

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1929)
Heft: 401

Rubrik: The Foyer suisse

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 31.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

of the League of Nations building, out past the blossoming gardens on the shore of Lake Geneva, out to a strange little projection in the midst of the waters—a remnant of some prehistoric village which once thrived here under the shadows of the snow-crowned Alps. And I wonder if that old civilisation perished because it could not learn to adjust its thinking to its changing environment.

"Somehow our generation must grow a new crop of statesmen—men who can invent ways of maintaining peace rather than 'conventions' for making war more 'humane.' Who will tackle the job?"

Exactly! We don't want "more humane" wars, we want Peace.

The Liechtenstein Experiment.

The Zurich Correspondent of the Observer writes:

An article which I wrote last summer about the Volunteer Work in the Principality of Liechtenstein, aroused a certain interest among some of the readers of *The Observer*. These readers may be interested in what Colonel Cérésolo, the organiser of that work, said about it in a paper read here last week and illustrated by lantern slides.

As will be remembered, the task was to clear a tract of arable land covered with sand and pebbles by an inundation of the Rhine, in October, 1927. The work started in April, 1928, and came to an end in October. 710 volunteers, among them 78 women, were engaged in it. They represented twenty different nations. The number of working days was 19,371, the average for every volunteer running to 27. They worked 9½ hours a day. The result was the reclamation of 4,000 acres of land. Where there was a barren desert last June haymaking is going on now. The total cost of this fine achievement—tools and beddings were furnished by the Swiss Government free of charge—ran up to the very small sum of 30,000 Swiss francs, or somewhat more than one thousand pounds.

The volunteers were a motley company, ranging from the serious-minded student and social worker to the lazy vagabond in quest of free board and lodging. There were a number of English students. But the German Communists were more prominent, and it was they who tried to dominate the discussions going on after curfew. As regards the average efficiency of the volunteers the engineers estimate it at about 60 per cent of that of ordinary workmen.

The lesson taught by the Liechtenstein experiment has been utilised in other undertakings of a similar character, since organised by Col. Cérésolo. The most important change is that only students are now engaged. Thus a homogeneous milieu of a most interesting and happy composition has been created, and all those who have taken part in it are greatly satisfied by their experience.

Last autumn the villages of Misox, Vicosoprano, Bosco and Casaccia, all situated on the southern slope of the Alps and devastated by wild mountain torrents, enjoyed the help of the students. This summer they will assist the village of Bagnes in the Canton of Wallis, where 60,000 square yards of pasture land have been covered in by inundations. Work will start on June 21 and last till September 22. The volunteers will be given free board and lodging and a free return ticket after three weeks' work. The organisation is in the hands of the Technical High School at Zurich.

I trust the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas will get to hear of the above.

International Silk Association.

The last assembly of delegates of this important organisation has decided that the Third International Silk Congress should be held at Zurich the centre of that industry in Switzerland, from 12th–14th September 1929. The Zurich Association of Silk Industry has been charged with the organisation of this meeting.

The Importance of Swiss Purchases.

It is a well-known fact that the smallness of Swiss territory, the almost entire want of home-grown raw materials etc., are all factors which have led Switzerland to specialise in the so-called transforming industries which necessitate work of the highest order and for which exportation is a vital necessity. On the other hand, many hundred thousand natives of Switzerland have had to leave their own country and settle down elsewhere in order to find suitable occupation. It is also well-known that vast numbers of tourists visit Switzerland every year and contribute to its prosperity. These facts might give rise to the supposition that Switzerland and its citizens live on other countries without supplying them with any compensation. This is not the case. Swiss citizens living in other countries contribute to the economic development of the countries which offer them hospitality, by means of the work there exe-

cuted by them. Owing to the prosperous state of its industries and the facilities for travel which it presents, Switzerland itself forms an import market, the importance of which is often underrated. Switzerland's annual purchases in other countries are very considerable. This is due not only to the power of absorption of the market on account of the advanced stage of national economy, but also to the fact that Switzerland offers very liberal treatment, from the point of view of customs duties, to the various foreign goods imported by her. This fact has been recognised by authorities on the subject. Quite lately, on Feb. 19th, 1929, the Foreign Trade Minister in the British House of Commons declared that the general level of Swiss customs duties was much lower than that of most European countries. It is interesting to complete what we have here said by quoting some very suggestive figures taken from the international statistic annual published by the League of Nations. The total area of the globe measures 133,440 thousand square kilometers, of which Switzerland only occupies 41,000 sq. km. a most insignificant area, from a numerical standpoint. The total population of the world amounts to 1926 millions only 4 millions of which inhabit Switzerland. Swiss imports on the contrary amount to 1.46% of the total imports of the world! For the sake of comparison we here quote the proportions for a few other countries: Belgium 2.40%, Australia 2.32%, Czechoslovakia 1.45%, Spain 1.33%, Sweden 1.28%, Brazil 1.24%, Poland 0.56%, Roumania 0.51%, etc. All these countries, both which immediately precede Switzerland and those which follow it, have a much larger population than has our country.

The existing ignorance concerning Swiss purchases in other countries often arises from the fact that in the statistics of the foreign commerce of these countries, the classification of goods is often made according to the ports of destination, and not according to the countries of consumption. As Switzerland possesses no sea-coast, and therefore no ports, it often happens that goods destined for Switzerland are entered in the lists of countries in whose ports the goods are unshipped.

B.I.S.

More Motor-cars in Switzerland.

At the end of the year 1928, the total number of motor vehicles circulating in Switzerland had surpassed the figure of 100,000, an increase of almost 16,000 on 1927. During the last six years the total number of motor vehicles of the Swiss Confederation has trebled, that of motor vans doubled, and that of motor-cycles almost quadrupled. At present in Switzerland there is one motor vehicle per 39 inhabitants. The density varies considerably according to the districts. There is one vehicle per 18 inhabitants at Geneva—30 in the Canton de Vaud—32 in the Canton de Neuchâtel—34 in the Canton de Zurich, while quite naturally the mountainous cantons, the Crisous, Valais, etc. present a less accentuated "automobile density".

If one examines the makes of motor-cars and motor-vans actually circulating in Switzerland one observes that out of every hundred more than 31 are of American make (a point to be emphasised at a moment when the Americans are considerably increasing their customs tariff), more than 26 of French origin, more than 20 of Italian make and about 11 of Swiss construction. France who held the first place until 1927 was surpassed in 1928 by the United States. Nevertheless an Italian make heads the list, followed by a French make. As to motor-cycles numbered at more than 38,000, about 45 per cent. are of Swiss and about 30 of English make.

In the Swiss Shoe Industry.

The Swiss shoe, solid, smart and comparatively cheap, has enjoyed for many years a great popularity abroad. In consequence of the great war, however, numerous exporting relations were cut off and later the high exchange of our money, raising the cost of production, proved to be an obstacle to renewing normal export conditions. In spite of this, the Swiss shoe industry, thanks to its world-wide renown, succeeded in attaining an important export index particularly in high-class footwear. Now, ten years after the war, things have been changed; although there are still numerous people who seem to think that the Swiss shoe must be more expensive than other makes, on account of the Swiss exchange and that our goods are too dear for the middle classes. Our prices have, however, been adapted to foreign markets on account of the stabilization of currency in many foreign countries. Many of our firms have modernised their factories, adapting themselves to present circumstances and are thus enabled to-day to export to any parts of the world.

England and her colonies for example are again steady buyers of Swiss footwear. The fact is that Switzerland to-day is again able to export shoes to most foreign countries.

S.I.T.

American Protectionism and Swiss Export.

The growing protectionism of the United States of America, is a great source of anxiety for the Swiss exporters and more especially for those of watches.

Since the war, American protectionism has considerably reduced Swiss importation as the following figures show:

Swiss export to the U. S. A. in million francs.

1913.....	136.4	1924.....	205.9
1920.....	283.3	1925.....	191.5
1921.....	585.7	1926.....	201.0
1922.....	215.4	1926.....	209.6
1923.....	209.5	1928.....	195.3

In order to appreciate these figures, we must not forget to mention that since the war the price of goods in gold francs went up from 50 to 60% on an average.

S.I.T.

Swiss Industrial Development.

Switzerland numbers at the present time 8,331 industrial establishments employing about 400,000 workmen, i.e., about 10 per cent. of the total population of the country. The cantons having the most workmen employed in industry are, in order of importance: Zurich, Berne, Argovie, St. Gall, Soleure, Basle, Vaud, Neuchâtel and Geneva.

The textile industry employs more than 30 per cent. of the workmen, that of machinery and apparatus more than 14 per cent., the watchmaking industry more than 10 per cent., that of alimentary almost 8 per cent.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. E. Schuetz, Péry-Bienne: "Gold." Mr. P. Hofer, Grenchen: "Watch Industry." Mr. O. Meyer, Zug: "Militarism and Patriotism." Mr. A. Bernhardt, Baeretswil-Zeh: "Our Parents' Birthdays." Miss M. Hoehener, St. Gall: "Ireland." Mr. G. Lehmann, Worb: "Billingsgate." Miss C. Fischer, Winterthur: "What is Happiness." Mr. W. Katz, Basle: "Capitalism." Mr. J. Scheuermeier, Zurich: "Botany." Mr. M. Schwob, Hochdorf: "The Doll's Paradise." Mr. W. Baur, Beinwil a/See: "Summer Holidays."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Has the Cinema a Demoralising Influence?" Proposer, Mr. M. Schwob; Opposer, Mr. H. Kempin.

"Is Death the End of Everything?" Proposer, Mr. M. Bruggisser; Opposer, Mr. H. Roggmann.

Friday: A deeply philosophical and problematic speech was made by Thos. G. Harper, Esq., M. A. (Oxon.), on: "The Moral Basis of Labour." A lively discussion followed. Mr. J. W. Klein presided and offered the thanks of the meeting to the Lecturer.

Saturday: The Students under the leadership of Mr. Klein and Mr. Davis made an excursion to Dorking and ascended Box Hill. The Students delightedly exclaimed that the scenery was quite Swiss and returned home in high spirits.

THE FOYER SUISSE.

The annual meeting of the Foyer Suisse was held on Friday, the 21st June, at 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. The Swiss Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, Hon. President of the Trust, had communicated his regrets for being absent, and the chair was taken by the president, the Rev. R. Hoffmann de Visme.

The agenda consisted of the ordinary statutory business: Hon. Secretary's report, Financial Report, Election of three new members, Council, and auditors.

The accounts were presented by Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.J.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., and all questions and details being answered to the full satisfaction of the members were passed unanimously.

The following gentlemen were re-elected to constitute the Council of Management for the new year 1929-30: Rev. R. Hoffmann de Visme, president; Mr. G. Hafner, vice-president; H. Barth, treasurer; C. Bertschinger, secretary; H. Joss, F. G. Sommer and J. Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon was also re-elected as auditor for the coming year.

The following new members of the Trust were proposed and unanimously elected: Mr. Aug. Muller, Mr. Fred. Kueng, Dr. C. Devegney.

The Hon. Secretary's report (printed below) was read and also approved.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. W. Meyer, manager; Mr. and Mrs. Koelliker and the staff at the Foyer Suisse.

XI. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOYER SUISSE.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, It is my duty and it gives me at the same time

great pleasure to present to you, Gentlemen, as the Trustees of the Foyer Suisse the report of the doings of your Council of Management and the progress of the Trust during the year 1928-29. This report, however, must concentrate on the most important facts and happenings of the year and you are invited to bring us your criticisms or commendations if any. The Council has met four times during the year to receive the reports of the House Committee and to manage the affairs in general.

Business Section: Our business has been quite good during the past year. The call upon our domiciliary accommodation is so great that quite a lot of people cannot find room at the Foyer Suisse. Since we have fitted the best part of our concern with hot and cold water in every room our institution is full up all the year round. Our income is actually somewhat higher than the previous year. Our statistics show that the total number of visitors has been 1,003 during the 12 months and of these 689 were of Swiss nationality. The Foyer is running in constant touch with the Swiss Mercantile Society both here and in Switzerland. The number of young men of the commercial class making use of the institution as Absteigequartier is very satisfactory indeed. On the other hand we cannot find quarters for large numbers of young Swiss girls coming to this country. Many of these find a good home at the International headquarters of the Y.W.C.A., 24, Upper Bedford Place. It was this fact which prompted your Council to vote a donation of £100 in reply to the Swiss Minister's appeal for funds for the new building of that organisation now in course of erection in Tottenham Court Road. For the information of all our countrymen I would like, however, to mention here, that no Swiss girl applying for rooms is ever turned into the streets. Our manager has definite instructions to find a home for them either at the Y.W.C.A., or then with our late member of the Trust Mr. Ochsenbein at 1-3, Upper Bedford Place. Besides the donation already mentioned, the following institutions in London have received financial contributions during the past year: The Swiss Church of London, The Swiss Benevolent Society, The French Hospital in London, The German Hospital in London, the total amount being £260.

Loss of Member of the Trust: Through the removal of the late president of the Consistoire of the Eglise Suisse from London to Geneva, the Foyer has lost one more of its founders in the person of M. Jean Bauer. His loss is greatly deplored by all.

Special thanks are due to Mr. R. J. Dixon our accountant and Mr. F. Neichen who assists him in that department.

Social Section: While the affairs of Nos. 12, 13 and 14 are directly under the control of the Council of Management the social work carried on in No. 15, Upper Bedford Place consists of four if not five different branches, all of them separate organisations. This fact while it proves the many sided usefulness of the Foyer Suisse on the one side, carries with it its peculiar difficulty for co-operation and unity as a moral force in the life of the Swiss colony. However the opportunities for social service offered by the Trust under the original provisions made in the Statutes are simply abounding. The Council is also determined to render every assistance to all compatriots who are willing to give their services for the good of our young Swiss people.

The most flourishing of all the Social services are the feminine sections. Their meetings always show good numbers and the general atmosphere is excellent.

First to be mentioned is the good work of our president Pasteur R. Hoffmann and Madame Hoffmann.

Réunion de jeunes filles every Thursday afternoon. Ecole du Dimanche et Anciens chatéchu-mènes every month.

Then the activities of Pfarrer C. T. Hahn and Madame Hahn:

Schwyzerkraenzli every Wednesday afternoon, Sunday social every month.

Since the beginning of January this year an "At Home" every Sunday afternoon has been held in the hall, to provide a social hour and tea to all girls of the two congregations of the Swiss Church. These gatherings were taken charge of by your secretary. Further we have the valuable work of the "Union chrétienne de langue française" and the "Christlicher Verein Junger Maenner" both tenants of the Foyer Suisse at a low nominal rental. These activities are also greatly appreciated but unfortunately on account of the prevailing passport and labour restrictions, the numbers of young men in both groups are small.

The "Réunion de Couture" and the "Näehverein" have regular monthly meetings at the Foyer. A great quantity of useful garments are being made for poor Swiss families in London. Both these groups are self-supporting and deserve our special mention and appreciation.

In terminating allow me to mention only one more social experiment of the Trust, which was

tried on the 21st December last in the dining hall of No. 12, Upper Bedford Place, i.e., The Old Folks Christmas Luncheon. We were honoured in having the Swiss Minister M. C. R. Paravicini presiding over the gathering, and about thirty old people, over 60 years of age, had accepted the invitation. The occasion proved a great success and all those present must have spent one of the happiest hours of their lives that afternoon.

For the Foyer Suisse,
C. Bertschinger, Hon. Secretary.

OBITUARY.



ADOLPH MEISTER

from a snapshot taken in the garden of 33, Kingscote Road, Croydon, the day before his tragic death in the Aeroplane disaster of the 17th June, 1929.

La conclusion de la tragédie de lundi dernier tout au moins en ce qui concerne Mr. Adolph Meister s'est déroulée aujourd'hui (Vendredi, 28 juin, 1929), dans l'impressionnante Chapelle du Crématoire de Golders Green.

Au son des belles orgues de l'endroit, la famille en deuil et quelques amis se réunirent devant la bière chargée de fleurs et de couronnes superbes aux couleurs de Zurich et de la Suisse.

Et ce fut alors le simple service, porteur du message éternel d'espérance et de foi quand même! Malgré la brutalité de la catastrophe que réduisit à néant l'espoir du défunt de s'envoler jusque dans son ancienne et terrestre patrie, cette Suisse aimée et jamais oubliée, qu'il n'avait pas revue depuis cinquante ans n'y a-t-il pas eu pour lui un autre envol vers une autre et meilleure patrie, celle où il n'y aura plus ni pleurs, ni deuil, ni tristesse?

Telle fut la note profonde de cette cérémonie si poignante que l'orgue accompagna de ses accents tour à tour douloureux et pénétrants de douceur et en un glissement insensible, tandis que la musique résonnait suave et que retentissaient les paroles solennelles du "Committal Service."

"In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change the body of our humiliation into the body of His Glory."

la bière disparaissant emportant cette dépouille si douloureuse à sa dernière destinée:

"Dust to dust—Ashes to ashes."

A tous les siens qui l'ont connu, aimé et qui le pleurent maintenant, notre bien vive sympathie une fois plus encore.

R.H.V.

PHONE: ROYAL 2233
6 LINES

WORLD

TRANSPORT AGENCY, LTD.

TRANSPORT HOUSE, 21, GT TOWER STREET,
LONDON, E.C.3.

ANTWERP - PARIS - BASLE

Accelerated Groupage Service via Folkestone-Boulogne
to and from Switzerland and Italy
INCLUSIVE THROUGH RATES QUOTED

FOYER SUISSE, 15, Upper Bedford Pl., W.C.1

Swiss Girls and Ladies are cordially invited to an

AT HOME

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 3.30 P.M.

English Talks, D. Bates, Singing, Games, etc.

TEAS PROVIDED

Council of Foyer Suisse

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.
and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital - - £6,400,000
Reserves - - £1,960,000

The WEST END BRANCH
opens Savings Bank Accounts on
which interest will be credited
at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

Swiss Rifle Association

Headquarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1
Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

Shooting Practice

AT THE RANGE

EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Luncheons and Teas provided for on Sundays.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la
prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 2 JUILLET au Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. Cette assemblée sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. précises (8/6 par couvert) et suivie d'une danse.

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).

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française).

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.3.

Dimanche, 30. Juin 11h. et 7h.: Mr. G. Isely, de l'Armée du Salut.

Dimanche 7. Juillet: M. R. Hoffmann -de Vismé—
Stc. Cène, matin et soir.

SERVICES FUNEBRES

M. Carl Vogt, de Franchfurt s/Main.—Décédé le 10. juin, dans sa 75e année—au Crématoire de Golders Green le 14. juin.

M. Adolph MEISTER, de Zurich, décédé accidentellement le 17 juin, 1929—dans sa 74e année—au Crématoire de Golders Green, le 21. juin.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Vismé, 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.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 30. Juni, 1929.—11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

Während der Ferien des Pfarrers wird Herr Pfarrer Paul Zundel von Zürich ihn in Predigt und Amt vertreten. Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen sind an den Präsidenten der Kirchenpflege Herrn A. Steiger, 44, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, W.8 oder an Herrn Pfarrer Paul Zundel, "Foyer Suisse", 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1 erbeten.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, June 30th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Outing and Sports, King's Oak Hotel, High Beech, Epping.

Tuesday, July 2nd, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See Advert.).

Wednesday, July 3rd, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, August 1st, from 3 to 9 p.m.—FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION, at the Rifle Range, Hendon. (See Advert.).

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon.

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD at 25 LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.