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Among other things, we are here to learn a great language and to acquaint ourselves with the customs of the people, and as every day passes, we grow to understand and to admire the English people more and more. I have always felt that we Swiss girls should apply ourselves to the English language with as much, if not more, enthusiasm than the men. A "woman's tongue" is an expression which has become a classic. But my sex prefers to realise it in the sense that we possess a natural gift of speech and as such, a valuable talent is ours; it would be a pity if we did not use it in the best possible way. To us girls is given the opportunity, when we go back to Switzerland, to talk no longer of the faults of our neighbours, but of the commercial problems and their solution; our training at Swiss House will have effected this.

In England we witness the best example in the world of the emancipation of our sex and in Switzerland we know, that several women have raised themselves during the last few years to posts of responsibility and high honour. I do not know whether these women passed through Swiss House, but I am certain that they would be the first to recognise the great work which is being performed here and to advise others who would follow in their footsteps, to avail themselves of the valuable tuition which the college provides.

Whilst we are working here, our labour is not only for ourselves, but for Switzerland, and it is the S.M.S. that gives us the opportunity of adding greatly to our power when we return to take up our duties.

Banking, is to-day, one of our major industries, and the comparatively small proportion of purely national business to the total turnover makes our finance very sensitive to disturbances in other countries. Our Export trade has recently been seriously injured by the English crisis, but even now a great deal of our goods are taken by Great Britain and one third of our holiday visitors are English people. The S.M.S. through its College at Swiss House is, day by day, laying the foundations of our knowledge of the English people and their requirements and enabling us to cement a deep friendship which will stand our nation in good stead. To trade effectively with England it will be necessary for a much larger ratio of our people to speak her language. Already English is understood and spoken in our principal shops, in many post offices and railway stations and in all but the smallest hotels and pensions. The enormous scope for advancement in this direction cannot fail to make ever growing demands upon those responsible for the activities at Swiss House.

The population of Switzerland is an educated population. The education provided by the school and technical institutions has been carried into every corner of the land. The principal cause of Switzerland's advance is the ever increasing attention which it has given to the expansion of education in the field of commerce, a policy towards the success of which the S.K.V. and also the S.M.S. at Swiss House have played no small part. Our Principal and tutor must have long realised that they are performing a work of great importance to our nation. Before we complete our work here and go back home, they ensure that we possess a superior capacity for business and a more extensive knowledge of affairs, by which means only we can hope to aspire to success. I would say also, that if prospective students who are still at home, desire to progress more rapidly and to advance to a substantial degree, they should come to the College of the S.M.S. and our Principal and his staff will do the rest.

Love of country and homesickness is strong with us Swiss. It has been written that we are so remarkable for this passion that it often turns to a disease among us for which there is a particular name in the German language and which the French call "the distemper of the country."

Man is said to be a sociable animal and we students of Swiss House are no exception to the rule. The S.M.S. assist us to combine sociability with instruction and at our weekly meetings we endeavour, after having heard a lecture on some subject of general interest, to entertain one another with music and whatever semblance of humour and wit we may possess. We meet to enjoy one another's company for our own pleasure and improvement.

Moreover some especially busy and serious students have formed a league, all the members of which are compelled, by infliction of a fine, to converse in English at all times. And it is very likely that they may be more successful in knowing the language well, which we all hope to speak fluently one day, than those who like to release themselves from the exertions of school by a talk in their homely mother language.

As a memorial of our pleasant time spent at the College of the S.M.S. in London, why not let us lay the foundations now of what Mr.

Schneider has suggested so wisely? When we return home, let those who happen to belong to the same Town or village, form locally in each such centre, a society of girls and boys who have been given the benefit of the training here. Let us meet periodically and retain by converse and interchange of views the knowledge which we have gained in the English language and the broader aspect of affairs. This, to me, is a suggestion worthy of every consideration and each one of us should resolve to-night to further the proposal and so have an everlasting souvenir of what the S.M.S. did for us.

None of us know what experiences lie before us when we return to our native land, but we are convinced that these days spent in London will rank high when we come to number the happiest and most eventful years of our lives. We all feel that we owe a debt to the S.M.S., to Mr. Paschoud, its President, to Mr. Stähelin, in the Chairman of the Education Committee, to Mr. Krucker, the Chairman of the House Committee, and last, but not least, to Mrs. Lungi, who frequently visits Swiss House and the way in which we can endeavour to repay our gratitude, is to work as we have never worked before, now, and when we go back to Switzerland or to whatever part of the world duty calls us. If we can do that, we shall have proved our gratitude to the S.M.S. in the very best possible way.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose the toast of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Ltd., coupled with the name of Mr. Paschoud and ask you to drink the health of the London section of the K.V.

Great applause greeted this youthful speaker, and I congratulate her on her oratorial achievements, as a maiden speech it was a creditable performance.

M. Paschoud, President of the London Section, replied to the Toast in a few words. He mentioned that the College, which has attained such an important position could not have been founded on such a basis, were it not for the hard work and incessant efforts of former and present members of the Society, and last, but not least, of the patriotic help which our country has ungrudgingly given. He concluded by thanking the Students for their invitation and asked them to make propaganda for the College in Switzerland, as the School needs continuous support.

M. Rüfenacht, First Secretary of Legation, who was previously introduced by the Chairman, then addressed the gathering, expressing his appreciation to Mr. Stähelin for the kind invitation extended to him. Although, I am relatively a newcomer, he said, I feel already very much at home, I have heard of your famous school not only in Switzerland, but also at Washington and in Poland, during my previous appointments, and my predecessor Monsieur Rezzonico, whose departure I deplore just as much as you, has acquainted me with your splendid achievements.

In concluding, he expressed the wish to be able to pay a visit to the College in the near future, in order to strengthen the contact he had established to-night, and to see them at work at their headquarters.

Mr. G. E. De Brunner, in proposing the Toast to The College and Teaching Staff said:

When Youth meets Beauty on convivial ground, as is the case to-night, one cannot reasonably expect to become persona grata by any speechifying, but I consider it nevertheless, a highly suitable occasion to make a few brief comments on the scholastic activities of our Society, with particular reference to the admirable and most commendable work performed by all and sundry of our Teaching Staff.

In times of stress, such as the whole civilized world passes through, it seems to me especially appropriate to ponder over existing facts and to take stock of one's own sentiments, outlook on life and conduct towards others. Are we in sympathy with our neighbours? and those we come in daily contact with? Is our nature tuned to produce harmony in our surroundings? are questions which we must put to ourselves, for if civilization generally is to be saved, a far larger measure of goodwill, real understanding and especially forbearance and tolerance must once again manifest itself to rekindle the light of confidence, which alone will lead us back to ultimate and lasting prosperity.

You may possibly wonder: why these high-brow utterances? My dear young compatriots; those of the older brigade, who have planted the sapling of the S.M.S. Day School and have had the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing it grow into a sturdy tree worthy of the new name of "College," remain mindful—notwithstanding the success which has attended the labours of the gardeners, past and present—that there are yet heavy storms to be weathered, and which are likely to strain the roots of our Institution to a considerable extent. Hence, I appeal to all those directly interested in our College, its aims and objects and its activities, to bring all the "nourishment" they individually can to

our Oak of teaching and learning, so that its benevolent shadow may never grow less and offer shelter for generations to come to all in quest of educational and linguistic advancement.

To our Teachers, I desire to express the cordial thanks of the Council of the S.M.S. Ltd. for their painstaking and conscientious work and their whole-hearted co-operation in a, may I say, "national" enterprise of which we London Swiss are proud and which we believe renders most excellent service to our young compatriots in search of knowledge of the language, as well as the people, of Great Britain's hospitable shores.

We are fully aware that in various respects our Teachers are asked to perform their allotted task under conditions which we would like to see altered and improved, but our well meaning intentions must be curbed and guided by facts and circumstances. We therefore trust that they will continue to give us of their very best, notwithstanding any difficulties or shortcomings that may exist or arise in the future.

To the students I would appeal in particular to try and take a reasonable view on all points which in their estimation may fall short of what they expect from our College; very likely those who are prone to "grousing" contribute themselves to their grievances. Assist your Teachers in their efforts to enhance your knowledge and put you on the road to a fruitful career: Remember also that many of your compatriots in London give their services, time and energy freely and without reward of any kind, to make your limited stay in London as happy, instructive and beneficial as conditions and circumstances permit, and above all be mindful of the real purpose of your visit, namely, to learn English as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. By paying earnest regard to the lessons and following the advice of those who help to mould your destiny, you will give tangible proof of your appreciation of what is being done for you and your future good. Your application to work and study will prove a tremendous encouragement to those upon whom the welfare of our institution depends and your return to our beautiful native land with a sound knowledge of English and an appreciative undertaking of things British will assuredly help to pour the much needed delicate oil on the badly and sadly clogged wheels of international fellowship, goodwill and mutual esteem!

Those of you who will shortly return to the sun-bleached snow fields of our dearly beloved country, I would ask to convey to our compatriots at home our heartiest good wishes for a brighter and happier future, coupled with the message that their brothers and sisters on foreign soil will do their best to maintain unsoiled the proud and fair name of Switzerland. And will you please make propaganda for the College of the S.M.S. and send us those students who will be a credit to our institution, as well as to themselves.

Ladies, and Gentlemen, may I invite you to drink right heartily to the uninterrupted and constantly growing prosperity of the S.M.S. College and to the health and welfare of our Teaching and Administrative Staffs.

Mr. Kölner, a Student, also expressed his thanks to all the Teachers. M. Levy, Principal of the College then rose amongst tumultuous applause. He paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Council; there is, he said, no other nation in the world which devotes so much attention and makes such efforts for educational purposes. We of the Teaching Staff are willing to help you as much as lies in our power, but you must help us, and foremost you must help yourselves,—each of you, he continued,—are a kind of ambassador of your country, by your behaviour, by your manners and achievements, your country is judged, therefore, each of you bears an equal share of responsibility, and we of the Teaching Staff are anxious that you should fulfill your obligations in such a way, so as to be a credit to the country, which is doing so much for its children.—This short but very impressive oration was received with great applause.

The Chairman announced that a telegram of congratulation from tonight's gathering has just been sent to M. G. Motta, the newly elected President of the Swiss Confederation. M. Motta, as will be remembered, paid a visit to the College of the S.M.S. on the occasion of his stay in London, two years ago.

After the Dinner, dancing started and a "Schnitzelbank" created much hilarity. The various sketches were executed by M. Amado, and the verses came from the pen of Mr. Dietler. Later on, the pictures were auctioned, the proceeds of which will be handed over to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

This Dinner and Ball was a most enjoyable affair, and the organisers deserve the thanks of all those present.