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## SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ZURICH.

By A. Rohn, Dr. h. c., President of the Board of Administration of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

In the beginning of November of this year the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich will celebrate its 75th anniversary. On this occasion it sends a cordial invitation to its former students both Swiss and foreign. This jubilee is intended as a family gathering for all of them. It will give them an opportunity of studying all the improvements that have been made during the last 25 years and to become acquainted with those that will be carried out in the near future.

On the 6th November, at 9 p.m., participants will meet at the Dolder Grand Hotel where they will be the guests of the Canton and the Town of Zurich.

On the 7th November the official ceremony will take place at 10 o'clock at the municipal theatre, a banquet will follow at 1 p.m. in the large hall of the Tonhalle and in the evening the students of the S.F.I.T. will arrange a torchlight procession.

On the 8th November all the buildings of the Federal Institute will be open to visitors; at 4 p.m. the inauguration of the new Students' Home will take place and at 9 p.m. an academic festival will unite all the participants in the main building of the S.F.I.T.

The Institute is composed of ten departments: The Faculties of *Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanics, Chemistry, Pharmaceutics, Forestry, Agriculture, Irrigation and Surveying, Mathematics and Natural Science*. Besides these it includes a department of *Military Science* and a Department of Optional Lectures of which it is particularly proud.

This general department which is accessible to a wider public includes courses in Philosophy, Literature, History and Economics and others for Mathematics and Pure and Applied Science; the former are chiefly intended for students of the S.F.I.T., the latter for any person desiring to increase his knowledge in the various branches of science. The first of these two groups of lectures aims at completing the general education of the future engineer, to avoid that professional one-sidedness which is often the consequence of highly specialised studies.

Numerous institutes for scientific research, laboratories and rich collections are attached to the Federal Institute, such as Mechanical, Physical, and Electro-technical Laboratories, a Laboratory for Testing Materials, a Research Institute of Forestry and an Institute for Agricultural Research. There is also an Astronomical Observatory and a Collection of Engravings. The special collections belonging to the various branches of technology do not claim to be museums, but they contain ample materials for teaching science in an up-to-date and competent manner. Only quite recently a new Laboratory for Hydraulic Demonstrations and Research Work has been opened. The Library of the S.F.I.T. contains 110,000 volumes and 460,000 copies of patents not counting the special libraries of the different departments.

Switzerland is nowadays a typically industrial state in spite of the fact that about a quarter of its surface is unproductive and though it possesses no other natural sources of wealth than its glaciers and the "white coal" that comes from them. Our country owes a great part of its industrial progress to the Institute of Technology. Its Departments for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, as those for Civil Engineering and Chemistry, to mention only the most important, have had a large share in the development of our key industries and the great engineering plants of this country. The Faculties of Agriculture and Forestry play an important part in all questions regarding food production and the cultivation of the soil.

Fully aware of the economic difficulties that Switzerland has to overcome, the S.F.I.T. has at all times tried to fill its students with an ardour for scientific work and to turn out engineers who combine sound theoretical knowledge with a sense for its practical application. Only this determination to produce in every branch work of the best quality will enable a country without natural resources like Switzerland to maintain that high standard of life which it now enjoys.

Students are admitted to the first course on presenting such Swiss or foreign matriculation certificates as are recognised by the regulations. An entrance examination similar to the Swiss matriculation and specially adapted to the requirements of the S.F.I.T. and its international character is held twice a year.

The academic year opens in October. Foreign students are treated in every way like Swiss students. They have to pay the same fees, i.e., 300 frs. a year and a small additional fee for the use of laboratories and library and for insurance against sickness and accident.

A Students' Home is to be opened in autumn to reduce students' expenses during their time at the S.F.I.T.

The duration of studies varies according to the syllabus of the various departments from 7 to 8 semesters including the examination period for the Diploma.

On the whole students are free to arrange their programme of studies themselves as long as this liberty does not interfere with a rational, well regulated course of studies. The normal syllabus is drawn up so as to enable the student to complete his course in a minimum number of semesters, but it requires on his part a continuous and conscientious effort. The lectures of the first 4 semesters provide for a thorough training in the theoretical side of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Natural Science while during the last 2 years they aim at developing in the student the faculty for the practical application of Science. Special importance is attached to close contact between professors and students in the research laboratories and in drawing office work. This method of instruction tends to produce engineers with a wide outlook on life, capable of filling responsible positions in technical undertakings. It avoids the purely practical work that students will learn much better by experience than at school, but it does not aim at a purely theoretical training either, at least as regards the majority of students.

All the departments (Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanics, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry, Agriculture, etc.) with the exception of the Pharmaceutical Dep. confer a Diploma; the title of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) can be awarded by any of the Faculties.

The S.F.I.T. has since its foundation been an international institute in the best sense of the term, thanks to its special position in the heart of Europe and to the traditions of Switzerland. The bonds of friendship that have been formed in the lecture rooms and the laboratories between students from different countries extend over the whole world. The number of students taught in the Federal Institute has always been much greater than that of the engineers that find employment in Switzerland.

The 75th anniversary of its foundation will afford the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology a welcome opportunity to show its gratitude to the Swiss authorities and to Swiss industrialists all of whom have always taken a warm interest in its prosperity and assisted it very generously with their financial support. S.I.T.

## FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND GO TO LAW.

By LESLIE R. ALDOUS.

The date is October 22nd, 1930, and the scene is the Peace Palace at The Hague. Impressively robed judges, representing almost all the chief legal systems of the world, are met together on the bench of an unusual Court of Law. The parties to the dispute are not individuals, but nations—in this case France and Switzerland. Brilliant lawyers will put forward their countries' cases, and after hearing all the arguments on both sides, the judges will hold careful consultations. Finally judgment will be delivered. Before the League of Nations established the Permanent Court of International Justice at the end of 1921, such a proceeding would have seemed almost fantastic.

Little need here be said about the present dispute between France and her neighbour. What really matters is the principle of law, not war, by means of which the Court has already settled more than thirty cases. Suffice to explain that the origins of the trouble can be traced back to after the Napoleonic Wars when, for the benefit of trade and communications along the frontier, "free zones" were established in the regions of Upper Savoy and Gex. In the course of a century, conditions have changed. The Treaty of Versailles declared that the two countries should come to a new arrangement, but it did not suppress the free zones. Friction along the frontier has become intense, owing to the inability of France and Switzerland to reach a friendly agreement. This is not an academic dispute for, owing to the great difference between the values of the French and Swiss francs, the cost of living along the frontier is affected. The time has come for the Court to apply legal principles, in order to get a fair settlement.

No useful purpose can be served by attempting to anticipate the verdict of the judges at The Hague. But this much can be said—no decision of the Court has ever yet been questioned.

That tradition is not likely to be broken in the present instance. France has twice been on the losing side in cases of importance which have come before the Court, the other parties being respectively Great Britain and Turkey. Just after the latter verdict had been delivered, the writer heard it referred to in the course of an impressive speech by M. Briand, the French Foreign Minister. There could be no doubt as to his sincerity when he declared that France's belief in arbitration remained unshaken.

*Bayswater Chronicle.*

## HELVETICA LODGE LADIES' FESTIVAL.

The Helvetica Lodge, which as most people know is the Swiss Masonic Lodge in London under the English constitution, held its Ladies' Festival on Saturday, October 25th, at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, Mr. Max Gerig, accompanied by Mrs. Gerig, being in the Chair.

The festival had been arranged to take place at the May Fair Hotel, but owing to unforeseen circumstances a post haste change had to be made to the Hotel Victoria.

The function started shortly after 6 o'clock with a reception by the President and Mrs. Gerig. Approximately ninety guests sat down to dinner, and Mr. Newman's Band regaled us with exquisite and appropriate "table music" which, combined with the good fare, put everyone at once in the right "Stimmung."

An attractive menu card, bound with a pale blue ribbon formed a very pretty table decoration, the feature being a troubadour in a Venetian gondola serenading his fair lady-love. Besides the menu it contained a list of toasts, etc. with a small quotation after each item, the one following the toast to the Worshipful Master being:

"And send him many years of sunshine days."

—King Richard II.

a toast which was enthusiastically responded to. I have attended a good many functions in the Swiss colony but seldom have I found a gathering which expressed itself in such affectionate terms to its Chairman.

Amongst the participants were many well-known members of the Swiss colony, present and past presidents of Swiss Societies in London, representatives from various London Lodges, and, of course, the bevy of charming ladies to whom this festival was dedicated.

During dinner, various toasts were drunk, which were announced by loud knocks with a wooden hammer by various officers of the lodge; their lusty hammering made my fair companion jump each time and nearly made me waste some of the precious beverage with which the guests were so liberally supplied. I understand that this is a custom held in lodges, but if ever I should be entrusted to hold that little hammer, I might feel inclined to take some cruel revenge on the nasty little instrument which played such havoc with one's tender nerves.

The after dinner speeches were "short and sweet." Mr. R. Marchand paid a high and touching tribute to the Chairman, Mr. M. Gerig in proposing the toast of the evening, "The Ladies" made a charming allocution to the ladies present, full of wit, sprinkled with poetical quotations, and I must confess that this was one of the most pleasant speeches I have had the privilege to listen to for many a day.

It must have been a tremendous inspiration to our ladies in these days of woman's emancipation, and I am afraid I am still suffering from the effect of it without, however, bearing a grudge against its author.

The reply to the toast of the ladies was made by Mrs. A. Saager, the speech being as charming as the deliverer. I only wish that some of our young compatriots could have heard those words full of love and admiration for our dear home land. The "coup" of the evening was no doubt, when Mrs. Saager presented, on behalf of the ladies, a beautiful silk banner to the Helvetica Lodge. This emblem shows the Swiss coat of arms, surrounded by our national flowers, Edelweiss and Alpenrosen and bears the names of the founders of the Helvetica Lodge.

The Chairman in accepting this generous gift, assured the donors that it will ever be cherished by all the members of the lodge, and that they will try to live up to the lofty ideals by which this present was inspired.

Mr. P. F. Boehringer then rose to address a few words to the charming wife of the Chairman, the witty remarks as well as the sincere admiration which the speaker voiced on behalf of the members of the lodge found confirmation in long and hearty applause, and well did she deserve this praise. He then presented Mrs. M. Gerig with a beautiful silver rose bowl, suitable engraved, and a similar presentation was also made to Mrs. A. Saager on behalf of the members of the Helvetica Lodge. Mrs. M. Gerig acknowledged the gift, choosing just the right words and making everyone realise what a great help she must have been to the Chairman in his high and responsible office.

Dancing then followed under the able direction of Mr. C. Chapuis, and if there is still room on his cap, he may add another feather to it. During the evening an entertainment was provided by the Clown Argo, a Master of Mimics, and Isolde and Alexis in Exhibition Dancing which for a moment made me forget my rheumatism, but when trying to imitate them in the sanctuary of my bedchamber, I was unpleasantly reminded that I belong to the "has been's." Mr. Conrad, President of the Swiss Choral Society, rendered two songs and his pleasant voice and admirable execution proved to be a welcome item, although it was not listed on the

programme. I must not omit to place it on record that Mr. G. Marchand was in charge of the arrangements and right well did he deserve the praise bestowed on him.

Alas, all too soon we had to part, but to all of those who had the privilege to attend this festival it will remain in good remembrance; it was truly a most enjoyable evening and the Helvetic Lodge may be heartily congratulated on the success of this, its fourth Ladies' Festival. St.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. B. Rieter, Geneva: "Is Education a Failure?" Mr. A. Delor, Geneva: "The Russians in Exile." Mr. C. Pfenninger, Stäfa: "The Alsatian Home Ruler." Mr. A. Kilcher, Rheinfelden: "Tea." Miss E. Liechti, "Happiness." Mr. N. de Weck, Fribourg: "The Free City of Danzig." Miss G. Pfeiffer, Vevey: "William Shakespeare." Miss V. Steger, Lichtensteig: "My First of August Fire in England." Mr. A. Isotta, Lugano: "Is Novel-reading a Waste of Time?"

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Does the Aim justify the Means?" Proposer: Mr. A. Seiler. Opposer: Mr. O. Freitag.

On Friday night, the 24th October, Mr. E. Yates delivered a most interesting lecture on hidden beauty spots of London. Mr. Yates took us for a stroll from Tower Hill to Temple Bar, and showed us with the help of lantern slides how London had developed since the Roman conquest.

Many Londoners would be surprised if they knew that a large number of their offices have been erected on the remains of Roman walls.

Very interesting were the descriptions and pictures of old City Churches, which, hidden behind massive blocks of modern office-buildings, appear non-existent to the thousands that pass close by to earn their daily bread, yet harbour untold beauty and historical value.

The lecture was savoured by real English humour, and one joke appealed particularly to the audience, namely that of the American lady, who, wishing to take back a souvenir to her native country, implored the old porter of a middle-century building, which she had just visited, to give her just a small relic, no matter what it was.

The old porter scratched his head and expressed his regret, saying that what was to be taken had already found its way to the New World.

Suddenly the American lady caught sight of the door-knocker, an old 16th century masterpiece of ironwork. "Oh yes," said the porter, "I had overlooked that." Money passed. The knocker was carefully unscrewed and the lady left beaming all over her face and pressing a valuable door-knocker under her arm.

But how great would her surprise have been if she had waited a few minutes and heard the porter call up to his wife: "Liz, Liz: Bring down a new knocker; this one has already gone!"

#### SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Swiss Institute Orchestral Society was held at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, on Thursday the 9th October, 1930.

The meeting was very well attended and the members of the Orchestra were extremely gratified to find that their Patrons were represented. It is indeed a pleasure to find that, in addition to their valuable assistance in other directions, some of our Patrons find themselves really interested in the activities of the Orchestra in between concerts.

As regards the election of officers Mr. W. Pellet was again elected as President and the indefatigable Mr. Dick will again act as Secretary with Mr. W. Wagner as Treasurer and Messrs. H. Sobey and C. F. Clarke in completion of the Committee of five.

Considerable enthusiasm was shown in the discussion of the various questions that came before the meeting and it was very evident that the playing members of the Orchestra are keenly interested in its welfare and activities.

We hope that the following preliminary notice will be of the greatest interest to all readers of the *Swiss Observer*. It was decided that another Concert should be given at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, on the 19th February,

1931. It will be remembered that a Concert was given in that Hall in February of this year and the Orchestra was delighted to receive the most complimentary expressions from all sides regarding the performance on that occasion. No effort will be spared to make the next venture even more acceptable and successful and the Committee and members of the Orchestra feel certain that they can once more rely on the wholehearted support of the whole of the Swiss community in London in their enterprise.

Please note the date—19th February, 1931—and help the Orchestra to make the next Concert an outstanding success. A.B.

#### SWISS Y.M.C.A.

The Swiss Y.M.C.A. held its first Social Evening of the season on Saturday, 25th October, Mr. L. G. Zimmermann gave a lecture on "My Holidays on the Danube by Canoe and Tent." The Lantern slides, which were kindly lent by the Austrian Federal Railways, were of great variety and beauty. The good attendance, especially of young men, was encouraging, and none will easily forget the unique impressions of that lecture.

#### FIVE WEEKS IN AMERICA.

The series of articles which appeared in the *Swiss Observer* under the above title by our friend Dr. K. E. Eckenstein have now been published in pamphlet form. The text has been revised and a few interesting additions have been made.

The pamphlet contains 36 pages demy 8vo. and is published at the price of 1/- post free. The author is offering any profits from the sale equally to the Fonds de Secours and the Société Française de Bienfaisance. Copies may be obtained at this office 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

#### Home News—(Continued)

##### CENSORSHIP?

The *Libera Stampa* of Lugano and other papers publish the astonishing fact that two parcels containing copies of a book entitled "Mussolini," by Signor Alceste De Ambris, and published in Marseilles have been returned to the French printers with the remark "Returned because contents not admitted."

The two parcels were addressed to the office of the Trade Unions of Lugano. On arrival at Lugano the post office passed them over to the Custom's Office which, acting apparently on previous instructions, asked Berne for guidance and received orders not to allow the books to be delivered but to return them to France. The press is shocked at this procedure because the book is written by one of Signor Mussolini's old time friends and is allowed unrestricted distribution in France and other countries. Some of the papers ask, since when has Switzerland sunk to the level of an Italian colony and must abstain from reading facts unfavourable to the Fascist Régime?

The *Libera Stampa* apparently intends to publish the prohibited book as a Feuilleton or even print a special edition, in order to give the Federal Council the opportunity of establishing under what law they are acting in setting up such a censorship.

#### SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

#### Annual Banquet & Ball

Friday, the 7th November, 1930

at the

#### FIRST AVENUE HOTEL

HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1

RECEPTION DANCING DINNER  
at 7.15 p.m. till 2 a.m. at 7.45 p.m. sharp

Tickets at 10/6 can be obtained from Mr. F. Conrad, 8, Paternoster Row, E.C.4, or Mr. John Gerber, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, or any other Member of the Choir.

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd.

at 4 o'clock.

#### The Work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer

By E. METTLER, Esq.

AT  
FOYER SUISSE

Every Swiss Girl Welcome.

Tea Provided.

#### SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up £6,400,000

Reserves - £1,960,000

Deposits - £43,000,000

The WEST END BRANCH  
opens Savings Bank Accounts on  
which interest will be credited  
at 2½ per cent. until further notice.

#### Swiss Rifle Association

Headquarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1

Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon



#### RESPITE

The Committee is granting all Members until the 2nd November to finish the "Endschissen" Competitions.

Snacks at the Bar provided.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

#### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le MARDI 4 NOVEMBRE au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

##### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.		Démissions.
Admissions.		Banquet Annuel
Divers.		

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.)

(Les services ont de nouveau lieu à l'église,

79, Endell Street.)

Dimanche 2 Novembre 11 h.—Reformation

"Toujours joyeux" 1 Thess. V. 16.

Ste Cène. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30 h.—M. Praderay and Service de Communion.

##### BAPTEMES.

Rosa Elizabeth Skousbo, née le 16/4/28 fille de Carl, Uzguby (Danemark) et de Rosa Steiner son épouse, de Huttwyl (Berne) le 26/10/30.

##### SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Berthe Weideli, née Brunner, de Kreuzlingen (Thurgovie) née le 28/7/1879, décédé le 19/10/30 le 23/10/30.

##### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.  
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 2. November: REFORMATIENSFEST.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Sonntags-

schule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr: Chorprobe.

Dienstag 4. November, Nachmittags 3 Uhr:

Nähverein im Foyer Suisse.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, November 1st from 7 to 12 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Wednesday, November 5th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, November 7th.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, November 8th, at 2.30 and 4 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Film Show, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.1. "WITH THE SWISS MOUNTAIN TROOPS IN THE ALPS."

Friday, November 28th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball, at May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

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#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th

for the  
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,

at the  
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.