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During the last 12 months we have lost our Conductor, Mr. Meyrowitz, who has joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company for a tour of the British Colonies. However, we were lucky in securing the services of Mr. Seymour and I feel sure that the Choir will continue to flourish under his very able leadership.

As you are all aware this is the first term of my being president of the Swiss Choral Society and I need hardly assure you that it was with considerable anxiety that I took on this responsible task. I take the opportunity to emphasise the good foundation laid down by my predecessor, Mr. Bommer, and we must thank him for his work and devotion on behalf of the Choir. I myself want to express my best thanks to all the members and friends for the generous support they have given me since I have been President of the Choir.

During the past year we have been invited to help various sister societies and have sung at the Fête Swiss, Bundesfeier, at the lecture given by Professor Dr. Schroeter, and have been further invited to sing at the dinner given to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, at the Café Monaco, on the occasion of his completing ten years of excellent work for our country at the Court of St. James.

To-night's gathering is a good omen for the interest taken by the Swiss Colony and their numerous friends in our activities and, therefore, consoles me when I have to state how sorry I was that the Annual Concert last April was rather poorly attended. But as I feel sure that you all know the amount of time and effort put into the preparation for this concert, I think I am right in asking you to do your best and give us a full house next time. The members of the Society do take things seriously and will put up a very good show indeed. The Choir consists to-day of 33 active members, a number not large enough for a colony like ours, I therefore take the liberty to appeal to the good ladies to encourage their husbands to join us and to the gentlemen I will say, please listen to the good advice of your better-halves and to be obedient for once, even if it is the first and last time in your life, in so doing you are helping yourself and the Colony in general.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Swiss Choral Society wishes you all to be merry and happy to-night, and carry out that good old saying of our homeland:

"Wo man singt da lass dich fröhlich nieder,  
Böse Menschen haben keine Lieder."

Or in other words: Where there is joyfulness there shall be no discord, but friendship shall prevail.

Therefore, to you, Monsieur de Sonnenberg, to you Ladies and Gentlemen, I once more extend our welcome and sincerely hope that you will all enjoy this evening.

In conclusion I address myself to the members of the Choir and want to appeal to them to be loyal to their singing, the spirit of harmony and team work, which is so well expressed in the following Saengerspruch:

Freunde in die Reih'n! gruesst heut die  
Saenger Rund Lied und Freundschaft  
sollen weihen zu der Stunde neu dem  
Bund.

Saenger unsrem Lied, heut aufs neu, Unsre  
Treu.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.

Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg then rose expressing his thanks to the President and Committee for having given him an opportunity to be present as the personal representative of the Minister. He mentioned that Monsieur Paravicini would have liked very much to be present but owing to his being kept in Switzerland, he was unavoidably prevented from addressing the gathering to-night. He was not going to try to sing, he said, as diplomats were on the whole very bad singers, and he could hardly imagine a choir of diplomats singing in appreciable harmony together. He assured the S.C.S. that the Legation has done and would do its utmost to encourage them in their commendable efforts, and he made it a special point to pay the Society a high tribute for the unselfish and patriotic way in which they have, on numerous occasions, supported other Swiss Societies. He closed his address by asking the guests to drink to the prosperity of the S.C.S., a toast which was responded to with great enthusiasm.

Mr. J. Gerber thereupon, on behalf of the S.C.S., extended a special greeting to the invited guests, he said:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time has come again when the Swiss Choral Society—the nightingales of the Swiss colony in London—fling open the portals to welcome their distinguished guests and friends to their Annual Banquet and Ball.

You must excuse me if, in consequence of having been asked to propose the toast of Our Guests, I exaggerate in my own mind my feeling of personal importance but, looking over this vast gathering, I cannot help a feeling of

great pride for our Society, and I am sure that each member present shares this feeling with me.

Our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, being at present in Switzerland, where the snow has already fallen deep down the mountain sides, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires de Sonnenberg has very kindly consented to take the Chair to-night. Mr. de Sonnenberg, I wish to thank you, on behalf of the Committee and the Choir, very sincerely for honouring us with your presence this evening. It is the first time that we have had the pleasure of welcoming you at one of our functions. The side of our activities to which you are introduced to-night is, of course, not the only or more important one. There are other qualities in this choir of ours concerning which, however, my natural modesty does not allow me to speak, but I trust that, in the course of time, you will become acquainted with them too.

As regards to-night's function, I sincerely hope that you will spend a very enjoyable time with us and that this gathering will be for you one of the pleasant memories of the social life of our colony in general, and the Swiss Choral Society in particular.

The Choral Society is always ready with a full and open heart to help and give support wherever it is wanted, and appreciates, on the other hand, with deep gratitude all expressions of friendship and good will which it receives from the other societies, and the Colony as a whole.

And as all good things are three, the next speech was dedicated to the "Ladies" and the spokesman who had to fulfil this delicate task was Mr. A. Wyss, Hon. Member of the S.C.S. He assured the fair ladies present how much pleasure it had given him to welcome them on behalf of the S.C.S. and mentioned that he went that morning for a walk into Regent's Park to get an inspiration for to-night's speech, and there he saw a canary-bird in the Zoo. He asked if she was a lady and being answered in the affirmative he told her that he was seeking for sweet and honeyed words about the ladies. The canary-bird then told him many nice things which he would try to remember now.

After-dinner stories have become quite a regular feature now, and the speaker regaled us with the following one as regards the difference between a lady and a diplomat:

If a diplomat says "yes," he means "perhaps"  
If he says "perhaps" he means "no"  
If he says "no," he is no diplomat.

If a lady says "no" she means "perhaps"  
If she says "perhaps" she means "yes"  
If she says "yes" she is no lady.

He closed his witty address with a toast to the fairest of the fair which found a hearty response.

The last toast was the reply "For the Guests" and Mr. C. Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, spoke as follows:

When I expressed to your President my intention of being present at this Banquet, he insisted that I should respond to the toast of "The Guests." How could I refuse the request of such a charming person? I suppose that you are like me, "a puppet under his magical influence!"

However, I feel rather like the nervous bridegroom who, on being told at the wedding breakfast that he would have to reply to the toast of the "Bride and Bridegroom," rose and, looking at his wife, said "This thing has been thrust upon me."

Now, I need hardly say that we guests are very, very happy to be here to-night; your hospitality has been such that, I cannot help recalling the old English proverb, which runs, "After supper walk a mile"—after such a Banquet, our medical advisors would recommend us to walk twelve miles.

Mr. President, and members of the Swiss Choral Society, we think of what the Swiss Colony in London owes to your society. We think of your ever ready help at all our patriotic gatherings; permit me here to tender heartfelt thanks on behalf of all London Swiss, for your infallible support and invaluable co-operation.

You have won your place in our hearts with your songs. Your songs bring back to us memories—memories I would not sell for untold gold—memories of our beloved Switzerland, memories of our forefathers who have

cheerfully given their lives so that we may be free of bondage. Memories of the woods, green alps and blue lakes, foaming waterfalls and laughing brooklets, wonderful and delicate wild flowers, rocky peaks piercing the blue of heaven, snowy domes kissed by the rising sun. Memories of all that is dear to us, our parents, who are peacefully enjoying eternal rest.

"Breathes there a man with a heart so cold, who could not love such a land."

On this note, I will conclude, and on behalf of the visitors will thank Mr. John Gerber, the proposer of this toast, and you for the manner in which you have received it, and also for the splendid welcome extended to us this evening.

I raise my glass, and will ask my fellow guests, to drink with me to the further successes and prosperity of the Swiss Choral Society.

All the speeches received well-merited applause. The Banqueting room was then cleared and dancing followed until 2 a.m. During the evening the Choir rendered two songs, entitled: "Teure Heimat" and "Zieh mit" which were sung with great feeling and the thunderous applause was enough proof of how much the company appreciated their splendid effort.

This truly enjoyable and happy evening will linger for a long time in the memory of those who had the good luck of being present. The Swiss Choral Society can be proud of its success and all the good wishes of the colony will accompany them on their further journeying.

Loaded with unforgettable impressions and all the good things which a generous host had so kindly provided I said valet to these hospitable "dwellings" with an immense longing to fly home "on wings of song," but alas, the "Southern" took me back, and that is enough said.

Str.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Une cinquantaine de membres se sont réunis chez Pagani le 4 novembre pour la réunion mensuelle. L'enthousiasme est tel qu'un membre, paraît-il, est arrivé de la Suisse à 7 heures du soir et s'est précipité immédiatement au Club. En effet, nous revenons aux beaux jours. Après les sântes d'usage, le Président avec son éloquence habituelle, a souhaité le bienvenu à Mr. le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visne et à Monsieur le Pasteur Hahn.

Ensuite, on a repris la discussion sempiternelle au sujet du Banquet et cette question ayant été liquidée tout au moins à la satisfaction des orateurs, nous pourrions parler d'autre chose jusqu'à l'année prochaine lorsque nous recommencerons de plus belle. L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visne nous fait une causerie sur l'histoire de l'Eglise suisse à Londres.

Ayant examiné les archives du Consistoire, il nous dit que la première mention d'une église suisse date de 1722, lorsque plusieurs suisses ont présenté une pétition au Roi Georges Ier qui leur accorda un terrain près de Charing Cross pour y bâtir une église. Ce projet n'ayant pas abouti faute de fonds, ce n'est que vers 1762 que l'on a pu réussir à construire une église. Enfin le premier service a eu lieu le 26 avril, 1762 et l'année suivante on a commencé à accorder des soins aux indigents et on a fondé l'oeuvre qui est aujourd'hui le fonds de secours suisse.

La fin du 18e siècle et le commencement du 19e siècle est une période très intéressante. Prise dans le tourbillon européen, la Suisse connaît les mauvais jours et en 1793, faute de Représentant officiel, c'est le Consistoire qui délève les laissez-passer aux Nationaux suisses pour les permettre de voyager.

Après la chute de l'Empire c'est encore le Consistoire qui intervient auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en Angleterre, Lord Bathurst, en faveur des malheureux suisses qui avaient été englobés dans les armées de Napoléon et qui gisaient misérablement dans les geôles britanniques. Il a eu gain de cause et les citoyens suisses furent en conséquence libérés.

Les années passent et en 1854 le bâtiment actuel à Endell Street est construit.

Je ne peux donner qu'une esquisse de l'admirable causerie du Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visne, causerie très goûtée par ses auditeurs.

A la fin de la soirée, nous avons appris une triste nouvelle. Le grand Fribourgeois nous quitte. Il nous manquera car il est un des membres les plus populaires et il sera regretté par tout le monde et surtout par la gauche dont il était une étoile.

ck.

### ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

The 74th Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club will be held on Friday, the 28th November, at the May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Street, W. (see announcements).

An innovation will be made this year by having separate tables which, after dinner is over, will all be re-arranged round the Ballroom, so that each party will be able to occupy the same table and be sure of suitable accommodation throughout the evening.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th

for the  
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,

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

As the May Fair Hotel ballroom allows of a larger number of guests than the King Edward VII Rooms at the Hotel Victoria did (where the Banquet and Ball has been held for some years past), this new arrangement should prove an added attraction to all concerned and will undoubtedly contribute to the success usually attending these functions.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. E. Sommer, Hauptswil: "The Mystery attached to the figure Seven." Mr. F. Oswald, Chiasso: "Human Victims in Sport Competitions." Mr. C. Von Moos, Zurich: "A Visit to the Motor-Show at Olympia." Mr. H. Gysin, Liestal: "The English Money System." Miss K. Baumann, Bern: "The Egyptian Galleries in the British Museum." Mr. A. Isotta, Lugano: "The Cathedral of San Lorenzo at Lugano." Miss G. Pfeiffer, Vevey: "Alfred Tennyson." Mr. H. Weidmann, Bern: "Holidays by the Adriatic Sea." Mr. W. Staenz, Aarau: "A Visit to the Tower and the Tower Bridge." Mr. C. Schaer, Langenthal: "Sport and its Influence on Humanity." Mr. A. Kilcher, "Edison." Miss M. Perrenod, "Modern Fashions." Mr. H. Grenli, "Valencia." Mr. C. Pfenniger, "A Visit to the Law Courts." Mr. E. Schmid, "Cognac."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Are you in Favour of International Language?" Proposer: Mr. A. Dejung. Opposer: Mr. H. Berruex.

The Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society College was very fortunate in securing the services of so eminent and delightful a lecturer as Sir Cecil Hertslett, who, on Friday evening last, talked in charming, intimate style to the students about "Famous Belgian Towns." Sir Cecil was introduced by Mr. Deutsch, the Chairman of the Educational Committee, who emphasised our great good fortune in having Sir Cecil to give us of his best. When war broke out in 1914, Mr. Deutsch told us, Sir Cecil Hertslett was Consul-General in Belgium and did an enormous amount of valuable work there, until circumstances forced his recall by His Majesty's Government. Later Sir Cecil was created Consul-General in Switzerland, where, as we learned later in the evening, his long diplomatic experience and sympathetic understanding of the Swiss people enabled him again and again to reconcile conflicting parties in so conciliatory and friendly a manner that he was accorded an official farewell banquet at the termination of his Consulship.

For the next forty minutes Sir Cecil kept the students enthralled while he talked of Antwerp and its siege in 1914; Antwerp of 1914 and Antwerp of to-day; Liege and its never-to-be-forgotten resistance and fall; the bombardment of Ypres and the destruction of the world-famous Cloth Hall; the "inside" details of the Zeebrugge attack and so on; in short, the lecturer made the terrible years of 1914-1918 live again for those who experienced them, while he must have made the "youngsters" present realise that the tragedy of those years must never again be repeated if civilisation is to survive.

At this point, as Sir Cecil was a little tired, Mrs. Paull sang to the students; and was loudly applauded. The lecturer then resumed, and gave us some intimate reminiscences of his stay in Zurich, and other Swiss towns, as well as details of intimate "human" stories of his connection with the Belgian Royal family.

At the conclusion of this lecture, which was vociferously applauded, Mr. Seiler, one of our older students moved a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Cecil, who then expressed not only his pleasure in addressing us, but also the hope that he would meet us again on some future occasion.

Mrs. Paull then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Deutsch, who had so ably introduced the lecturer, and renewed loud applause broke out for our genial and popular "Education" president!

#### FILM SHOW.

"WITH THE SWISS MOUNTAIN TROOPS  
IN THE ALPS"

at  
King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique has given an untold number of our compatriots and friends great pleasure and enjoyment in showing a film about the life and work of our Mountain Troops. The pictures were beautifully reproduced and in seeing again those snow clad giants and picturesque little chapels nestling on the mountain slopes, one could almost envy the happy soldiers who have the good luck to serve their country in such glorious surroundings.

To those of us who are "ex-soldiers" it brought back many sweet memories of bygone happy days, of days of hardship too, but who of us would not go back willingly to protect our beautiful country from foreign invasion.

Mr. A. F. Suter, President of the N.S.H., gave a very interesting address about the various periods our little army went through, and his patriotic appeal earned a well merited applause. Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Chargé d'Affaires, and the Rev. C. Hahn also addressed the audience.

The N.S.H. deserves sincere and hearty thanks for having given us an opportunity to view this lovely film which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. During the performance Mr. Newman rendered some appropriate gramophone music, which in no small way helped with the success of this most enjoyable afternoon. Both performances were well frequented. Sr.

#### THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

*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.*

To the Editor of the Swiss Observer.

Dear Sir,—I am rather surprised to see that "A Wellwisher" of the School of the Swiss Mercantile Society in London should have thought it necessary to have to resort to the courtesy of your esteemed paper in order to elicit an authoritative explanation from the *proper quarters* whether the complaints he had received direct from Switzerland about the School were justified.

May I be permitted to give vent to my humble opinion in assuming that by *proper quarters* "A Wellwisher" refers to the London Section of the Swiss Mercantile Society. If so, his proper and only course should have been to submit the sources and nature of his complaints direct to them, who, I feel most confident, would have been able upon their closer investigation to refute them entirely, or to prove them grossly exaggerated, if not wholly unfounded.

Although I cannot claim that privilege of being "an authority" on the subject raised, I am sufficiently acquainted with the gratifying and steady progress registered by our School and its most useful and exhaustive curriculum as to be able to state that by "A Wellwisher" having taken recourse to publicity, he not only ill served the S.M.S. and its School, but also its various Committees who with untiring devotion have and are still giving their very best services to promote the progress and welfare of the School. They hardly deserve such irresponsible publicity which may lead a large number of our Colony, who have the success of the School at heart, to wrong and misleading conclusions.

The school is run on the best possible lines when considering the very low fees charged, and nothing is left undone to improve further its well merited reputation and prestige.

The Society and its Committees are fully conscious of its national importance and are sufficiently patriotic to realise the vast responsibilities undertaken in endeavouring to make the School the best success it has already proved to be. The accommodation available is not nearly as bad as "A Wellwisher" would have us believe and the debatable necessity of the acquisition of new premises will by necessity largely be dependant on £ s. d.

It is to be regretted that "A Wellwisher" should have found it necessary to make his criticism under the cloak of anonymity.

46, Bramley Avenue, Yours sincerely,  
Coulson, Surrey. H. C. MEILL.

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Kalbsbrust zum füllen  
Kalbs-Nierenbraten, etc.  
Schweinebraten, gerollt  
Rindsbraten, gespickt  
Rindsroladen

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jäger, Leber, Fleisch,  
Schinken, Knob-  
lauch u. Mettwurst  
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Geflügel aller Art

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deheime, Lächueche und Birewegge,  
und gschwungeni Nidle. Bringet Eueri  
Handorgele und Schwyzer-Trachte, wenn  
Er händt, und chömet cho hälle "Stille  
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zum Tanze hets au im

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Dimanche 16 Novembre 11 h.—"Pourquoi prier?"  
M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30 h.—M. le Pasteur F. Christol—par  
échange.

7.30 h.—Réunion de Prières.

#### BAPTEME.

Richard Frederic Charles ZAUBONI, né le 28  
Juillet 1930, fils de Fred. C. et de Frances, née  
Hosler, de Bevers (Grisons)—le 9 Nov. 1930.

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'église: Mercredi de 10.30—12 h.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 16. November 1930.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Sonntag-  
schule.

Sermon in English by the Right Rev. Bishop H. Bury,  
D.D., Assistant Bishop of London.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr: Chorpöbe.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen u. Religions-bzw.  
Konfirmandenunterricht sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der  
Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park,  
W.4. (Telephone: Chiswick 4156).

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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, November 19th, at 7.45 p.m.—  
NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Monthly  
Meeting, of the London Group, at Swiss  
House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, to be  
followed by a causerie on "History of the  
Swiss Church in London," by the Rev.  
Hoffmann-de Visme.

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

Monday, December 1st, at 8.30 p.m.—UNION  
HELVETICA CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball,  
at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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