal Tribunal has enacted that such foreign distinctions may be used as long as their origin was clearly stated.

For pretending to cure by health prayers a young woman in Thusis (Grisons) and obstructing the attendance of a medical practitioner, a Christian Scientist, Frau Forster-Meuli of Splügen, was fined Frs. 80 by the local court; she appealed to the Federal Tribunal on the ground that the Constitution guaranteed freedom in religious matters, but the Lausanne tribunal confirmed the previous judgment.

On the arrival of the Orient express in Lausanne a man was found tied underneath a carriage; he was a Rumanian and had travelled in this position for 71 hours from Bucarest with the intention of getting to France in order to join the Foreign Legion in Morocco.

A modern way of obtaining money was practised by a Solothurn warehouseman, Robert Schranner, who was sentenced to four months imprisonment. He pretended to people whom he knew had relatives residing abroad, that he was the bearer of greetings and presents, but that the latter were unfortunately kept back at the frontier by customs officers pending the payment of duty. He found many dupes ready to part with cash, so as to enable him to release these presents.

For failing to choose the appropriate language in addressing a ticket collector when objecting to the payment of the usual surtax on express trains—in this instance 50 centimes—a commercial traveller who omitted to previously obtain the requisite ticket was fined at Olten Frs. 200.

A mysterious affair was discovered by an apprentice from Interlaken, who was visiting his godparents last Friday at a farmstead in Höhfluh, between Iseltwald and Giessbach; he found them both dead, apparently killed by a blood-stained chopper. They are the farmer Gottfried Bühnd and his wife, and no trace has yet been found

of the supposed murderer, nor is there any motive evident, as none of the ready cash or other property has been abstracted.

For shooting and killing Pietro Rovelli, who refused his consent to the marriage of his daughter with his nephew Luigi, the latter has been sentenced by the Locarno assizes to ten years imprisonment.

An electrician, named Sigrist, from Uster, was electrocuted at Urnäsch (Appenzell) through coming into contact with a high-tension circuit.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Ever and anon we talk of the weather. We do. And ever and anon the weather is worth talking about. It is. But sometimes it is such as to make talk difficult. The other Sunday morning, armed with an arsenal of golf clubs and a few golf balls, the family motored over to Langdon Hills, where the hospitable landlord had invited us to use the private links opposite the Crown for practice. We got there by about half-past ten, but upon venturing forth, on to the links we were nearly blown over. The wind was so gusty and strong, so searching and cold that it needed some sustained effort to keep standing and a good many swings to keep the blood from freezing. Well, we did a couple of rounds, the sun shone intermittently, and the views from that famous vantage point were splendid. In the north we could discern the wireless masts of Chelmsford, in the east the water tower of Benfleet, the pier at Southend and the intervening country, in the west the church at Brentwood. And the grass in some parts of the rough was so high that a good few balls await lucky finders! The return journey was done—after something warming had been partaken of, of course—in record time over deserted roads, and Sunday dinner and a sit-down near the cosy fire afterwards were wonderful. Now, what I am driving at is this: if it had not been that both Mrs. 'Kyburg' and self wanted to play golf, I don't think for a moment we would have gone out at all that cold morning. Therefore, if the weather in its fiercer moods is to be beaten, it requires some strong inducement to get us comfort-lovers on the war-path, and then it can be done, and the resulting glow of satisfaction at having conquered—no! to forget the physical well-being after the battle—is worth the effort.

And talking of the weather—or was it golf?—what about the little effort the Clerk of the Weather put up on the 9th November for the show? Was it not glorious, and did not the children have a fine time! I do not remember having ever seen so many children in the City, and I have been in town on Lord Mayor's Show Day more years than I care to remember. That night my train was simply packed, just as in summer-time, with tired but happy-looking youngsters, hugging their Lord Mayor's coaches and their wonderful panoramas which can be pulled out and in.

Then came Tuesday. *Winter*, with sleet, fog, drizzle and a rawness that penetrated into the innermost cockles of your heart and left it stone-cold. Vividly I remembered the old ditty:—

Es schneielet, es beielet,  
Es geht en böse Wind,  
Es früeret alli Vögeli  
Und alli arme Chind.

And that will do for to-day. S' nice morning, isn't it?

Of course, I cannot get away from the wintry weather all at once. The very first thing, among the gleanings I have collected for this week, is the following from *The Lady* (29th Oct.):—

### How Winter Sports began.

Winter sports have attained enormous popularity in a moderately short time. Since in Britain snow and ice have been conspicuous by their absence for many years, the habit of going abroad for skiing and skating has spread like quicksilver through the country. So much so that business men stay at home in July and August and take their "summer" holiday in winter, when they can be sure of ideal conditions—sports, snow, and sunshine all together.

Probably very few of the thousands who enjoy Alpine sports realise that they owe their pleasure to a political refugee, a Dr. Alexander Spengler, who revealed the possibilities of winter weather in the Alps.

Dr. Spengler lived at Davos in 1853, and exercised his profession. The splendid health of the natives impressed him, and their abso-

lute immunity from chest complaints struck him as exceptional. In the face of much ridicule he advocated invalids sojourning in Switzerland in winter, and where invalids stayed for health, healthy people followed for pleasure, and one sport after another was introduced to give exercise and occupation.

Skiing came from Norway, tobogganing from Canada, and curling from the Scots. British visitors made the first skating rink at Davos in 1867, but although they skated in their traditional style, it was an American dancing master called Jackson Haines who came to Northern Europe in 1864 and taught the method of progressing on ice which is most popular to-day. He was the first person to dance on skates, and his influence has been the greatest of all in modern skating.

The international style that he originated, with the graceful, free movements, is now the rule everywhere, and all championships and chief competitions are held under the auspices of the National Skating Association of this country.

Skating is no new sport, for, in 1498, St. Lydwina, the patron saint of skaters, met with an accident on ice in Holland from which she never recovered. She was supposed to have worked miracles, and was beatified in 1616 and sanctified in 1890. Relics of her saintliness may be seen in a monastery in Brussels.

Dr. Johnson, who is said to have watched skating on the Serpentine, wrote the following lines at the request of Mrs. Thrale:—

"O'er crackling ice and gulfs profound,  
With nimble glide the skaters play,  
O'er treacherous pleasure's flow'ry ground,  
Thus lightly skim and haste away."

Another poet was moved to write:—

"Bless me, what a very nice  
And comfortable trade is  
This capering on ice  
And skating with the ladies."

In case some of our readers—you would be surprised to know how many *English* readers we can boast of!—do not know Switzerland yet or have a rather hazy notion of it, the necessary and important knowledge will be given them now:—

### Geography without Tears: Switzerland.

*The People* (25th Oct.):—

Switzerland is a lumpy country. It is all ups and downs. It is also a very small country, which is rather a good job, because if it were all rolled out flat, it would stretch all over Europe.

The air of Switzerland is very clear and beautiful. It has a tang of champagne. There is no extra charge for this. Visitors to Switzerland are advised to consume as much Swiss air as they possibly can. It is the only thing they will get for nothing in the country.

Switzerland is a land of gorgeous colours—golden sunshine, bright blue sky, dazzling white snow, and the Fair Isle pull-overs of the American tourists.

The famous Swiss sunset, or Alpine glow, turns the sky a delicate purple. The famous Swiss hotel bill turns the English visitor a delicate green. In other words, it does him brown.

There are no poor people in Switzerland. Practically all the inhabitants are hotel proprietors. Some of them are even hotel porters.

The chief industries of Switzerland are yodelling and milking condensed cows.

The favoured Alpine sport is skiing (pronounced she-ing). A pair of floor-boards are strapped to the victim's feet, and he is pushed down the mountain side. And they call it sport. Does it hurt when you fall? Believe me, skiing is believing.

The only thing I would advise intending winter-sportsmen and sports-ladies to do, when they tumble about in the snow, is to be very careful not to fall among the wild sheep, of which the *Daily Mail* (26th Oct.) says:—

Following the example of the herds of chamois which exist in the neighbourhood, a flock of sheep, turned loose some time ago in the Mount Arvel chain, in the Rhone valley, and which have since become wild and impossible to approach, have taken to the topmost peaks.

The authorities have now given chamois hunters permission to shoot them.

Suppose William Tell had been a mighty hunter of sheep! I doubt whether he would have attained the dignity of a national hero.

It's a long way to Tipperary, but Tipperary members of the local Co-operative Creamery Society, one of the best managed and most success-

ful in this country, according to the *Irish Independent* of 19th October, have travelled all the way to Switzerland, and as a result of their visit the afore-mentioned newspaper publishes a long article entitled "Lessons from the Swiss." It is a glowing tribute to Swiss organisation, and the Irish visitors are full of praise for our countrymen and the wonderful methods, some of which the Irishmen state are even quite unknown here, by which they keep the cheese and butter industry at such a high pitch of perfection.

#### Child Welfare at Geneva.

By Dr. C. W. Saleby (*Daily News*, 4th Nov.):

Yes, indeed, we have halved infant mortality in this country in this century. But on inquiry we observe that the figures during recent years show no positive and well-marked continuance of improvement. We have solved half of our problem, and have, apparently, almost "stuck" at the other half. Further inquiry shows that our failure largely expresses itself in the pitiful record of the first month after birth. The infant at this early age we call new-born; it is the neo-natal mortality that still defies us. The birth-rate steadily falls, and our task should be easier, but we are not discharging it.

The National Baby Week Council and the "Daily News," as the reader may be reminded, have observed these sinister facts and are in collaboration for their improvement. There is now in being a competition between our cities and towns, in respect of the reduction of their neo-natal mortality, including the figures recorded up to the end of the present year. The prizes and the honours will be gained by those places which have the firmest grasp of the nature of the problem.

In general, the shocking death-rate amongst new-born babies is due to causes acting upon them before or during their birth. These same causes have already been responsible for the fact that many babies are born dead. Most of the neo-natal deaths are merely delayed results of the causes which produced still-births. Our ideas regarding the proper way to feed and clothe and wash a baby, and so forth, are all hopelessly inadequate in the face of these facts. The lesson is to begin at the beginning. The problem is not peculiar to our country; it is the same in all countries, though notably serious here.

There is, of course, no real beginning. How old is a new-born baby? It is as old as Life upon the earth. All the age-long past of our race and of its pre-human ancestors is there. But for particular purposes we may say that the real beginning is in the adolescence, the becoming adult, the pre-parenthood, as I prefer to call it, of the boy and the girl—and especially of the girl—who will become its parents. And then there is the ante-natal period, all-important for life and death, with its urgent need for the protection of the expectant mother. No country, no city, no area anywhere is really tackling the problem of child welfare that has not an efficient ante-natal system at work. Development of this idea has been and still is pitifully slow.

The International Congress at Geneva resolved that "there should be a wide extension of general instruction in child welfare"; "the foundation of chairs of child welfare in Universities"; "the instruction of future mothers, more particularly by means of ante-natal clinics, in the laws of ante-natal health and of lactation." And lastly, for this is vital to repeat and repeat until we live up to it: "The normal development of the child can only take place under the care of its mother. The aim of child welfare work should be to help the child in its own home, and to secure breast feeding unless medical advice is opposed to such a course. Every nursing mother should be placed in such an economic condition as is essential to the discharge of her maternal functions."

So much for Geneva. No startling new discoveries. All "old stuff": the old truths, new every morning, by which prehistoric childhood survive, as will the children of a thousand years to come.

There is a city in this country where socio-medical work for infancy has been carried further, at greater expense, and with more devotion and skill than in any other. Year after year the results in terms of babies' lives have been signally deplorable. Why? Because where women go out to work there can be no homes, and where there are no homes the nation perishes. You may have, as this city has, a system of municipal midwifery, for instance, which all visitors from foreign countries are told to see, so perfect is it: but nothing avails where motherhood is dehroned. We despise Nature, and she destroys us.

Although the above article deals not with Swiss Child Welfare in particular, I thought that a good many of our readers will be greatly interested by what the famous doctor has to say. In particular, I think, I like the last paragraph, so obviously true and so horribly sinned against by the industrial so-called 20th century civilisation.

And, thoughts turning towards Geneva, fast be-

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coming the home of international bodies, I regret to record a great loss which has befallen the League of Nations through the death of—

Dr. Alfred Bonzon, who has the following tribute by a well-known British Peer in the *Manchester Guardian* of 27th October:—

Sir,—I read with the deepest regret in your issue of yesterday a report announcing the death in Switzerland of Dr. Alfred Bonzon. This is a great loss to the League of Nations. I do not think that many people in this country know what important and difficult work Dr. Bonzon carried out in the Saar from 1922 to 1923 as an envoy of the League. His task was to discover and place in safe keeping all the documents which might be of use in drawing up the list of voters entitled to take part in the plebiscite of 1935.

A former Vice-Chancellor of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Bonzon possessed great charm of manner, allied with considerable ability. His devotion to the League of Nations was plain to all who knew him, and from beginning to end he carried out his work with tact and success. He won the confidence of the French, and no German had one word of criticism for him. Indeed, his popularity among the burgomasters and other officials with whom he came in contact, as well as with the German population generally, was extraordinary. When in July, 1923, the time came for him to leave the Saar, expressions of regret were heard on all sides, and many in bidding him God-speed added: "Vergessen Sie unser Saargebiet nicht." Many hoped that he would return one day as a member of the Governing Commission.

In July, 1924, he proceeded, at the request of the Council of the League, to Athens to take over temporarily the presidency of the Refugee Settlement Commission, recently vacated by Mr. Morgenthau. He worked with the Commission until April this year, and shortly after that he was again sent to the Saar to examine a further number of plebiscite documents. He returned to Athens in July, and in the last letter which I received from him, dated August 23, he mentioned the great difficulties which the Refugee Settlement Commission were encountering, and added that he had been troubled with an attack of "Athenian fever."

I am afraid the work in Athens must have seriously overtaxed his strength. Certainly he has given his life for the cause which he had so much at heart.—Stamford.

I should have liked to give polities a rest this week, but the Tariff Reformers willed otherwise. As if to give further chapter and verse to my recent remarks under "How It Works," an esteemed reader sends us the following article from the *Anglo-Swiss Commercial Gazette*, which paper is the official journal of the British Chamber of Commerce for Switzerland (Inc.) and, therefore, ought to know what it writes about. Here goes:

#### A Correction.

"Switzerland being mainly German, goods from Germany flood the country; every canton, except those belonging to France, is looked upon as a German preserve, and the Government sees to it that the 'Fatherland' is duly favoured."—Mr. George Cecil in the "Shoe and Leather News."

Lest we appear to lay ourselves open to the charge of quoting a sentence apart from its context, let us explain that the above statement appears in an article entitled "The Swiss Shoe Business." We regret that the article in question is too long to give here, but as the statement referred to occurs in the second paragraph, there is no danger of our distorting the general context.

We are not quite sure whether to understand Mr. Cecil's words as an explanation, an accusation, or merely an astonishing example of loose phraseology, nor do we know whether his remarks are inspired by a short "run round" visit or prolonged observation; but we cannot, in justice to the Swiss nation, allow such a sweeping remark to pass unchallenged.

Undoubtedly the territory of Switzerland is divided up into three clearly defined sections, viz., the German-speaking, French-speaking, and Italian-speaking cantons. But to speak of any section as being "German," much less of another section as "belonging to France," is either ex-

aggeration due to the inattention or regrettable inaccuracy of expression, calculated to arouse an entirely false impression in the minds of those who only know Switzerland from heresy.

Switzerland is neither German, French, nor Italian. It is as separate and distinct a nation as is, for example, the Scottish people. But just as the Scotch are influenced in business and other things by English opinion, so are the Swiss influenced to a certain degree by German, French or Italian opinion. Obviously a man who speaks only German, or rather a dialect based on German, will of necessity be influenced by German literature, or, similarly, French or Italian literature. It is quite another matter to declare that the same man will buy German or French or Italian goods because of a community of language where, as a matter of fact, there is

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often little community of thought, and it is certainly going too far to suggest the Swiss Government deliberately fosters the sale of German goods.

In a subsequent paragraph of his article Mr. Cecil states: "As a matter of cold, hard fact, the German article (i.e., footwear), though made of good leather and strong enough to face the roughest wear, is clumsy and unsightly when compared with the British walking-shoe. The *Schweizer*, a born patriot, thinks otherwise, but he is quite incapable of discrimination."

The fact of the matter is that British goods are nearly always preferred in Switzerland, but that British prices and business methods are "all wrong." There is no quality in the world to beat the quality of British goods, and, similarly, there is no naivete to rival that of many British manufacturers. If a British manufacturer or merchant insists upon cash against documents, or cash in advance, or cash down, whilst his German or French or Italian competitor grants at least 30 and usually 60 days' credit from the outset, then, of course, British goods will be ignored, whatever their quality.

Nature is nature the world over, and it is only by carefully studying the methods of his foreign buyers that the British business man can hope to meet competition in the markets which he wishes to conquer from more wide-awake rivals.

Three cheers for the "Anglo-Swiss Commercial Gazette" (Inc.) for showing up such glaring rubish, which otherwise might be accepted as gospel truth by readers of the trade paper in question. A pity we cannot send this "Correction" to each and every reader of the "Shoe and Leather News."

But I hate people who spell "Schweizer." They ought to know that a "Schweizer" nowadays means not a Swiss, but a sort of farm bailiff, and, as far as I know, the term is only used in Germany. It has its origin in the fact that, whenever the German owners of large estates required a really efficient and capable bailiff, they used to get a Swiss—hence such bailiffs by and by came to be known as "Schweitzers," with the "t"—but why the "t" I do not know.

Now for a tiny, wee drappie of Mountain Dew—and then to bed.

## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

At the end of the present month the 4% Canton of Basle (City) loan of 1910, which figures in the list of Stock Exchange quotations given regularly in the columns of *The Swiss Observer*, falls due for repayment. The Finance Department of the Canton propose to repay the entire issue without resort to any conversion loan, so that no advantage will be taken of the authority previously granted by the Government for the issue of such a loan.

The City of Biel recently announced their intention of raising a loan of six million francs to provide funds for the consolidation of their floating debt and for certain building work which they had in hand. In the meantime, however, two insurance companies have come forward with a firm offer of a loan of three million francs, so that only three millions remain to be raised. The Cantonal Bank of Bern now propose to take up this amount firm during the month of December and to market the bonds in the early part of next year.

The profit and loss account of the Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon for the year ended 30th of June, 1925, shows a net profit of Frs. 1,838,986, which is practically equivalent to that of the preceding year. A dividend of 8% is again proposed. The directors state in their report that they are unable to report any general improvement in conditions. Business has indeed been more active, but competition has grown more keen, and the works have to supply goods at very cheap levels, sometimes below actual cost, and to give guarantees with their contracts the fulfilment of which necessitates the most careful and accurate attention to detail and economy in manufacturing. A tribute is again paid to the Federal Railways for the great work they have done in continuing their development programme and providing work for many hands who would otherwise have been among the unemployed.

A Swiss banking group, comprising the Union Financière de Genève, Messrs. Bupbacher & Cie. in Zurich and Sarasin & Cie. in Basle, are issuing a 7½% loan of Frs. 15 million on behalf of the City of Salzburg. The issue price is fixed at 95 per cent. The proceeds of the loan are to be devoted to productive purposes, and it is secured by a first mortgage on the electricity, gas and water undertakings and other municipal assets and further guaranteed by the State of Salzburg. The bonds are marked in Swiss francs and in Sterling, principal and interest being payable in either of these currencies at the option of the holder. Advantage should accrue to Swiss manufacturers from this loan, since the municipality of Salzburg undertake to give Swiss firms favourable attention in the matter of contracts for the supply of material for the municipal works.

## QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

BONDS.	Nov. 10	Nov. 17
Confederation 3% 1903 ...	80.00	80.25
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	100.70	100.85
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	82.10	81.85
1924 IV Elect. Ln.	100.37	100.85
Canton of Basle (City) 4% 1910 ...	100.40	100.08
SHARES.	Nov. 10	Nov. 17
Swiss Bank Corporation ...	500	704
Crédit Suisse ...	500	765
Union de Banques Suisses ...	500	606
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1850
Fabrique Chimique et dev. Sandoz	1000	3150
Soc. Ind. pour la Schapelle ...	1000	3437
S.A. Brown Boveri ...	350	382
C. F. Bally ...	1000	1137
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	258
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	1000	908
Comp. de Naviz sur le Lac Léman	500	565
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco ...	100	65
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon ...	500	715

## 'SWITZERLAND AND HER SCHOOLS'

In reply to a number of correspondents, who have asked us for copies of the above publication, we regret to state that the small stock placed at our disposal is exhausted; we understand, however, that the little volume may still be obtained "free of charge" on application to the Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, 11b, Regent Street, S.W.1.

## PESTALOZZI-KALENDER.

Der Neue Pestalozzi-Kalender, das Lieblingsbuch der Schweizerjugend. Besondere Ausgaben für Knaben und Mädchen. Preis mit dem "Schatzkästlein" Fr. 2.90. Verlag Kaiser & Co. A.-G. in Bern.

Es ist etwas Sonderbares um die Beliebtheit dieses Büchleins mit dem stolz-bescheidenen Titel —stolz, weil es im Namen Pestalozzi zur Jugend spricht —bescheiden, weil es seine Gediegenheit unter dem Gewebe eines "Kalanders" verbirgt. Wir meinen, das Geheimnis seiner gewaltigen Verbreitung liege eben in Beidem: in der lebendigen Anwendung der erzieherischen Leitgedanken Pestalozzis—durch das Mittel eines reizvoll ausgedachten und ausgestatteten Taschenkalenders, der den Schüler ein ganzes langes Jahr begleitet und beeinflusst. Der Jahrgang 1926 ist wieder ein wahrhaft feines Buch. Sollen wir etwas aus der Fülle des Interessanten verraten? Es wäre schade, denn eine knappe Aufzählung gäbe keinen Begriff von der Reichhaltigkeit der beiden Bändchen. Das neue Titelbild ist besonders reizvoll.

Seit Jahren findet der Pestalozzi-Kalender seinen Weg auch zu den Schweizerkindern im Auslande. Gemeinsam mit der Stiftung "Pro Juventute" veranstaltet das Sekretariat der Auslandschweizer (N.H.G.) alljährlich die sogenannte Pestalozzi-Spende. Sie ermöglicht es, den Pestalozzi-Kalender auch jenen Kindern auf den Weihnachtstisch zu legen, deren Eltern nicht in der Lage sind, das Buch zu kaufen. Die Leiter der Schweizerkolonien zählen den Pestalozzi-Kalender zu den wirksamsten Hilfsmitteln, um die Jugend in jenem Geiste zu erziehen, der die Auslandschweizer je und die besucht hat—im Geiste von Kellers Mahnung, jedes Mannes Vaterland zu achten, aber das eigene zu lieben—and im Geiste von Pestalozzis praktischer Erziehungsweisheit: "Der Mensch muss sich in der Welt selbst forthelfen, und dies ihn zu lehren ist unsere Aufgabe."

## UNIONE TICINESE.

The "soirée familiale" of this society, with concert and dance, held on the 12th inst. at the "Schweizerbund," Charlotte Street, W., in aid of the Fonds de Secours, proved an unqualified success. About 250 members and friends made it their pleasurable duty to be present, and this is highly satisfactory, because the committee made no special effort to secure a large attendance, relying on the sense of solidarity of the members, to see that all available accommodation was used.

The programme of the Concert was good throughout. Mr. Claude Chandler, already known to the audience, opened the evening with "Sport and Pastime," and this and his later ventriloquist entertainment were well appreciated; equally so the dances of little Miss K. Swan, who has grown up somewhat since we saw her last. The Humorous Character Songs of Mr. Wilfred Burnand, and the renderings of Mr. Harry Morton, English Cerer-ting King, delighted the audience very much.

"Non è ver" and "Irish Rose," sung by Mr. Thomas Rainger (Baritone), with Mr. A. Barclay, conductor of the well-known Brompton Oratory Choir, at the piano, were very good; and Mr. John Hamilton surprised the audience with his fine Violin Solos "Legend" (Weinowski) and "Czardas" (Monti), accompanied by Mr. A. Barclay. The Neapolitan Trio kept all in very gay mood for about 20 minutes, and the dramatic scene "Il rostino," by A. Giuliani, was extremely well rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Florentini—they deserved all the warm applause they received. The concert terminated with a selection on the piano by our compatriot Mr. Valchera, student at the Royal Academy of Music. He promises very well.

When those desirous of partaking of dinner resorted to the restaurant, and the hall was cleared for the dance, it was found that all available accommodation on the ground and first floors was required, and this left enough dancing enthusiasts in the hall to make it look reasonably full. No one, however, minded being rather near together, as this made the gathering all the jollier, and gave full scope to those who came neither to listen to music nor to dance, but just to chat with their friends. The many charming ladies present contributed so much to the enjoyment.

All were delighted at the large proportion of grey and white-headed members and friends, never too proud to join in a happy evening, on terms of simple equality, with those whom they employ, or who are their social inferiors in the ordinary walk of life. Of those outside the society's ranks, special mention may be made of our compatriot, Mr. C. Stefanoni, a most successful captain of industry of Buenos-Aires, who specially postponed his sailing for the Argentine in order to be with us on this occasion. His expressions of delight and agreeable surprise in finding here centre of genuine Ticinese democracy and solidarity were very warm-hearted. We were also glad of the presence of Mr. Valchera, who had just arrived from the Ticino to see how his son was getting on at the R.A.M. Our esteemed active member, Dr. Rezzonico, of the Swiss Legation, spent a few very happy hours in the company of his confrères.

The society undoubtedly owes special thanks to their member, Mr. A. Meschini, for his never-failing support, and to the Schweizerbund and their staff for the excellent arrangements made, which contributed in no small measure to the real success of the gathering.

The Fonds de Secours will benefit by quite a satisfactory amount, as in years past,—but many of the Ticinesi, accustomed as they were in the years of the late Georges Dimier, no doubt missed the presence of a representative of the Benevolent Society.

O. B.

## SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Committee of the S.R.A. begs to remind its members and friends that Sunday next, Nov. 22nd, will be the last day of the season upon which shooting takes place at our Hendon Grounds (in case of unfavourable weather conditions prevailing, the closing day will be postponed until the Sunday after).

This promises to be a really enjoyable day, as a special "Wurstfest" Competition will be arranged, also a special prize will be presented by the ladies to the marksman making the highest score. And—last, but not least—will come the less strenuous task of stock-taking in the bar, combined with the customary auction of some of the "liquid food" at all sorts of fancy or bargain prices.

Therefore, let's all go to Hendon on Sunday, the 22nd inst. H. P. H.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.*

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—With reference to what has been published in the *S.O.* of Saturday last, to the effect that the editor of the *Popolo e Libertà* has been sentenced to pay an indemnity to the Liberal leader, Dr. Arn. Bolla, of Bellinzona, and his colleagues for publishing an accusation of favouritism in filling local civil vacancies, I beg to advise readers to abstain from forming rash conclusions for the time being, as the case is only in the first stage. A fresh investigation has been ordered, so that the case must go through a second and perhaps a third act before the responsibilities are established.

In the meantime I may say that the only Ticinese journal fined up till now for defamatory publications is the *Dixerunt*, the organ of the Liberal party, whose editor Sig. Carlo Maggini, was condemned by the Federal Tribunal of Lausanne some time back to pay an indemnity of 500 francs to Prof. Giovanni Anastasi and Mr. Regolatti, of the *Corriere del Ticino*. By the way, that amount was used to erect a column in the Church of Sacro Cuore in Lugano as a permanent witness.

G. Cusi.

