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well known members of the Swiss colony as Mr. R. Dupraz, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, a worthy successor to the well-remembered late Mr. G. Dimier, Mr. A. C. Baume, Mr. Ch. Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, Mr. Zimmermann, Secretary of the City Swiss Club, Mr. G. Marchand, who on this occasion also made a present of a gold wristlet watch to be raffled, and Mr. Corbat, who presented a clock. A gentleman's silver wristlet watch (of excellent make) had also been presented by an anonymous donor.

Mr. Gambazzi also tendered the heartfelt thanks of the society to Mr. Arturo and Madame Linda Meschini for the fine and generous way in which they always treat us. It was greatly appreciated that Madame Linda Meschini herself had personally attended to the floral decoration of Queen Alexandra Hall, as well as of the Dance Hall on the ground floor and Mr. Meschini contributed substantially to the social and financial success of the evening by defraying personally various items of expenditure, which would otherwise have fallen upon the society. Mr. Gambazzi ended by proposing a toast to Mr. W. Notari's father, the well-known Chef of Paganini's, and it was enthusiastically responded to.

It was then the turn of Mr. Dupraz to address the gathering and he cordially thanked the Unione Ticinese for the support it gives to the Fonds de Secours, mentioning the pleasing fact that by the end of the financial year it is expected the Fonds Dimier will stand at about £7,500. Whereas at the beginning of the year it seemed likely that the establishment of the long desired Home for the Aged Swiss Poor might have to be deferred to the coming generation, the realisation of this object is now brought within measurable distance of attainment and we might look forward to it in our own time. The words of Mr. Dupraz were received with wholehearted applause.

The gathering was regaled with a few well appreciated Italian songs by Signor C. Berni (Tenor), already well-known to the Unione Ticinese, and several items by Mr. Harry Emeric (Comedian), who proved very fine indeed and kept one and all rocking with laughter. The clock was pointing towards 10.30 when we resorted to the ground floor for the dance, which found an ample number of enthusiasts right up to the inevitable 2 a.m. I was rather surprised to find that some friends, who had mentioned they would be leaving before midnight, were still there to hear "Auld Lang Syne." It was perhaps the best compliment they could pay.

A source of keen appreciation for the society was the good number of our confrères who had come a long distance to be with us for the evening, like Albertoli's party of nine from Portsmouth, Ferrari's from Southsea, Veglio's from Maidstone, and others too. Their presence gave us great pleasure and encouragement and we hope to see them at least as numerous on future occasions also. O.B.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

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

Mr. H. Von Moos, Zurich: "Something about the Postal Service and the new General Post Office of Zurich." Mr. A. Isotta, Lugano: "A Few Words." Mr. A. Rubeli, Neuchâtel: "South America." Mr. E. Burkhardt, Berne: "Madrid." Mr. F. Laedermann, Geneva: "The Escalade." Mr. P. Heimann, Geneva: "Luck." Miss G. Fuerst, Wädenswil: "Amsterdam and the Isle of Marken." Miss J. Siebert, Basle: "My opinion about the Cinema."

On Friday evening, December 12th, the students had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Paul Seaford, who lectured on "London Underground." The lecture was illustrated by some very good slides, some of which Mr. Seaford alone possesses. We learned through graphic description and interesting slides of London's underground, water and gas supplies; its postal service under the surface; and all its marvellous lines of tube railways and their organisations. We joined with Mr. Seaford in congratulating ourselves that we have an underground to London, otherwise everything "on top" would be hopelessly congested.

The students loudly applauded this very interesting and instructive lecture.

On Saturday, December 13th, a large number of students—under the leadership of Mr. John W. Klein, B.A.—visited Hampton Court. The magnificent palace awakened much admiration. The great Banqueting Hall—probably the finest hall in England—was of especial interest. It was here that Shakespeare acted in his own "Hamlet" before King James I. Also Cardinal Wolsey's Private Closet—with the curiously beautiful old ceiling—conjured up the distant past very vividly. Afterwards the students visited the Mantegna Gallery, considered by some critics to contain the finest pictures in the whole collection at Hampton Court. The Maze was also highly appreciated; many students getting very excited and almost despairing of ever seeing their friends and families again. Finally a very beautiful walk through Hampton Court Park and Bushey Park completed a very enjoyable day.

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*.

Will you permit me to say that your report of the recent City Swiss Club Banquet and Ball was somewhat lacking in its description of the fashionable side of this function.

What has happened to "ck"? Some time ago he boasted of his newly discovered talent as a fashion reporter.

How is it that he has not taken this opportunity of showing off his wonderful capacities? Was he afraid of the bery of charming young things in their beautiful toilettes? or has he already lost his enthusiasm?

I feel sure that the many lady readers of the *S.O.* would appreciate a more descriptive fashion report of the various social functions.

May I add my sincere thanks to those of "N.L." for the great pleasure we derive in reading our dear *Swiss Observer*.

Yours faithfully,

JEANETTE.

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Fancy Dress Ball

will take place on

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1931,

at the

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

from 7.0 to 1.0 a.m.

TICKETS at 8s. 6d. (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained at Swiss House, 34-36, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 6893) and from Employment Department, 24, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 7719). THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

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6.30 h.—M. Pradervand: Service de Communion.

Jeu 25. Décembre 11 h.—Service de Noël avec Ste. Cène.

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

MARIAGE.

Henri Jules DUFOUR, du Châtellard (Vaud) et Doris Muriel NELSON, de Todmorden (Lancs.), le 16 Déc. 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 21. Dezember 1930. IV. ADVENT.
Der Morgengottesdienst fällt aus.

4 Uhr nachmittags: WEIHNACHTSFEIER.

Wir laden alle unsere Landsleute, jung und alt, recht herzlich zu dieser Feier ein. Auch die Sonntagsschule wird teilnehmen.

CHRISTTAG, den 25. Dezember 1930.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

TAUFE.

Am 14. Dezember wurde getauft: Viktor Johann Martin FRITSCH; geb. am 10. June 1930; Sohn des René Emil Karl von Zürich u. der Sarah Jean geb. Schenk von London.

TRAUUNG.

Am 17. Dezember wurden getraut: Hans DREYER von Trub (Berne) und Anna Ella WITSCHI von Jegenstorf (Bern).

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

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 17th.—CITY SWISS CLUB: First Cinderella at the May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

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