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zing again, at the wine, wine, wine"). Two popular singers, with doubtful voices but an apparently unshakable conviction of their musical talent, would wander from table to table and sing, accompanied by the Schrammel orchestra, the tunes which the father of the family or the young woman's young man might ask for.

After the war there came a sudden change. The English spirit suddenly invaded the Continent, and the English week-end penetrated, via Germany, to Vienna. In recent years the old-style Vienna excursions have been losing their attraction; the Viennese are now going on week-ends. No country is more bountifully equipped for the week-end excursions than Austria, with her magnificent Alps, and the Southern and Western termini in Vienna are packed out with an apparently unmanageable crowd every Saturday morning and noon. Mountaineering was always a favourite sport of the Austrians, but it has become infinitely more popular during the last five years. The Social Democrats of Vienna have intentionally trained their members to become good mountaineers. The party leaders considered that excursions in the Alps and a day in the open-air were both healthier and more dignified than spending the Sunday in wayside inns or in a Heurige, drinking wine all day long and far into the night. Tens of thousands of young Socialists have joined the Association of the "Naturfreunde" (Friends of Nature), and the leaders have arranged all sorts of facilities enabling the workers, grown-ups and young people, to spend the week-end in the glorious Austrian mountains at the least possible cost.

It is a common sight in Vienna on Saturdays to see a score of young people marching two by two towards one of the railway stations. The men wear khaki shirts, short leather trousers, and heavy nailed boots; the women are dressed in peasant printed calico dresses, the so-called "Dirndl."

One of the most popular week-end excursions of the Viennese in summer is to one or other of the many beach bathing-places along the Danube. There are fine swimming possibilities, especially near Klosterneuburg and Kritzendorf, and at these places huge colonies, with small week-end houses, have sprung into existence during recent years.

Austria, like Switzerland, is in the happy position that her inhabitants can undertake week-end trips both summer and winter. In winter the many and excellent skiing slopes of the mountains are visited. A Saturday morning at a Vienna station conveys the impression of a huge military camp, men and women alike wearing the blue "Norwegians," the skiers' uniform: wide blue trousers fastened round the heavy boots, blue coats with high collars, and the typical Norwegian cap, and every one of them "armed" with their pair of skis, like lances. The new Austrian railway coaches provide special room on the top for the skis. There are plenty of excellent skiing places near Vienna. The Semmering district, the Styrian mountains, the Wechsel district can all be reached in one to three hours' time, and in the higher parts of Styria the snow lasts till the middle of April. Passionate skiers who are able to take a longer week-end, often travel to Tyrol or to the Arlberg, while others are satisfied to go to the Rax, which can be reached by train and by the cableway in two hours from Vienna. Saturday night is spent in the many very good if somewhat primitive hotels of the valleys.

What has become of the Heurige? They still flourish, but they are no longer frequented by the Viennese. Many foreigners, including a huge number of English and American tourists, now visit Vienna, and the Heurige has adopted itself to their requirements. The tables are now covered with white cloths, the oil lamps have given place to electric light. The customers of the Heurige no longer bring their food with them, but eat à la carte. The wine is no longer served in carafes, but sold in bottles, and less cheaply. The only thing which has not changed is the music and the two popular singers. They sing to rich Americans from the Middle West "Wien, Wien, nur du allein . . ."

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Dr. R. Frei, Basle: "Divorce." J. Flückiger (Miss), Berne: "J. J. Rousseau." O. Amstad, Beckenried: "A Book I have recently read," and "Federal Councillor, the late Karl Schenker." J. Menoud, Neuchâtel: "Marseilles." A. Rubi, Grindelwald: "A Ski-Trip." E. Baumgartner (Miss), Olten: "Gainsborough and Reynolds." E. Meyer, Wädenswil: "Fog." P. Pfister, Sonceboz: "The Fame of Swiss Watches." J. Frey, Wil-St. Gall: "A Tube in Basle."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"That the Principles of Darwinism are Unfounded." Proposer: Dr. L. Pfenninger, Zurich. Opposer: O. Amstad, Beckenried.

"My Impressions of London." O. Amstad, Beckenried; R. Pleuler, Basle; J. Flückiger (Miss), Berne; F. Falkner, St. Gall; A. Hürzeler, Arburg.

Friday, November 22nd: A lecture was given by Miss M. A. Briggs, B.Sc., "Family Life among Animals," and illustrated by lantern slides.

Saturday, November 23rd: The Students visited the National Portrait Gallery.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme wishes to return thanks for the many marks of sympathy extended to him from all sides; Madame Hoffmann is progressing quite satisfactorily.

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Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le MARDI 3 DÉCEMBRE au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démissions.
Admissions. | Divers.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Next Cinderella Dance

will take place on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1929,

at the

Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Stn., N.W.

from 6.45 for 7.0 to 11.45 p.m.

TICKETS at 8s. 6d. (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained from Mr. J. C. Nissel, 3, Cross Lane, E.C.3 (Tel. Royal 3822), or from O. C. G. G. G., Gt. Portland St., W.1 (Tel. Museum 6633) and from Employment Department, 24, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 7719). THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

Divine Services.

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79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.1.

Dimanche le Décembre 1929: le Avent.—11h.

"Le Dieu caché"—Es. 45/15. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6h30—3e Etude sur I Pierre.

7h30—Réunion de recueillement.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 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.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 1. Dezember 1929.—I. ADVENT.

11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Dienstag, den 3. Dezember nachmittags 3 Uhr:

Näherein im "Foyer Suisse."

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Religionsunterricht sind erbeten an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Téléphon: Chiswick 4156.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche.
Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, December 4th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS. Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, December 7th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel. (See advertisement.)

Wednesday, December 11th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at Swiss House.

Wednesday, December 18th at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Ordinary monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Dr. Charles Ferrière will speak on "The Swiss National Park." All members cordially invited to this interesting causerie.

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