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## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

The students of the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society held a musical evening on Friday, June 26th at the Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Mr. A. Levy, Principal, welcomed the guests of the evening, the Chairman of the Education Committee and Mrs. Stahelin and the President of the Society, and Mrs. Paschoud. This concert was organized by one of the students, Mr. A. G. Scherer, on the eve of his departure from the College and England. For several months he arranged with great success the musical programmes for the Friday evenings at Swiss House.

The programme was opened by the Students' Orchestra with a march. The orchestra is a good proof of the musical talent amongst the students, for with only a few weeks' practice they entertained the students on several occasions. The ensuing items showed clearly that the students are not only eager English scholars but also possess artistic talents. Messrs. Bruesch and Neidhardt immediately changed the mood of the assembly with their humorous recitals. Mr. Bruesch is not only a master of dialect jokes but also speaks a fine 'Buchnendentsch,' and moreover revealed his talents as a playwright.

Mr. Huegli and Mr. Widmer accompanied by the Misses Rohrer and Schmid delighted the audience with violin solos. If there were technical shortcomings, there was no lack of enthusiasm and expression. The interest the staff take in the students was proved by the vocal contributions of Mrs. Paull and Messrs. Burraston and von Bergen. A song composed by Mr. Burraston and rendered for the first time in public by Mr. von Bergen, accompanied on the piano by the composer, was the crowning success of the evening. Mrs. Paull and Mr. Burraston revelled in vocal duos and as accompanists on the piano. Mr. von Bergen with his powerful voice showed that he is a trained singer who knows how to control his voice.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin when addressing the audience, eulogized the students' talents and reminded them under what difficulties the work of the College is carried on and also praised the work of the lecturers who even sacrifice their spare time for the benefit of the students.

After a short interval the programme was resumed and concluded with a play written by Mr. Bruesch, in which the author distinguished

himself by his originality. The orchestra struck the final chord with the strains of a Strauss Waltz.

The Students expressed their thanks with some beautiful bouquets which they presented through their 'belles' to the guests and the artists.

The Principal now called upon Mr. Hofer, a member of the Students' Committee, who bade farewell to Mr. Scherer. He voiced the opinion of all students when he said that Mr. Scherer had raised the standard of the Friday Concerts and that this evening was the climax of his success.

The President of the London Section, Mr. M. Paschoud, finally congratulated the students on their achievements and expressed the hope that they would show their appreciation of what they were offered by the S.M.S. by making intense propaganda for the College in Switzerland. When the students heard that their invitation coincided with Mr. Paschoud's birthday, they gave him three mighty cheers.

W.B.

## VISIT OF "BASLER YODLERS."

Following the short announcement in our issue of the 13th of June, regarding the coming visit of our "Yoddlers" compatriots, we are now in a position to give a few further details regarding the places and arrangements made for their reception.

The "Jodler Gruppe" which hails from Basle consists of 16 men, and they are considered to be the best amateur Yodlers in Switzerland. There are about 100 different Odeon Gramophone records existing with their songs. Their concerts in Switzerland are considered an important event and enjoy a "full house" whenever they take place. Some time ago they went to Rome and Naples and last year they travelled to Barcelona and Madrid on a concert tour, at the latter place they had a wonderful reception from the Maire and population of Madrid. This year they will leave Basle on the 3rd of July, via Brussels, Amsterdam and Sheveningen, in which places they will give various concerts. They are due to arrive in London Liverpool Street Station from Rotterdam, on Friday July 10th at 8.38 a.m. and it is hoped that a good many of our compatriots will be able to be present when they arrive. As they will wear their National costumes there will be no danger of missing them.

We are informed that our visitors will be the guests of the "City Swiss Club" on the occasion of the monthly gathering which will take place at

Hendon on July 14th, and of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) on Sunday the 12th inst., at 74, Charlotte Street, W.

We trust that the proverbial hospitality of the London Swiss Colony, will not be found lacking and that our visitors will leave Albion's shores with the pleasant memories of having spent golden hours amongst their compatriots.

## MISTLETOE AS A CURE FOR CANCER.

## SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS BY SWISS DOCTOR.

Dr. Werner Kaelin, of the Klinisch-Therapeutisches Institute, Arlesheim, Switzerland, in a lecture read before the Royal Society of Arts in London, said cancer experiments had been carried out during the last ten years at the Clinical Institute at the Goetheanum, in Dornach, Switzerland, with injections of a preparation made from mistletoe, and observations had been made of its specific effects on the formation of tumours.

In spite of the fact that, in the main, advanced cases had been dealt with, the treatment had been successful, in the majority of these cases, in bringing about far-reaching, even if temporary, improvement, and in some cases complete cures had been attained.

Experimental work has shown that it was impossible to prove a specific relation between cancer and mistletoe, and also between mistletoe and the pre-cancerous state.

It had been possible also to observe the pre-cancerous stage. If patients were treated in the very earliest pre-cancer condition with preparations of viscum (mistletoe) the blood picture returned to the normal; thus, the presence of a cancer latent in the blood might be diagnosed and cured by the treatment.

## "FUNNY CUTS"

A wealthy Englishman was travelling in Scotland and lost a valuable little dog to which he was much attached. He went to the newspaper office of the local paper and desired that it should be advertised for £5 reward. Looking at his paper next morning he failed to find the advertisement; it was not in! Very angrily he went round and enquired for the head of the advertising department.

"He's no in" said the small boy.

He asked for the second in command.

"He's oot" Well, is the Editor in?

"He's awa; he's no doon the Dee."

Where on earth is everybody?

"They are all oot, looking for the wee bit doug."

## ENGLISH INFLUENCES ON SWISS INTELLECTUAL LIFE.

(Written for a proposed English Special Nr. of the "Zürcher Student" 1930).

By Dr. A. LATT.

(Continued)

In looking round for ideas and examples which we should like to set before the leaders of tomorrow, British methods of study and education rank first. We are not going to suggest any change in the organisation of our schools and universities. We even prefer the continental system to the somewhat "medieval" English college. Our methods of scientific research are more up-to-date and efficient in many branches. Our programmes are richer and more closely tuned to the requirements of industry and engineering, our institutions work cheaper and are more accessible to intelligent people from all classes than those of England are to-day. Our output of "doctors" may be greater and their learning more ponderous, yet we are all aware of the fact that in practical life, in the face of difficulties where success rests on character and real education, the Englishman wins. He often is a man and a gentleman when the Continental student is still a fag and more or less a boy. Could we not take a tip here from the English, and set the *Gentleman Ideal* before the young man instead of the *Burschenideal*? Why waste your time on drinking bouts which are ruinous to your health and prospects in life? Why spend your time on songs and ceremonies which belong to a dead past, you who are called upon to be the leaders of a better generation in a brighter age? Even the most active Burschenschaft cannot help at times feeling the anachronism of certain precepts of the students' codex of honour; it easily makes him feel a bit ridiculous outside his own circle. The Burschenideal has always been more or less alien in our country. What sense is in a defunct and foreign system? What sense is there, for instance, in a country which prides itself in peace and law, to have your face cut up badly and repaired worse? Does it not merely prove that you are a less able fencer than somebody else? There cannot be much doubt that within a few years the conquering spirit of modern sports will have done with most of these remnants of a dead system.

The English students' club, whatever its aim,

whether social, literary, debating or sporting, is a thoroughly democratic institution in which the ideals of friendship and the aspirations of noble-minded youth can be developed to the full. Is there not again a mission for an enlightened democratic country to show the way to the struggling younger democracies?

There is one English students' institution in particular which all those who have witnessed it at work will envy them, i.e. the "Union" or debating club, this Parliament of the coming men, this school of good speaking, this nursery of future statesmen. Why should we not be able to create something similar? We like a good argument as much as they do, we are probably even greater talkers, and we know better our country's history, needs and institutions, being more directly sprung from the people than English university men generally are. We live in almost daily intercourse with the men in authority over us, we read their papers and hear their long speeches overflowing with wisdom and competence. What our students lack, however, is a place and a chance to say a word, to learn to discuss among equals or to argue with superiors. Your Studentenschaft has set its ambition on treating us every semester with a long series of lectures by celebrities of the moment and some of yesterday, many of those who were responsible for the late chaos and misfortunes. Even if you disagree with them you applaud them, and never dare to contradict. I cannot help drawing a parallel with what they do at Oxford and Cambridge. There the young men discuss among themselves, free from all the ties of conventionality, interest, and party politics which blind the old. First of all they clearly announce the principles and ideals for which they mean to stand, and with this standard they afterwards measure achievements. Take for instance, a motion discussed, I believe, at Oxford when Mr. Lloyd George was still Prime Minister, "That the Versailles Congress had been a failure." What would have happened at Zurich? You would have invited Mr. Lloyd George to give you a lecture. He would have carried you all off your feet in blind admiration. The Oxforders, however, first had the motion defended and then opposed by promising speakers from among their own ranks, each speaking for about 20 minutes. Then Mr. Lloyd George came in for the same length of time, after which the discussion became general. In the division the motion was carried and the "Peacemaker" beaten. He enjoyed the lesson "Posterity" had taught him, and probably went home a wiser man. English

statesmen like to take part in these discussions, they are to them barometers of their own integrity. Youth complains of being kept in the shade, of being misunderstood. Why do you not assert yourselves and tell the world your aspirations, instead of applauding uncritically all the speakers who are let loose on you?

I need not plead here for the importance of sports in the education of academic citizens. You have already learnt the lesson well from the Anglo-Saxons, without falling into some of their extravagances.

One more point we could with advantage take over from the English. This time the professors would have to learn the lesson rather than the students. I mean the ease and unconventionality with which students and professors mix in good fellowship as true collaborators in the service of Science. They deal as equals from man to man, the professor being the student's friend, his guide and helper, not that perfect stranger and haughty highpriest we often meet here, who delivers his lectures to nobody in particular with an air of inapproachable superiority and an absolute finality of judgement. How terrible if you should dare to disagree with him the only time you meet with him in that deadly duel called examination!

The English student goes to Oxford or Cambridge to "read" (whereas you go to write!), and he does read for himself the works from which the Continental professor would compile his lectures. Is it not evident that the English method is more helpful to the formation of an individual judgement, that it strengthens the intellectual and discriminating faculties? The English professor comes in as an advisor in the choice of books, and he will help to overcome difficulties. But he often does it in friendly conversation over a cup of tea, or at the club or in the library. In this respect there is room for improvement on our side. Many of the best professors have long been aware of the need and have acted accordingly, but the students will have to assert themselves with the rest, if the exception of to-day is to become the rule of to-morrow. There is no better way to self-assertion than by doing what ought to be done. You have ideals, you have energy, you are conscious of a mission to fulfill. If the future is to be yours you had better begin building it according to your own plans, taking examples here and there, without imitating them blindly.

THE END.