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The Swiss Observer

[FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.]

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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FEDERAL.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

EIDGENÖSSISCHE BANK.

The net earnings of the Eidgenössische Bank (Banque Fédérale) increased from 9,283,769f. in 1929 to 9,449,922f. in 1930. A dividend of 8 per cent. is proposed as in previous years.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The net profit for the year ended 31st of December, 1930, including the carry forward of £40,770 from the previous year, amounts to £683,267, against £724,343 for 1929, when the amount brought in was £28,611. The Board will recommend the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. as for the preceding year.

UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES.

The Union de Banques Suisses earned a net profit of 8,902,000f. for 1930, against 9,896,000f. for 1929. The dividend remains unchanged at 7 per cent.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTÉ DE GENÈVE.

The net profits of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Genève declined from 4,772,000f. in 1929 to 4,125,000f. last year. The dividend has been reduced from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent.

BASLER HANDELSBANK.

The net earnings of the Basler Handelsbank increased from 3,419,000f. in 1929 to 3,432,000f. in 1930.

BASLER KANTONALBANK.

The surplus of the Basler Kantonalbank amounted to 4,662,000f. in 1930, against 4,669,000f. in 1929.

SPÄHLINGER VACCINE.

At last week's meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society it was reported that the society's veterinary committee had considered the experiments in Norfolk conducted by Mr. Spählinger in demonstrating the effect of his vaccine as a preventive of tuberculosis. Sir Merrick Burrell reported that the committee had been much impressed with the work Mr. Spählinger had done in Norfolk with the help of Major Buxton, and had recommended the society to ask the Royal Veterinary College to investigate the system and report to the society on the possibility of further experiments.

SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Bank Corporation issues a summary of the financial position in Switzerland. In 1913 the expenditure on debt service was only 5½ million francs, yet in 1931 it was estimated at 117½ millions. The cost of the national defence has nearly doubled. As regards revenue, Customs duties which brought in nearly 82 millions in 1913, are estimated to produce this year 227 millions. The tobacco revenue was only three millions in the year preceding the war, but it is now seven times as much. Out of a total estimated revenue of 395 millions for the current year, Customs and stamp duties account for 288 millions, and in 1913 there was no duty on stamps. The Government is responsible for the Federal Railways, and for the first ten months of 1930 traffics fell by 9½ million francs, while expenses had increased by more than nine millions. The circular concludes by stating that energetic and prudent measures, allied to well-placed confidence, should be effective in bringing Switzerland through the difficulties which seem to be ahead.

PLEBISCITE IN SWITZERLAND ON FOREIGN HONOURS.

On Saturday and Sunday last a plebiscite on foreign honours was held, which will definitely settle the questions of this problem, which has been vexing public opinion for many years. The plebiscite was asked for by the "Legion for Swiss Independence" in July, 1928, backed by 75,000 signatures. It was a reaction against the shower of orders coming from France at the time when the question of the Geneva Zones was in its acutest state. The result of the plebiscite is as follows:—

Cantons.	Against accepting Foreign Orders.	For accepting Foreign Orders.
Zürich	70834	13040
Bern	21490	6417
Luzern	8839	1770
Uri	932	190
Schwyz	3391	1781
Obwalden	613	153
Nidwalden	467	171
Glarus	3407	772
Zug	1571	730
Freiburg	2537	3782
Solothurn	16261	2868
Basel-Stadt	4044	519
Basel-Land	4663	753
Schaffhausen	7313	843
Appenzell A.-Rh.	5346	1201
Appenzell I.-Rh.	1331	316
St. Gallen	28553	9245
Graubünden	7469	1419
Aargau	36953	9029
Thurgau	17510	4039
Tessin	3748	1149
Waadt	29418	43852
Wallis	4836	8217
Neuenburg	959	3496
Genf	6394	6821
Total	289,569	122,574

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Louis Parness, architect in Zurich, has been awarded first prize for the plan of a new medical clinic to be built at Zurich. Next to the League of Nations building at Geneva, this will be the largest building in Switzerland. J.C.

BERNE.

Frederic Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell" is to be performed at Interlaken during the coming summer season, by 250 amateur players of the district. This is a revival of a successful pre-war event, and many people will no doubt be prepared to travel long distances to see this drama of the Swiss deliverance from the yoke of the Habsburg dynasty portrayed in the surroundings that gave it birth, and by the people about whom it was written. M.E.

BASLE.

Mr. Arnold Staehlin, manager of the Banque Fédérale in Basle, has celebrated his 40th service anniversary with this institution. N.Z.

BASLE.

The death is announced in Basle, at an advanced age, of Mr. Alfred von Speyr-Merian, who for many years had been a well-known figure in Swiss banking circles. Mr. von Speyr-Merian was formerly partner in the bank of Speyr and Co., which, 20 years ago, was absorbed by the Swiss Bank Corporation. He joined the Board of the latter at that time, and had for the last ten years been a member of the executive committee. F.T.

SOLOTHURN.

National Councillor Jacques Schmid (socialist), Editor of the *Volk*, has been elected member of the cantonal government, replacing Dr. Affolter, who recently was made a federal judge. N.Z.

A LECTURE.

Forthcoming lecture by Swiss Engineer at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

A very interesting lecture by Ingenieur Hug is announced for Friday, March 7th, 1931, at 7 o'clock p.m. at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storey's Gate, S.W.1.

Mr. Hug will speak on the Electrification of Railways in the Dutch East Indies and will illustrate his lecture by films and lantern slides in a most interesting way.

Tickets will not be necessary and the lecture is free. We heartily invite you to be present, both to honour our countryman and to enjoy what is going to be without the slightest doubt a most interesting and instructive lecture.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st
for the

LAST DINNER AND DANCE
of the Season at the
MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Swiss Mercantile Society.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

In spite of the frequent festive gatherings which were held during the last four months in our colony, the Swiss Mercantile Society was able to assemble about 200 members and guests at their Annual Banquet and Ball which was held at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1, on Saturday, February 7th, a striking proof of the popularity which this most energetic Society enjoys.

The President, Mr. M. Paschoud, and Mrs. Paschoud received the guests, and shortly after 7.30 the company sat down to dinner in the Venetian Room, where a band was already in attendance. The Management provided an excellent dinner, which was accompanied by the spirited tunes of the orchestra and the congenial spirit of the company was at its best, when the Chairman, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, rose to propose the Toasts to H.M. the King and to Switzerland, which were heartily responded to.

Mr. M. Paschoud then gave his Presidential address in a very eloquent manner.

Monsieur le Ministre, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once more on behalf of our Society, I have the honour of welcoming you all to our Annual Banquet. Considering the difficult times through which we are passing, it is doubly gratifying to find such a numerous gathering, and to see that the worries which are bound to result from the general conditions throughout the world, do not affect the interest you have always shown in our activities. I am therefore convinced that we can safely rely, also for the future, on your continued support, and I seize this opportunity of tendering to you our best thanks.

Monsieur le Ministre—You are fully aware that our Society always reserves for you a specially hearty welcome, and it is my pleasure to thank you for having honoured us with your presence to-night, though unfortunately, I have to add also our regrets that Madame Paravicini was unable to come. You Sir, as our honorary President, have always followed so closely all we have done, that in my opinion, the title of honorary President does not fit any more, and should be altered to Active honorary President. Seeing this close contact with the Legation through our Minister and also the Secretaries and Attachés, many of whom are present to-night, who can say that we do not enjoy full official recognition. At Home, we are given to understand that they hold us in high esteem, but the time may come very soon when we shall ask for more than expressions of regard, and may we meet in Berne with the response we hope to obtain.

I shall now report as briefly as I can on our activities during the past year.

Our Employment Department, with Mr. Pfaendler as young as ever, is carrying on, in spite of difficulties, and if a job is vacant, you can trust Mr. Pfaendler for soon filling it.

The evening classes, in spite of the small numbers of new arrivals of young Swiss, show an increase, with 44 classes, as compared to 40 during the previous three years, and 387 students against 275 of last year, that is, an increase of 40%. It would seem that the adverse economic conditions have given food for thought to our compatriots here, and that they are arming themselves against possible surprises by adding to their knowledge. Last year, only two Students sat for the examination in English for foreigners, organised by the National Union of Teachers. Both passed with first class honours, one of them, Mr. Henry Jenny, securing the Silver Medal, the highest award. If our Students go on taking the first prize year after year, the National Union of Teachers will have to put them *hors concours*. It is not only in English that our evening class students do well. Two students sat for the advanced Spanish Examination of the London Chamber of Commerce, and both passed the examination in oral and in writing, with distinction.

Now to the *plat de résistance*: the Day School, or rather as we now call it, the College. Before giving you more statistics, I wish to recall the visit which our Federal Councillor, Signor Giuseppe Motta paid to the College in February last year. Here is another proof of the interest our Authorities take in us, and a further proof is, that Signor Motta, shortly

after, sent us his son as a student.

The average attendance at the College increased from 250 in 1929 to 276 in 1930. An increase of over 10%, and the monthly averages varied from 191 in January, to 384 in June, to drop again to 192 in December. The total of monthly students for the year was 3316, as against 2996. During June and July the influx of new students was such that Swiss House nearly burst its walls. All provisions were exceeded. Fortunately the Education Committee possesses an excellent Secretary, Mr. Schneider, and together with our Principal Mr. Levy, they soon organised things to cope with the increase. The low attendance in January and December, with the high figure for June, show that it is entirely seasonal. If it were possible to leave it to chance, and to trust to luck that we would find the right sort of lecturers when we needed them, we could regulate the expenses according to the attendances, but in practice it is not possible to do so, and we must keep a large staff of lecturers—9 at present—throughout the year. The result is excellent for the students, but the same cannot be said of the finances. The Committee is endeavouring to regulate things, though until we are able to move into larger premises, more suited to our purpose, the main difficulty will always remain. That is why we intend shortly to go to Berne and ask for a considerable sum of money, in order to build according to our requirements, and it may well be that we shall also have to appeal to our friends and supporters here.

Besides teaching English at our College, we also give special Commerce courses. Until the London Chamber of Commerce debarred all foreigners from sitting for their quarterly examinations on Elements of Commerce, our students took advantage of the opportunity of securing these valuable certificates.

In the winter 1929 examination, 11 sat, all passed, 6 with distinction. In the spring, 15 sat, 14 passed, 3 with distinction. In the summer, 51 sat, of which 25 secured passes with distinction, and 15 ordinary passes. It must not be forgotten that our Day students generally stop, on an average, only about 4—5 months, and have to compete in a tongue which is foreign to them, on equal terms with English candidates, who do so in their own language, and the result is highly pleasing.

You may say—we have heard a lot about the evening classes, the College, etc., but what about the Society itself? The Society has also been active, or at least, its Committees have. Last year, when I addressed you here, it was expected that within a few months, we should have attained Legal Status, by converting the Society into a Registered Company. After an enormous amount of work had been expended on preparing everything, and the Members had decided what was to be done, difficulties of a legal as well as a financial character made it necessary to alter the plans at the last minute, and to-day, we have not yet reached our goal, though it will only be a matter of a few weeks now before everything is definitely settled.

Once the Society is registered, the whole internal organization will be different, but our aims will still be the same, that is, to do something useful for our beloved country—Switzerland.

Before I sit down, I would like to thank all the members of the various Committees, including Mr. Deutsch, who through ill health has had to give up Committee work, and whose place was taken by my dear friend Mr. Stähelin, in answer to my S.O.S. Thanks also to the Trustees, as well as to the lecturing and office staff for their untiring work during the year. I would like also to be able to thank the Members of our Society for their regular attendance at the meetings. But how can I? Out of 383 Members of all denominations, I have never seen more than about 30—40 present at the monthly meetings, and just over 60 at the general meetings. This makes an average of not quite 45 members, that is 12% of the total membership. If you Members are of opinion that we are doing something useful, is it too much to ask you to come to the Meetings, once a month, or is it that your good ladies think that we may lead you away from the path of righteousness?

In future, under the new Constitution, we may be able to make the Meetings more attractive, and as we intend also to provide attractions for our Members' wives, this, very likely, will bring about a radical change.

Ladies and Gentlemen—I apologize for having inflicted on you such a long speech, and I thank you for the exemplary patience with which you have listened to it.

The address, so ably delivered, was much applauded and the cheers had hardly faded away, when our Minister rose to deliver his oration, which was awaited with great interest. He said :

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, We have heard from the President—if we look very closely into the matter we find that

after all there is very little to be said on my part except that since I had the last time the pleasure of speaking at this table, another year plunged into the past and added a fruitful period of twelve months to the annals of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

To-day we find again the old valiant guard at the head of your institution and it is thanks to their untiring energy and love of the cause that the position of the Swiss Mercantile Society is such, as we just had the satisfaction of learning by the clear and highly instructive review given by your President. In certain respects the President has given us the impression of a record year as far as your Society is concerned; but if we speak of a record with regard to the *general position during that year* of markets, production, industry and economic results, that term would have to be applied in a sense which could but cause us serious anxiety. Indeed, the twelve months of the year 1930 have in this country and in all parts of the world without exception been the worst since 1918 and the trade slump, which so far has hardly shown yet any tangible signs of improvement, is again and again, by representatives of the commercial world as well as by statesmen and economists, declared to be without precedent within living memory. In saying this I am really only repeating what I said ten weeks ago at the City Swiss Club Dinner and I am afraid the state of things today is hardly such as to make me take a more optimistic view, although on the other hand I see no reason to persist in too much pessimism. Perhaps those who say that the worst is over and that things are getting decidedly better are right, and we should only be too glad to believe it.

In these circumstances the efforts made by the Swiss Mercantile Society to work all the harder and to impress upon our young commercial generation all the more the necessity of doing their best is for us a source of comfort. The development of the educational side has again followed that traditional line of progress which has made the S.M.S. in 1930 more than ever a light spot in otherwise dark surroundings. The number of students is increasing and with it increases the number of classes and the number of teachers. Our Colony follows this development with the greatest interest and the name of your school has reached a reputation here and in Switzerland, for which I have every reason to congratulate you. Needless to say that I myself take a great interest in this educational work, and although my occupations unfortunately prevent me from paying as many visits to the school as I would like to pay in the course of a year, I keep in touch with your President and, through my secretaries, with the headmaster, masters and pupils. I am happy to state that the changes which have been brought about recently have proved quite successful, that the teaching staff is first class, that the programme is as interesting as it is resourceful and fittingly worked out for each particular object. It strikes me that your students, to judge by the examination papers, must on leaving the school possess quite an imposing knowledge not only of the English language but also of English commercial methods and economics in general. If the classes are too full and the room at your disposal insufficient, this may be a drawback, but it is after all the most obvious sign of success. I think I am not mistaken if I foresee that in this respect, as in many others, the energy and resourcefulness of your President and his colleagues will find in the near future means for improvement. To procure to the Swiss Mercantile Society a building worthy of its activity and merits would indeed be a crowning success to any President and Committee of that institution. Your present leaders as we know them are just the men to do it, but to dwell on this issue, which is yet a thing of the future, may be left for another year. For the present we are content to appreciate and to thank them for what they have done and so well accomplished.

The Minister on resuming his seat received a hearty ovation from the whole assembly.

Mr. Stähelin then extended a hearty welcome and greetings to the official guests, saying :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the pleasure of welcoming, on behalf of the Swiss Mercantile Society, our guests : the representatives of the Legation, the Swiss Churches and the Swiss Societies. To you all a hearty welcome!

Monsieur le Ministre, I cannot do better than echo the sentiments already so ably expressed to you by our President. You know, Sir, how happy we are to have you with us again, and I do hope that you will be with us at very many annual dinners to come. Our pleasure is naturally tinged with regret over the absence of Madame Paravicini. May we ask you, Sir, to be good enough to convey to Madame our sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

To your collaborators : Mr. Rezzonico, Mr. de Bourg, Mr. Micheli and Mr. Hilfiker, may I say how glad we are to have you with us at our festive board. This is a very nice change, as usually when we meet we are either bothering you—or you have a spot of bother for us.

Mr. Schupbach is here representing the Trustees. To Mr. Schupbach who, as the members of our Society know very well, is a staunch friend, I wish to say that, although we may not be very demonstrative in our thanks, we value his services and his help very highly. He is not only a Trustee but also, in the truest sense of the word, a trusty friend.

The Swiss Churches are represented by the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, the Rev. Praderand and the Rev. and Mrs. Hahn. The City Swiss Club is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Carlo Chapuis, the Société de Secours Mutuals by Mr. Campart and Miss Campart. The Fonds de Secours is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Dupraz, the Union Helvétique by Mr. Keyser and friend, the Swiss Choral Society by Mr. Ritzmann, Treasurer, and Miss Clark. The Nouvelle Société Helvétique is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Suter, the Swiss Rifle Association by Mr. H. Senn and Mr. Rhyn, the Swiss Institute Orchestral Society by Mr. Dick and Mr. Pellet, and last but by no means least the *Swiss Observer* is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer.

To you all who are our guests let me say that we value your presence not only because you are our guests, but because you are also our friends. May you enjoy this evening to the full, so that when it comes to an end you will leave us—not with a heavy heart—but still a little heavier than when you came.

Members of the Swiss Mercantile Society, please rise and drink the health of our Guests! Now, Mr. Chairman, I come to the second and more difficult part of my task, the toast to the Ladies.

Ladies, what can I say to you, I who am not a ladies' man? When I look around me and see the bevy of beauties, I wish I were a Bobby Howes! He at least would know just what to say.

It is indeed difficult to know in which way to praise you, Ladies. You are pre-eminent in all walks of life, and I think the time will soon come when, instead of a mere Man proposing a toast to the Ladies, a Lady will propose a toast to us, perhaps somewhat on the following lines : To our wee lambkins whom we relieve of their burdens—every Friday evening! Ladies, you know your own power very well. We, the so-called strong sex, are following your lead and have done so ever since the Garden of Eden. And so blindly are we following you that some time ago, during one of the dark evenings, one young representative of the strong sex followed what he thought to be a girl in a very smart sports-suit and with quite a good pair of legs. Well, it took him some time to realize that the Girl was in reality a Gordon Highlander! Gentlemen, please be upstanding and drink to "Our Gordon Highlanders!"

Mr. Stähelin's speech was much applauded, in particular his reply on behalf of the ladies; his assertion however, "that although I am not a ladies' man," met with some dissenting murmurs, which it is hoped will not lead him into troubled waters.

The President's hammer sounded again, and Mr. Ch. Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, rose to reply on behalf of the official guests :

Monsieur le Ministre, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I greatly appreciate the honour of having been called upon to respond to the toast of "The Guests and the Ladies," but you have by your welcome made my task very difficult.

Owing to my limited vocabulary, I can command no words or expressions eulogistic enough to do the smallest measure of justice to your so very hearty hospitality, which we are always happy to enjoy.

You need no new assurances of the very staunch friendship which exists between the Societies and Organisations we represent and the Swiss Mercantile Society, this friendship is not only of long standing but it is indissoluble.

May I express the very great admiration we all have for your society, for the men who so worthily conduct its destinies and for the wonderful achievements recalled here to-night; achievements with tradition behind them and with further success assured in the future; achievements which make one proud of being a member of the S.M.S.

These cryptic letters S.M.S. could well be applied to your President, some people have nearly half the alphabet after their names to denote their degrees, honours and other qualifications, I, therefore, suggest he should be known as M. Paschoud, S.M.S., meaning,

STRIKINGLY

MERITORIOUS

SKIPPER.

Mr. President, Gentlemen. In my tender youth I understand it was the custom for very little boys to wear garments resembling feminine attire, presumably I suffered like all my contemporaries, is this the reason why I have been requested to acknowledge the toast to "The Ladies"?

Surely you do not suppose that I ever wore my hair long or bobbed? Further, I have never been "Sweet Seventeen" or a "Blushing Bride," and I have never been called "Mummy." You will, therefore, agree that I am not in a position to give true expressions to the thoughts of these charming members of the unfathomable sex. However, it does not need a thought reader to ascertain their feelings. A look at their radiant faces is sufficient proof of their appreciation, of their pleasure at being here to-night, their sentiments can rightly be expressed by quoting the words of that old ballad,

"With all your faults we love you still."

I thank Mr. A. C. Stahelin for the splendid manner in which he proposed this toast, and on behalf of all the guests I thank you for your overwhelming hospitality.

I raise my glass and will ask my fellow guests to drink to the continued prosperity and further successes of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

This speaker, who, by the way, is a very old friend of the Swiss Mercantile Society, was heartily cheered on resuming his seat.

Then Mr. Paschoud rose for the last time, to announce that Mr. J. Pfaendler would make the appeal for "Charity." In moving terms the speaker referred to the very valuable work done by the Swiss Benevolent Society for those of our less fortunate compatriots and his ardent appeal with a ready response, some £30 having been collected.

The official programme having been concluded, everyone rushed to hear the cabaret show, which had been thoughtfully provided, whilst the banqueting hall was cleared for dancing. Dancing started soon after ten and lasted until the hour of one. Amongst the many jolly dancers one could spot the stately publisher of the S.O. solemnly waltzing to the tune of an alluring Viennese song with a charming partner.

The Swiss Mercantile Society deserves to be heartily congratulated for the way in which this banquet was arranged and managed, it was a thoroughly successful and enjoyable evening.

SWISS CLUB, BIRMINGHAM.

On account of lack of space the report of the Annual Banquet, which took place on Saturday, February 7th, is unavoidably held over until next week.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue in which the subscription expires.)

F. Schubeler (535), F. R. Lier (506), W. Eichenberger (532), John Veglio (534), J. Stettler (534), C. Isler (536), F. Capretz (496), E. Schweizer (494), Jocat-Guillarmod (517), P. G. Oberhansle (537), J. Danmeyer (535), Miss A. L. Achermann (506), A. Andres (537), C. Ferrière (538), C. Pernsch (536), E. J. Krebs (537), E. Neuschwander (537), A. C. Baume (533), F. H. Rohr (538), J. W. Schefer (535), E. Ullmann (522), E. Spieß (521), Mrs. J. Stewart (511), J. Jenny (514), P. Brun (545).

BUCHBESPRECHUNG.

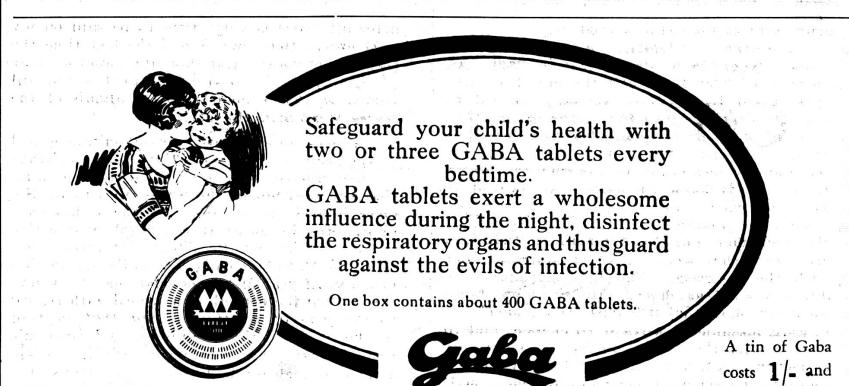
Gedichte. Marie Bretscher, Verlag Rascher & Cie, Zürich.

In der lyrischen Sprache gehen in den letzten Jahren Wandlungen zum Schönen und zum Unschönen vor. Wir erleben feiner abgeschattete Farben und Klänge, reicher Wortschatz, hin und wieder auch neue Strophenformen und Versuche mit neuen Rhythmen im reinmsten Vers. Zum Getue gehört auch die modisch tiefsinige Befitelung von Gedichtssammlungen. Eine der seltensten Ausnahmen wird von jetzt ab ein Band: "Gedichte von," selbst die wirklichen Dichter lassen sich verleiten ihre Verse zu nennen: Stürme—Ich und die Welt—Ein Sommer—Melancholie, und so weiter.

In Marie Bretscher's Band, "Gedichte", ganz einfach Gedichte, stehen fast durchwegs reife Stücke. Sie gebietet über alle Töne aus der lyrischen Mittellage, hat etwas rechtes zu sagen und sagt es in ihrer eigenen und meist sehr melodischen Sprache. In der Sammlung stehen allerliebste kleine Gedichte die eine stark lyrische Wirkung hervorrufen, wie z. B.

Abendklänge.

Abendwolken hängen unterm Himmel, Schweben leis mit lichtverklärten Schwingen. Von den Türen steigen Glockentöne Hoch hinauf, sie liebend zu umschlingen. In den Lüften seliges Vermählen, Klang und Farbe einen sich zum Chor, Und des Abends reinen Harmonien Oeffnen sich des Himmels goldne Tore.



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WILCOX, JOZEAU & CO., 15, Great St. Andrew Street, W.C.2.

RETAIL AT:

D. KLOETZLI, 23, Blenheim Road, Moseley, Birmingham.
TAYLOR'S DRUG CO., Hazlewell Lane, Stirchley, B'ham.
T. F. STARKEY, 37, Beaconsfield Road, Leicester.
H. A. MARTIN, P.O. Pharmacy, Willow, Leicester.
BASS & WILFORD, Chemists, Nottingham.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.

Mr. W. Elliott, Secretary for England of the Mission to Lepers, addressed the members and friends of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. on January 31st. An interesting and touching account was given of this most necessary and successful work among millions of lepers in various lands. Thousands, suffering from this terrible illness, are found by the mission in utter misery and desolation. A total cure is almost certain in cases where the disease is discovered at an early stage; to those unfortunate ones, who come under the category of incurables, the mission provides for treatment and tries to make their poor lives as comfortable as possible. Mr. Elliott informed the gathering that the respectable sum of 300—400 pounds is annually subscribed for in Switzerland, which announcement was received with great satisfaction by all those who were present. Our readers will no doubt be interested to hear that the small sum of 1/6 per week will keep one of those poor wretched children entirely. To those who are interested in this noble rescue work, the Secretary of the mission, 7 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1, will gladly give any information.

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

The above Society is giving a concert on Thursday, February 19th, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C., and the programme promises a great treat. The Society has been able to engage two prominent artists of wide repute, Miss Olivia Hilder and Mr. George Owen. The orchestral part contains such popular composers as Gounod, Boieldieu and Schubert, and we hope that many of our readers will patronise the Swiss Institute Orchestral Society, as we can assure them of an enjoyable evening.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

An ordinary meeting was held on February 3rd at Pagani, thirty-eight members and guests being present.

The visitors included Mr. Sermier, President of the Swiss Gymnastic Society and Mr. Kung, Assistant Manager of the Mayfair Hotel. In welcoming these gentlemen, the President said that he wished to thank Mr. Kung on behalf of the members for all he had done to make the meetings of the Club at the Mayfair Hotel so successful.

The evening was exceptionally quiet and for once I have practically nothing to report. This may fill the Secretary's heart with joy when he comes to write the minutes, but does not make copy for me.

The President announced that the Concert of the Swiss Institute Orchestral Society would take place on Thursday, February 19th, at 8 p.m. in the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, and it was decided to invest in a number of tickets which will be distributed among the old people who would otherwise be unable to be present. Mr. Paul Dick gave us a few details about the programme, and I have no hesitation in recommending members to do everything in their power to make this concert a great success. ck,

PERSONAL.

We wish to express to M. René Marchand of 100, Hatton Garden, E.C.1, our sympathy, his father, M. Oswald Marchand, having died at Geneva, at the age of 73.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Billeter's father, which has taken place at Mändorf at the age of 76, and wish him to accept our sincere sympathy.

Der du mit leichter Hand die Berge schüttelst
Und Felsen aus dem Grund der Meere hebst . . .
Es sind wahrhaft prophetische Verse darin.

Zu ihren lieblichsten Gedichten gehört "Die Einsame":

Sie wandelt wie auf einer langen Strasse,
Die einst vom grünen Grund emporgestiegen,
Nun endlos sich durch öde Lande zieht,
Endlos und doch begrenzt. Gleich einer
Mauer,
Steht vorn des Todes dunkle Machtgestalt,
Nicht sichtbar, fühlbar nur in jähem
Schauer . . .

Mit den tröstenden Schlussversen:

Und abends startet sie in die kleine Glut,
Auf der sie ihr frugales Mahl bereitet,
Fühlt, wie ein Schluchzen ihre Seele weitet,
Und sucht sich bei den Sternen neuen Mut.

Marie Bretscher ist zweifellos eine unserer klang und gedankenreichsten jüngeren Lyrikerinnen und wir können unsren Lesern dieses Bandchen, welches zahllose Stellen mit vollendetem Tommalerei enthält wärmstens empfehlen, es wird damit viel Genuss und Freude bereitet.

St.



Für seinen ganz eigenen Ton zeugt dieses
schöne Gedicht, "Gott":