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liberal supporters of the arts, of scientific research, they have, for instance, made possible the erection of the wonderful new Museum. Then, again, Winterthur possesses a Club House such as the Swiss Colony in London will be dreaming of possessing in another century or so—a Club House which fills English visitors with wonder, as I can testify. This, too, has only become possible owing to quiet, unostentatious munificence on the part of the partners of Volkart Brothers. And withal, the present partners, like their predecessors, I presume, are ordinary mortals, very likeable fellows, always ready to help, always conscious of the obligations the position in which Providence put them imposes upon them. And that is far more than can be said of others similarly placed. And that is why Winterthur is proud of this House of Commerce and has a deep, silent, but true affection for its heads.

Perhaps I could not do better than close this article with a quotation from a speech delivered by the late Dr. Theodore Reinhart (partner from 1879—1919) on January 2nd, 1919, two weeks before his death, at a banquet at which all the co-workers of the Winterthur house were present:

"Fellow-workers of the rising generation, who serve under the banner of Volkart Brothers and are looking forward to making your career with the firm, we partners appeal to you never to lose sight of this, whether in the office, in the go-down, or in private life, that you belong to a *corps d'élite* in the business world, and that many eyes are directed on it in every country with which we work—above all, when its members are travelling on business or on holiday. It ought, therefore, to be a point of honour with each one of you, especially when serving the firm in distant parts out of sight of your chief or your superiors, to have always a clear conscience yourself and to be considered strictly honourable by others."

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRA.

Last Sunday's Concert at St. Marylebone Hall. (Communicated.)

The echoes of the success which attended last Sunday's Concert will have gone well beyond the usual boundaries by the time the present lines appear in the *S.O.*, and to report here what that Concert was would be a pleasure were it not for the difficulty the writer experiences of playing his part as well as soloists and orchestra did on that occasion. Everybody appeared to have struck so well the road to success that one may be tempted to start and end quickly with a long word of praise.

First of all it was the very welcome return of that eminent baritone, Mr. Norman Blake, who has established a reputation as a singer which, one may say, few other amateurs can ever hope to attain. Mr. Blake's powerful and extremely beautiful voice is used with ease and art. His rendering of Adam's "Nirvana" and Day's "Arise, O Sun" highly delighted the audience, and he had to satisfy the insistent demands for encores by singing Allitsen's "Youth" and Eric Coates' "Our Little House," two equally pleasing songs.

In Miss Vera Gough (Gold Medallist I.L.A.M., Elocution) we had a very charming newcomer to the Swiss Institute Concerts, and it was not long before the audience realised that she belongs to a superior class of elocutionists. Her vivacious rendering of the dialogue between Sir Peter and Lady Teazle from Sheridan's "School for Scandal" (Act 2, Scene 1) revealed to us her dramatic talent and perfect control of intonation. Further recitations included Jerome's "On looking before one leaps," "He tried to tell his wife," several encores having to be conceded to an enthusiastic audience.

A very unassuming yet quite convincing performance was that of Mr. Giovanni Sandri, who played two violin soli, namely, Wienawski's "Légende" and F. Schubert's "Serenade." Mr. Sandri, who was accompanied by Mr. Dick, is a very skilful violinist, and his valuable contribution to the programme was greatly appreciated by the audience, which applauded this young artist very sympathetically.

Further good practice has given the Orchestra more steadiness; the playing was more polished, and there was a better ensemble altogether. Special credit is due to Mr. Ad. Steiner, who was called upon almost in the last minute to deputise for Mr. Chapuis, who was unable to be present. Kéler Béla's "Ouverture Romantique," Selection from Gounod's "Faust," Suppé's "Pique Dame" Overture, "Roses du Midi," by Joh. Strauss, were all surprisingly well performed. Whatever looseness there was on previous occasions had disappeared, and Mr. Dick, the conductor, is well on the way

to develop amongst his followers the complete *esprit de corps* so much needed in an orchestra. If our musicians continue in their efforts and earnestness, as witnessed lately, they will soon have set up the necessary organism capable of tackling more difficult problems. The day will have come then when they will be in a position to make themselves the interpreters of some of our own composers, and so add to the laurels they have already earned. The news of the success obtained last week by Gustave Doret at Strasbourg, where he conducted his Poème symphonique "Suite Tessinoise," has just reached these shores. Here, surely, is an interesting piece of work for Mr. Dick, when he feels his orchestra possesses the necessary strength and variety of instruments, to convene the Swiss Colony to a "Soirée classique suisse." The will is there probably, and there is no reason for not making it a paying proposition when the time comes for us London Swiss to go and hear our Native Composers. In the meantime let us thank Mr. Dick, the Orchestra, Miss Gough, and Messrs. Blake and Sandri for the very enjoyable evening they gave us on Sunday. The concert started at practically the advertised time and ended soon after half-past eight, so that everybody was able to reach his home at a very comfortable hour.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Once again the members and friends of the S.M.S. were able to enjoy themselves thoroughly at the Annual Banquet and Ball, which took place on Saturday last at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras.

Monsieur Paravicini, accompanied by Madame Paravicini, favoured the gathering with their presence, the Swiss Minister taking the Chair.

It would be too tantalising to those who were unfortunately unable to attend if any detailed reference were made here to the delights of the menu, because, after all, there is only a limited quantity of "Mousse de foie gras Paravicini!"

The Swiss Minister proposed the toasts to "His Majesty the King" and "Switzerland," which were followed by the National Anthem. The President Mr. A. C. Stahelin, then rose to deliver the toast to "The Swiss Mercantile Society" and afterwards addressed the assembly, saying:—

I feel like David in the presence of Goliath, but I am not going to throw stones.

Again I have the privilege of welcoming you to our Annual Banquet, and I hope that you will enjoy this evening so much that you will come again next year and ever after.

We are proud to have with us to-night our esteemed Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, in the Chair, and Madame Paravicini. (Hear, hear.) As you know, Madame Paravicini has not been able to attend any functions for some time owing to ill-health. We are the more proud and pleased that her first engagement of this kind is her attendance at our banquet. Madame, the Swiss Colony as a whole will be happy to know you restored to good health. (Cheers.) Our Minister is a busy man, but—and that is why we like him so much—when he promises to take the Chair, he does take it. (Cheers.) I often wonder what sort of a constitution a Swiss Minister must have. He must shoot straight when he opens a rifle range, he must take a general interest in sports—our Swiss Sports—and he must eat a good many Swiss dinners which, for all we know, he would rather do without. But what puzzles me most of all is how he manages to keep his "slim line." (More lighr.)

We have also with us to-night one of our Trustees, the men to whom we are very much indebted for giving us the benefit of their wide experience and their counsel, to prevent us from making mistakes. (Hear, hear.) These gentlemen are our Lords of the Treasury; their salary is nil, and they bear their own expenses. (Laughter.) I hope that there will be many more such willing gentlemen when we have to fill a vacancy.

Then we have also here a good many of our Contributing Members and Guarantors—the taxpayers. It is owing to their unflinching and generous support that we can carry out our aims. (Cheers.) To them, and to the contributing firms, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks.

We are on terms of good friendship with all the Swiss Societies in London, and are glad to have their representatives as our guests to-night, hoping that these pleasant relations will continue.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am going to tell you in a few words what we have done in the past year, but I had better leave out what we have not done. As you know, our activities are chiefly directed into two channels. First of all, there is our Employment Department, under the management of Mr. Pfaendler. (Cheers.) On account of the general depression and the restrictions, this department "feels the draught," if I may use this expression. But Mr. Pfaendler—"Jack" to his intimates, and just plain Pfaendler to everybody else—(laughter)—has a stout heart—(renewed laughter)—and puts up a great fight. (Cheers.) His name has a good sound all the way from here to Switzerland and back again, and he is considered 'everybody's friend' (Cheers.) We had an instance of this not so

very long ago. One of our Day School pupils wanted to invest in a motor-cycle. He was asked whether he could offer any guarantee, or a guarantor. His reply was: "Why, yes, Pfaendler of the Swiss Mercantile." (Laughter.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, you know that it is practically impossible for any Swiss to come over here to take up employment, and, consequently, that applications from Swiss people are decreasing continually. It speaks highly for Mr. Pfaendler's endeavours when I tell you that, in spite of all these obstacles, he has managed to place about 180 Swiss during the year 1925. (Cheers.) But a still better testimonial to our Employment Department and to Mr. Pfaendler is the fact that he has applications from Britishers—(Hear, hear)—and Mr. Pfaendler has managed to place about 300 of them last year. (Cheers.) We all hope, for the sake of the Employment Department and Mr. Pfaendler, that the much-advertised turning of the trade tide will come this year. In the meantime, he does what we all do: he invests a penny every morning in Fleet Street optimism.

In our Education Department a somewhat strange fact is that our Evening Classes have increased during last year by five classes to 50, as compared with 45 classes in 1924. The number of students has also increased from 326 to 331. If you take into consideration that the students in these classes are all individuals who are working all day to earn their living, then it makes one feel proud to be Swiss, for this is a very striking testimonial to the industry of our people. (Cheers.) As I told you just now, the immigration restrictions make it practically impossible for anyone to come over and take up employment in order to learn the language. This may not strike us as hard just now, but if one remembers that our country is dependent upon export trade, I sometimes wonder what will happen 25 years hence, when the present linguistic staffs are dropping out, and when there may not be anybody qualified to replace them. To remedy this as much as possible, we have created a Day School with three-months' or six-months' tuition, where the students may learn as much English as they can—or will. This Day School of ours is undoubtedly the "bright spot"—(hear, hear)—and I may as well add there are some "bright sparks" too. (Laughter.) The attendance during the past year has never been less than 100 a day, and as high as 145. They were packed like sardines, and our next job will be to find bigger premises.

Apart from these doings, we have held our usual meetings—nice and quiet affairs. Those who were there know all about it, and the others I would encourage to attend. I am sorry to say that we have had a nett loss of 110 members during last year, and I am afraid that this is partly my own fault for having taken certain energetic measures.

On the social side we have had our Cinderella Dances. They are very nice gatherings and an unqualified success—from the point of view of entertainment anyway. If any of you have not yet attended such a dance, your chance will come on the first Saturday in March, when we shall hold our last dance of the season.

This is all I have to tell you of what we have done in 1925.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very sorry I have forgotten to mention a very good friend of ours who is here to-night: Dr. Rezzonico. He represents our brothers-in-arms at the Legation—the Commercial Section. Another good friend of ours, Mr. Martin, is not here to-night. He is in Switzerland and, I believe, is indulging in winter sports. I suppose that, when he read "Kyburg's" articles in *The Swiss Observer*, followed up by Tom Webster's cartoon in the *Daily Mail*, he simply could not "stick it" any longer—and had to go. (Laughter.)

There is further missing to-night a very well-known face, our honorary member Mr. De Brunner—(cheers)—who is also one of our Trustees and one of the founders of our Day School. Mr. De Brunner is unavoidably prevented from being here. I believe he is on the Continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before I sit down I would like to make an appeal to you. Do not look so anxious—I am not going to touch your pockets. (Laughter.) I request you to use your influence wherever and whenever you can, in whatever sphere you are, to encourage our young people to become members of the S.M.S. and, what is more, to remain members! If you are asked, as it so often happens to me, "What do I get out of the S.M.S.?" do not attempt to answer this question. Retaliate by asking another question, "What did you get out of the S.M.S. when you were apprenticed?" (Hear, hear.) Most of us, when we were a good few years younger, have had excellent lessons at the S.M.S. schools at very little cost. In the modern strife of business life, in the hurry and rush and tear, there is not time to teach apprentices the theoretical side of business. This is what the S.M.S. does—I am not speaking of the London section only, but of the S.M.S. in general—and we are glad to do it. But to do so we must have

CITY SWISS CLUB.

CINDERELLA DANCE

at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, at 6.30.

Tickets at 10/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from

Members of the Committee.

members who are willing to support us, not only financially, but also morally, and thus enable us to offer to our young people the same advantages for which we owe gratitude to the S.M.S.

The President's speech evoked great applause, and was followed by an address by the Swiss Minister, who said:—

He had come to this banquet to enjoy himself and not to make long speeches. His neighbour to the left (President of S.M.S.) had suggested that the frequentation of banquets in the Swiss Colony might be a somewhat onerous obligation for the Minister. He (the Minister) would emphatically rectify such a conception. On the contrary, the opportunity of meeting his countrymen at such occasions as this one not only constituted an important part, and certainly a very pleasant part, of his official activity, but was also one to which the Federal Council, and especially the Political Department, attached considerable importance. The social meetings of Swiss Societies were indeed the best opportunities for the Minister and his Staff to enter into direct and personal contact not only with the leaders of each such association, but also with their members individually.

He was delighted to have been able to come to this dinner accompanied by Madame Paravicini, and he had from her the most urgent instructions to express her particular appreciation of the cordial and touching reception accorded to her by the President and the Members of the S.M.S. It had been a bitter disappointment to her not having been able, owing to a bronchitis, to go to this year's City Swiss Club dinner, and no better chance could possibly have been given to her to make up for that lost opportunity than the S.M.S.'s annual dinner with all its cheerfulness and good humour.

He wished to express his gratitude, on account of both Madame Paravicini and himself, for the kind remarks made by the President in the course of his excellent speech, and although he knew beforehand that he could at any time rely on the loyalty and energy of the members of this Society, he was happy to have thus received a new and valuable proof of their truly patriotic spirit.

To Mr. J. Semadeni fell the important task of proposing the toast to "The Ladies," because due regard has to be paid to the fact that a S.M.S. ball would be an impossibility without the presence of the fair sex, and therefore it is essential to ensure them a proper address of welcome. The toast to "Our Guests," delivered by Mr. B. Bretscher, was replied to by Mr. A. C. Baume on behalf of the guests, who included, apart from Monsieur and Madame Paravicini, the following:—Dr. Cl. Rezonico (representing the Commercial Division of the Swiss Legation), Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Mr. G. Marchand (Vice-President of the City Swiss Club), Mr. A. Suter (Treasurer of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique) and Mrs. Suter, Mr. A. C. Baume (Vice-President of the Fonds de Secours Suisse) and Mrs. Baume, Mr. G. Colomb (Vice-President of the Société de Secours Mutuals) and Miss Colomb, Mr. O. Gambazzi (Secretary of the Unione Ticinese) and Miss Gambazzi, Mr. J. P. Gallo (representing the Union Helvétique), Mr. W. Beckman (President of the Swiss Institute) and Mrs. Beckman, Mr. J. Tresch (President of the Swiss Club) and Miss K. Readman, Messrs. Bohmer and Ritzman (representing the Swiss Choral Society), Mr. H. P. Holliger (Secretary of the Swiss Rifle Association) and Mrs. Holliger, Mr. Block (Swiss Gymnastic Society), Mr. P. F. Boehringer (*The Swiss Observer*) and Mrs. Boehringer, Mr. Halperin (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*).

Mr. J. Pfaundler's appeal on behalf of the Fonds de Secours resulted in the handsome amount of £27 7s.

The "business" part of the evening then came to an end, and the dancers took possession of the ballroom until 1 o'clock.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. GROUPE LONDONIEN.

The January Council Meeting of the London Group of the N.S.H. was held on the 20th ult.

The Treasurer had to notify several resignations, but otherwise his report was a very satisfactory one.

Several communications were brought to the notice of the meeting by the President. Amongst them was a letter from the Swiss Committee for the Celebration of the National Festival, thanking the Groups Abroad for what they had done in answer to their appeal of last February for the deaf-and-dumb. We also received a postcard of good wishes from the "Soldatenheim Schwyzerschulhusli," Lucerne, and sent a card of thanks in return.

In reply to a letter from the Swiss Sports Committee, asking us to appoint three delegates to their Committee for this year, the following gentlemen very kindly agreed to serve in this capacity: Mr. F. Golay, Mr. A. F. Suter, and Mr. G. H. Weber.

Letters were also read from the "Services des Oeuvres Sociales" and the "Unione Ticinese," as well as circulars Nos. 60 and 61 from the Secré-

tariat des Suisses à l'étranger. The latter informed us of their intention to make a collection of lantern slides, with a suitable text to go with them, for circulation amongst the Groups, and they also announced the intention of the Auslandschweizer-Kommission to grant a credit of 1,000 francs towards helping to found libraries, where required, amongst the Groups Abroad. As we already have a large library of our own, and as the Swiss Federal Railways have a large collection of lantern slides which they are always ready to lend out for the purpose of lectures on Switzerland, there is no need for the London Group to benefit in this instance by the offer of the S.S.E., which will undoubtedly be a great boon to many other Groups not so fortunately situated as we.

A letter was read by one of the Councillors from the Rev. Schmid, of Zurich, who is anxious to come over to London to lecture, should any of the Societies here be able to arrange for him to do so. It was agreed that we would be glad to have a lecture from him some time this spring, if one of the other London Swiss Societies would combine with us.

75th Anniversary of the Foundation of Volkart Brothers' London House.

The night of February 1st saw a merry company at Pagani's, namely, the office staff, from managers down to the youngest office-boy, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the firm of Volkart Brothers. The company, numbering 31, spent a most enjoyable evening. The dinner provided by Pagani's was excellent, the speech- and toast-making was everlasting, and a jazz band contributed to the further enjoyment of the evening.

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.

Sehr geehrter Herr Redaktor,

Es ist eine wertvolle Sache um die enge Verbindung der Auslandschweizer mit dem Vaterlande, und dankbar empfinden wir die Arbeit Ihrer Zeitung um den nationalen Zusammenhang.

Dem Leser im Heimatlande aber tut es weh, wenn einzelne Ihrer Korrespondenten in witzelnden Worten über Dinge von so hohem Ernste schreiben wie über die Haltung unseres Bundesrates zu den Russischen Sowjets. Es ist das eine Frage, in welcher unsere nationale Würde auf das Gefährlichste engagiert ist; — der Entscheid wird für unser nationales Leben von grösster Bedeutung sein.

Und etwas Anderes schmerzt uns: das ist die Stellung zur Armee, welche in gewissen Berichten über die Schweiz in Ihrem Blatte eingenommen wird.

Wir wissen wohl, dass unserem Milizheer und unserer Soldatenerziehung noch viele Mängel anhaften. — Aber ich darf versichern, dass von allen leitenden Stellen das Möglichste getan wird, um derartigen Uebeln zu begegnen.

Es will uns aber doch scheinen, dass dem Schweizer im Auslande nicht vorwiegend Schattenzeiten unserer Institutionen vor Augen geführt werden sollten.

Unser Milizheer hat immerhin damals, als im Weltkriege unsere im Centrum Europas gelegene kleine Schweiz schwer bedroht war, mächtig beitragen, unser Land vor Kriegselend zu bewahren. Damit hat die Schweiz auch allen Nachbarn genützt, und weil sie eine Friedensinsel blieb, so konnte sie eine erfreuliche caritative Tätigkeit entfalten. Und sie konnte auch den Beweis liefern, dass ihr innerer Zusammenhang gesund und fest und dass die ihrer Existenz zu Grunde liegenden Ideen richtige waren.

Die sog. Londonerklärung vom 13. Februar 1920 zum Völkerbundpakt verpflichtet die Schweiz, auch künftig aus eigener Kraft für wirksame Verteidigung ihres Territoriums zu sorgen. — Das wollen wir tun! Dazu brauchen wir die Unterstützung aller vaterlandstreuen Schweizer in- und ausserhalb unserer Grenzen.

Deswegen bittet ein alter Soldat Ihr so wertvolles Organ um gütiges Wohlwollen für unser bescheidenes, aber opferwilliges Milizheer.

Mit vaterländischem Grusse!

WILDBOLZ,
Oberst-Corpskommandant
Bern, 3. Februar 1926. z. D.



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

Dimanche, 14 Fév., 11h.—M. le Pasteur A. Arias, de Naples. (Collecte en faveur de l'Eglise Vaudoise.)
3.15—au presbytère.—Anciens catéchumènes.
6.30.—Phil. 2, 19 ff. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
7.30.—Répétition du Chœur mixte.

Samedi, 20 Fév., 7.45—au Foyer Suisse. Conférence avec projections lumineuses du Colonel Luxmoore, sur

"La frontière N.O. de l'Inde."—Thé ensuite.—

Invitation cordiale à chacun.

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, 14. Februar, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.
6.30 Uhr nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst.

Samstag, 13. Februar, im Foyer Suisse.—Volksliederabend mit Erläuterungen. 5.30: Thee.

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.

Wednesday, Feb. 17th, at 8.15 sharp.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting, preceded by a "Souper," at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. Friday, Feb. 19th, at 8 p.m.—NOUV. SOC. HELVETIQUE: Annual General Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, Feb. 20th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Thursday, Feb. 25th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Serata Familiare (Banchetto e Ballo) allo "Schweizerbund," 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, March 18th, at 8 p.m.—SCHWEIZERBUND: Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, March 23rd.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet and Ball at Monaco's, Piccadilly Circus, SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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