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Club, you speak to a certain extent for yourself and it was not considered in good taste to rub in what a marvellous Institution one's own Club is and what exceptional qualifications are required for admission to membership. If one did so, people were likely to think what a self-sufficient and conceited ass the speaker was. (Laughter). He was glad to say that in this instance, anyhow, he was not in that position. (Laughter). He was the proud holder of an Honorary Membership and everybody knew that this splendid distinction was given to him merely by an act of courtesy and by no means for anything like personal merits. Under the circumstances, he was not speaking for himself but only for his Club and for those who had made it a subject of admiration for the whole world. No false modesty could therefore prevent him from acknowledging with satisfaction, but as a matter of course, the enthusiastic cheers which had just been given for the Club and its President. And indeed, he would say that the Alpine Club was nothing less than one of the great pillars of modern civilisation, it was the embodiment of skill, nerve and glory in all human relations with the world of the mountains. It was more, it was a link between men with high aims and ideals, and not only between men of British blood but also between this country and foreign lands, and a link of a particularly precious kind. His own country owed, perhaps more than any other, a debt of gratitude to that Club from the achievements, spirit and example of which it has been reaping, for nearly a century, a most generous benefit. The Alpine Club was to a large extent responsible for the particularly cordial feelings between British and Swiss; this was a thing which had been said again and again, but could never be said enough. In certain ways the admiration of the Swiss mountain folk for English tourists was simply unbounded. (Laughter). He would like to give an instance of such unbounded admiration. Each year when he spent his leave in his home country, he made a point of asking to lunch the old parson who married him eighteen years ago to his faithful spouse, and with whom he liked to talk about happy days of bygone times. (Laughter). This year the Parson said to him: "Comme je vous envie de vivre en Angleterre! Ces Anglais ne sont-ils pas merveilleux! ne sont-ils pas de splendides créatures!" He, the Parson, had just met at a mountain hotel an Englishman whom he no doubt considered a particularly fine specimen of his race and had had long talks and walks with him through the mountain forest. One day the Parson could not resist the impulse to confess: "Vous savez, Monsieur, si je n'étais pas Suisse, je voudrais être Anglais!" His friend looked at him and thought for a moment; then he said: "Oh, c'est très gentil. Les Suisses sont tous très gentils. Je vois votre point—je sens comme vous—moi aussi, si je n'étais pas Anglais—je serais dégoûté." (Laughter).

In conclusion, he would like to say one thing more about the Alpine Club. The French, with their delightful habit of chaffing people nicely, had a joke in a special form about the different countries. They said about Switzerland: "Un Suisse—un colonel; deux Suisses—un waiter et un head-waiter; trois Suisses—un tir fédéral!" The English came out slightly better: "Un Anglais—un sportsman; deux Anglais—un club; trois Anglais—un Empire!" (Laughter). "Now, Gentlemen," the Swiss Minister concluded, "if we apply this theory to the Alpine Club, we come to this: Every Englishman at this table is a sportsman, so there the French are right. There is more than one Englishman at this table and therefore you are a Club, and the French are right again. (Laughter). You are perhaps not, also being more than two, what is generally called the British Empire, but you are certainly a very brilliant representative assembly of your Empire. What better idea could one get of the glorious British Empire anywhere than at the Alpine Club's winter dinner—with all its lights of Sport and Science, with its excellent speakers (with one exception), with its heroes of the Alps and Himalayas, with its excellent wines and cigars, with its glorious memories, and with a man like Sir George Morse at the head of the table!" (Cheers).

(To be Concluded).

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

A Vollenweider, Schlieren: "Large Families and Their Advantages." J. Baumeler, Lucerne: "The Influence of Music on Human Beings." F. Amport, Zurich: "A Visit to a Tobacco Factory." F. Rath, Basle: "A Submarine Artist." J. Blaser, Zurich: "Road-making" and "Dreams." F. Voser, Wohlen-Aargau: "Spain (Agriculture)." E. F. Zweifel, Glarus: "Bolshevism and Mussolini." J. Ruffi, Egliswil-Aargau: "The Origin of the Red Cross." P. Barrelet, Neuchâtel: "A Few German Swiss in French Switzerland" and "Anatole France's Influence on the Present Generation." A. Schmid, Lucerne: "Happiness in Life." M. Vogler, Lucerne: "Time-System." R. Sigrist, Lu-

cerne: "Public Office Employees." O. Kaeser, Horgen: "Schubert, His Life and His Work." W. Groebli, Uzwil: "Modern Mills." H. Bollin, St. Gall: "Criticism of the Parliamentary System."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Are you in favour of a United States of Europe?" Proposer, Mr. H. Bruchlmann; Opposer: Mr. W. Schaad.

"Is Suicide Ever Justifiable?" Proposer, Mr. H. Lippuner; Opposer, Mr. A. Stadelmann.

Friday: Lecture by Miss S. Moshkowitz, Barrister-at-Law, on: "A Talk about Russia of Today."

Saturday: Visit to the Guildhall.

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FANCY DRESS BALL

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Mardi, 25 Décembre, 11h.—Noël. "Plus de place dans l'hotellerie." M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Service de Sainte Cène.

Mercredi, 26 Décembre.—5h., Fête de l'Arbre de Noël.

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Sonntag, den 23. Dezember, 1928.—Weihnachtsbaum in der Kirche um 3.30 Uhr.

Der Morgengottesdienst fällt somit aus.

Dienstag, den 25. Dezember, 1928.—Christfest. 11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heilig. Abendmahls. Kein Abendgottesdienst.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche Mittwoch, 4-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen, etc. erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane. Telephone: Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 5th, at 6.45 p.m.—SWISS MERC. SOCIETY: Fancy Dress Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel.

Wednesday, January 9th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS MERC. SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, preceded by Supper at 7.

Saturday, January 26th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Av., W.1.

Saturday, February 2nd.—SWISS MERC. SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball.

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