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THE SWISS SPORTS.

5th June, 1926, at Herne Hill.
(BY THE SUPER-OFFICIAL REPORTER.)

Such an honour falls to the lot of few Englishmen. I owe it to an association with that little part of Switzerland which is bounded on the North by Shaftesbury Avenue, and on the South by Gerrard Street. What this "home from home" lacks in beauty is fully compensated for in its truly Swiss hospitality, and it was due to the influence of this latter that I became the Official English Observer for *The Swiss Observer*.

Having overnight as much atmosphere of a truly Swiss nature as the limits of time and law at Gerrard Place permit—away next afternoon to the sunny, verdant slopes of Herne Hill to enjoy a day—memorable—mystifying—magnificent.

Memorable for the sheer joy of it—stern-visaged, red-trousered athletes from the Rhône Valley—a bewildering day of blue-eyed beauties—happy parents, happier children, music, laughter, cheers—a wealth of memories in it all.



The Neuchâtel Mystery.

Mystifying only in the sense that an influential member of the Committee was able to produce a vision of old Neuchâtel through the simple means of pouring a yellow fluid into a glass, shutting the eyes and "sniffing." I must have "sniffed" too hard, because the vision was with me during the pillow fight, with the added beauty of the stars,



Visions of dear old Neuchâtel.



thanks to a well-aimed blow from my opponent. And magnificent from the fine sportsmanship of it all. When I was a boy at school I learned that Valais was conquered by the Romans in 57 B.C., and that following a long series of contests, in which the Burgundians, Franks, Kings of Burgundy and Arels, the Bishops of Sion and the Counts of Savoy prominently figured, it became Swiss and has remained so ever since.

The "Cercle Valaisan."

The "Cercle Valaisan" reminded me in their champions of these, for me, almost forgotten histories, and somehow seemed to explain them. Well trained and splendidly disciplined, the members of the "Cercle Valaisan" impressed as the outstanding feature of a day of good sport.

Bravo, "Cercle Valaisan"! and hearty congratulations to your men of June 5th. Their tug-o-war effort was amazing. A special pitch, I was in-

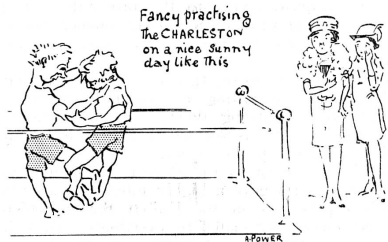


formed, had been brought from the Derby course at Epsom—and it looked like it!

The end man in the opposing team had a most agonised expression. Someone told me afterwards that he was praying for the Derby dog to get mixed up with the legs of the "Swift and Sure" contingent in the red trousers. The "Cercle Valaisan" team took their orders, and as one man took one deep breath, seized the rope, and started to run—backwards! A crowd of fellows hung on to the other end of the rope and seemed to enjoy



their joy ride on the Derby track—so much so that they asked for another one. This the "Cercle Valaisan" team very graciously accorded them—after which they, as one man, bowed—and, again as one man, marched off the ground to the martial strains of "Another little cup won't do us any harm." Single-minded fellows these, men of one idea, rhythmic, ruthless, inevitable—champions!



The Wrestlers.

The quality of the wrestling bouts deserves the services of a much more able pen than mine, and I was surprised and disappointed that these fine bouts did not attract a bigger audience on the field. I joined a very small party to watch one of the cleanest and most workmanlike bouts I have

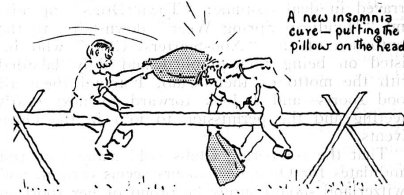


seen for many a day. Two "perfect little dears" who were watching the game with great intent

insisted that the two competitors were practising the—Charleston! To the wrestlers my thanks for a show that in itself would ordinarily provide an interesting afternoon of sport.

The Pillow Fight.

To those students of psychology who attach importance to facial expression the pillow fight was worth more than a course of Pelmanism and



easily more than any correspondence course. To the very distinguished Honorary President I bow—I bowed several times, as a matter of fact, during the duel with him—jolly well had to—but this present one is a serious bow to his jolly good sportsmanship and to his welcome at your meeting. I am having a special pillow made for next year's contest!

Push Ball.

The push ball event promised great things and provided 'em. After all the fat men on the ground had been exhorted to come forward, the ball was brought to place by a whooping, yelling crowd of young red Indians. The referee abandoned his visions of Neuchâtel, and after a hasty conference with his legal adviser—this I was told afterwards, in case someone should mistake him for the ball in the course of the game—the team were mar-

shalled, a whistle blew, and off they pushed. Great excitement in the first half, because no whistle was blown as the ball crossed the line. A distressed and most beautiful young lady near me exclaimed: "Good Lord, daddy's swallowed the whistle!" This happily proved to be untrue—the lack of a signal being due to lack of breath through the referee having earlier assisted with the inflation of the ball!

The "Cercle Valaisan" men here showed that they could "push" as well as they could "pull," and in a hotly contested match the victory went to the Union Helvetia, although in my opinion the result was well within the grasp of the City Swiss Club but for an error on the part of one of their team, who mistook one of the more portly members for the ball!

Handicaps.

The details of the Handicap Events have been dealt with in another place, but I must record the high quality of the contests and the keenness and enthusiasm of entrants and observers all. The Relay Race was splendidly run and provided one of the best thrills of a stirring day.

One of the most efficient looking members of the Police force



The Prizes.

A wise Committee, doubtless having in mind the fate which befell a famous racing trophy at Ascot on one occasion, secured the services of one of the most efficient-looking members of the Metropolitan Police Force especially for the purpose of inviting any who so wished to try to escape with all or any of the trophies on which he was keeping an eye—or rather both eyes. Apparently nobody

accepted the invitation. I am told that at the end of the day he, too, took a visionary trip to Neuchâtel and was actually heard "yodelling" between mouthfuls of "Zwieback." For me—away to the sedate English countryside, with memories of Swis Sports, Neuchâtel, "Zwieback," and a host of good fellows.

Someone who asked, "How did you like the Swiss Sports?" elicited the reply, "All of them." From the first one I met on entering, who was arrayed in dual costume: "Town Dress" upstairs and "Handicap Spring Wear" downstairs, to the gentlemen of the "Non-Starters' Club," who insisted on being photographed and duly labelled with the motto of their Club, I found them all good sports—and I look forward to next year's meeting and the permission to join in the Open Events.

That the competing Clubs hold many potential candidates for Olympic honours seems certain, and Switzerland should surely be proud of her sporting sons on this side of the Channel. R. H. F.



FOYER SUISSE ANNUAL REPORT 1925-6.

The Annual Meeting of the Foyer Suisse was held on June 9th at No. 15, Upper Bedford Place, under the presidency of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Faravicini.

The agenda stated the ordinary statutory business of the company: (1) the Secretary's report (which is given below) was received with great satisfaction by the members of the Trust; (2) the accounts for 1925-26 being presented by the auditor, Mr. Dixon, were duly moved and seconded for acceptance; (3) the Council of Management was re-elected, and consists of the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme (chairman), Messrs. H. Barth, C. Bertschinger, G. Hafner, H. Joss, F. G. Sommer, J. Weber.

Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., was nominated as auditor to the company for the ensuing year.

The meeting lasted for 1½ hours, and in conclusion the Swiss Minister moved a vote of thanks to the House Committee, the Council of Management and the Hon. Secretary.

The Secretary's report:—"I have the honour of placing before you this day my 8th Annual Report of the Trust since its foundation on the 10th December, 1917. I beg you to remember, however, that this is only the third year of the actual working of the company.

"It is with feeling of thankfulness to God that we record that the year 1925-26 has been a good year in every direction, and the progress of the Trust has been steady and continuous all along the line. The guiding principle which has been followed by the Council during the year is strict financial consolidation, and I am afraid this principle has to remain our concern yet for some time to come. On the other hand, I am happy to state that with the disappearance from the house of the whitewashing brush, the carpenters and the engineers it has been possible to give correspondingly more time and more thought to the social functions.

House Committee.—This Committee is still in constant touch and often daily attendance.

Council of Management has met six times during the year to receive reports of House Committee and to manage the current affairs. A few items should be mentioned here, viz.: The lease terminating our tenancy in 1925 has, after protracted negotiations, been obtained from the Bedford Estate. A 3 years' agreement has been concluded with the French-

speaking Y.M.C.A. for the use of the ground floor and basement of No. 15, Upper Bedford Place.

Social Activities.—There has been a splendid growth of social service during the past year; the applications for the use of the hall, etc., have been far ahead of the previous year. During the whole winter season from end September till end April the premises have been used almost daily, and even by several sections simultaneously. From January 1st to March 31st there were 72 public meetings in the Foyer, besides numerous Committee meetings of different groups.

The response to the varied meetings has, of course, varied greatly; many of the lectures were very well patronised. It might be stated that every group is perfectly free to make its own arrangements and contribution to this social programme.

The two sections of the Swiss Church have naturally had the largest share of the accommodation, and all the groups have to record a very successful winter's work. These groups are the Réunion de jeunes filles, the Schwyzerkranzli, the Réunion de Coutures des Dames, the Nähverein, the Ecole de Dimanche et Réunion de Cathédumènes.

Thanks are due to the various secretaries for their help and courtesy, and I may be permitted to urge an early attention to the new arrangements to be made for the coming winter.

Swiss Societies making use of the Foyer.—The Swiss Y.M.C.A. occupies the first floor. They also use the hall for all the socials and more important gatherings.

With the Swiss Mercantile Society, we are glad to say, arrangements have been made early in the year for the accommodation of the students of their Education Department for Saturday mornings. Further, several banquets and socials were held under the directions of Mr. Meyer, our manager.

The Swiss Choral Society has held regular rehearsals in this hall on Fridays.

The loss of two members is to be deplored. Mr. Ochsenbein has retired from the Trust, and the late Mr. A. G. Matzinger was called home last June. He had been one of the original founders of the Foyer Suisse, a most faithful member of the C.M. and a man of faith, steady purpose and sound common-sense. We are bound to honour his memory by a tribute of gratitude.

In particular do I want to express the thanks of the Company to our untiring manager, Mr. W. Meyer, our chef, Mr. F. Koelliker, and their staff of faithful servants, most of whom have been with us for years.

Mr. F. Ineichen continues to act as hon. accountant, and we acknowledge his valuable services with hearty thanks. C. BERTSCHINGER, Hon. Sec.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

A Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, was held on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and the admissions and resignations duly attended to, the proposal by the Committee to dispense, as usual, with the Monthly Meetings in July and August, owing to the probability of a tremendous heat wave during these summer weeks, was accepted, and the next Meeting was fixed for September 8th.

It was resolved to send in due course a circular to the members regarding the September Meeting, inviting them to bring their wives and fiancées with them, and it was decided that a musical treat shall then wind up the evening.

At the conclusion of the Meeting our Secretary, Mr. J. Semadeni, gave a highly interesting lecture on his experiences in the United States, which was very much appreciated by everybody. O. A. J.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. Ernest Sharpf, Zurich: "Landerziehungsheim Hof-Oberkirch." Mr. Max A. Thommen, Zurich: "Gymnastics." Mr. Emil Bühler, Sempach: "Life in the Dead Sea." Miss Elsa Roth, Grindelwald: "Egoism." Miss Lilly Baldebeck, Basel: "Swiss Mountains." Mr. Max Mühlberg, Basel: "Misery caused by Social Ambition." Mr. Paul Enz, Zurich: "A Modern Factory; Fiat, Torino." Mr. Hans Sterchi, Interlaken: "Kursalspiele." Mr. Ludwig Hardmeier, Zurich: "Foreigners in Switzerland." Miss Hanni Hotz, Wila: "A Mother." Miss Emmy Däuble, Zurich: "Flowers." Mr. Paul Zulauf, Biel: "Railway Signals and Signalling." Mr. Walter Müller, Basel: "Artificial Silk." Mr. Maud Modenesi, Oerlikon: "Easter at Rome."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Would it be advantageous for Switzerland to have one or more Colonies?" Proposer: Mr. Max Buchwalder, Solothurn; Opposer: Mr. Guido Marti, Breitenbach. "Should Switzerland retain her Army or demobilize it?" Proposer: Mr. Rudolf Appenzeller, Hönegg-Zurich; Opposer: Mr. Max Mühlberg, Basel. "Should Switzerland abolish or retain her Army?" Proposer: Mr. Paul Zulauf, Biel; Opposer: Mr. Hans Luchsinger, Basel.

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Reserves - - £1,320,000

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Song Recital

on FRIDAY, JULY 9th, at 8.30,

VIOLETTE BROWNE

Soprano.

AT THE PIANO - - GEORGE REEVES.

TICKETS (including Tax), 10/6, 5/9 and 3/6, can be obtained from Miss VIOLETTE BROWNE, "Pendennis," Kenley, Surrey, and Box Office, Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St., W. 1

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

Dimanche, 20 Juin, 11h.—M. Ch. Jeannot.
3h.—Anciens Cathédumènes, au presbytère.
6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Phil. 4, 8—9.
Dimanche, 27 Juin.—Hospital Sunday.
6.30.—Service liturgique et musical.

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, 20. Juni, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.
Pfr. Anton Ragaz.

Die Abendgottesdienste fallen bis 19. September aus. Während der Abwesenheit des Herrn Pfr. C. Th. Hahn finden die Sprechstunden wie folgt statt:
Samstag Nachm. von 4 Uhr ab im Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C. 1;
Sonntag nach dem Gottesdienst.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, June 23rd, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.—UNION HELVETIA: Ball in aid of the "Old-Age and Invalidity Fund" at 1, Gerrard Place, W. 1.

Thursday, July 1st, at 8 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS: Delegates' Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, W. 1.

Tuesday, July 6th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W. 1.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting) Shooting Practice at the Range, Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp). Lunch provided on Sundays.