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MIDLAND NOTES
FROM OUR "SPECIAL" CORRESPONDENT.

(There is really nothing "special" about our Correspondent, but as he is not "ripe" yet for our famous picture gallery—see S.O. No. 475, page 2207, cols. 1, 2 and 3—Back Nos. 3d. each—and as we are unable to pay for his articles, we must at least assign to him some courtesy title. Ed.)

There would seem to be reasonable expectation of increased railway dividends being shortly forthcoming, for last Saturday the R.R. termini at London, Manchester, Birkenhead, etc., did a brisk business in "B'rumm tickets," everybody who is anybody being anxious to go to Mr. Brun's Swiss party at the Grand Hotel of the famous Hardwicke City. Some 70 participants sat down to a most excellent repast, and loud were the praises for the Manager, M. Edward, and the Chef, M. Beer, both of whom had taken a special pride in making the Swiss visitors comfortable and well satisfied. The loyal toasts propounded by the chairman, M. Brun, having been duly honoured. Mr. C. J. Reinhard explained that it gave him, as Founder of the Birmingham Swiss Club and Relief Society some 37 years ago, especial pleasure to record the healthy growth of the Society and the useful activities of the Relief section. He formulated best wishes for a continuance of that spirit of solidarity which had kept the Birmingham Swiss Club together, even during dark and anxious periods. Mr. F. E. Brunner thereupon extended a hearty welcome to the many guests who had come from far and near, the London Metropolis being particularly well represented.

Mr. G. E. De Brunner being "pounced down upon" to reply to the Visitors' toast, explained that he was conscious of the dignity conferred upon him as the delegate of the "premier" London Swiss society and conveyed the latter's cordial good wishes. Thereupon he struck the patriotic keynote and the sentiments expressed were enthusiastically endorsed by the audience. Mr. H. Gattiker wound up the official toasts by proposing, in a very engaging manner, the health of the Ladies, whom he likened to the "beautiful flowers in the garden."

Mr. E. Montag, Swiss Consul at Liverpool, thereupon rose amid acclamations to return thanks for the hospitality offered him and expressed appreciation of the Club's generous contribution of £21 to the "George Dürmier" Fund, the object of which he briefly explained. The audience were also much amused to learn that in certain ailments spare collar studs taken as lozenges have proved highly beneficial, and that if he in his Consular duties did not always have the "exact remedy" at hand a judiciously selected substitute often worked wonders.

The festive board having now been vacated in favour of the Ball Room, where a small but admirably efficient band (London Swiss societies please note) offered most enjoyable musical rhythm, dancing was soon in full swing, the inimitable Maître de Ballet, M. A. Juriens, of "Culinaria" fame, making things "hum," many Valses, graceful Barn Dances and Folk Songs being much appreciated by old and young alike.

The "Champagnerstuebli" having had to close its hospitable doors at the appointed hour, some of our London friends indulged in a game of their own "Hunting the key by candle light," or "What to do when the car runs dry" (shortly to be produced at the Lyceum), and we understand that the chauffeur in particular is high in his praises as to the beneficial effects of a nocturnal chase after an elusive key—which we strongly recommend should henceforth be safely chained up! (Mr. Woolworth, please forward samples).

On Sunday forenoon some 30 participants "slowly" gathered in the foyer of the Grand Hotel and were thereupon driven by a small fleet of motor cars to "Les établissements Kunzle," where, under the most amiable guidance of one of its Managers, Mr. F. E. Brunner, the privilege and pleasure was offered to the visitors to go over this wonderful and amazingly spacious factory for Chocolates, Cakes, etc., started some 25 years ago with two workmen and now offering constant employment to some 620 hands. Truly an enterprise thoroughly Swiss in its origin and conception, which reflects utmost credit upon the energy, astuteness, organisation, talent, etc., of the leaders in this beehive of industry and in particular upon its Founder, M. Kunzle, who has known how to "translate" a chance remark of the old-time Swiss Musketry Instructor: "Schäppi, haest Scho glade" into such an amazing commercial success! The visitors having, after a solid hour's most interesting and instructive inspection, regained the exit door, Mr. Brunner presented each lady with a little souvenir, and at least one of them was heard to remark: "Isn't Mr. Brunner 'sweet,' he has certainly chosen the right career."

Back once more at the Grand Hotel the party sat down to a special luncheon most excellently prepared, and soon thereafter a close inspection of the time tables for East and North reminded the guests that all good things must come to an end.

Those, however, who were independent of the railway service gladly accepted the invitation of the President, M. Brun, to "sample his cellar."

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and right royally did he and Mrs. Brun entertain their friends at their homestead. Well done, Birmingham compatriots, the very happy hours you offered us will not be forgotten!

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**

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

Mr. M. Bourquin, Porrentruy: "The Inevitability of War." Mr. H. Roduner, St. Gall: "Morris Motor Factory." Miss H. Link, Zurich: "Vivisection." Mr. F. Haaf, Hasle-Rüegsau: "The World is growing better." Mr. G. Eggermann, Geneva: "Grandeur and Misery at Hollywood." Mr. H. Menti, Richterswil: "Is Novel Reading a Waste of Time?" Miss A. Honegger, Staef: "Paris." Mr. F. Laedermann, Geneva: "Cinema of to-day." Mr. H. Portmann, Aesch-Soleure: "Talent and Genius." Mr. H. Meyer, Olten: "Bull fight in Peru." Mr. H. Roth, St. Gall: "Unemployment in England." Miss E. Geissmann, Wohlen: "Social and Economic Life." "Tessin." Mr. A. Merz, Berne: "The Position of the Lawyer in Life." Mr. H. Meyer, Olten: "Transendine Journey." Miss G. Pfeiffer, Vevey: "Windsor Castle." Mr. M. Faes, Lausanne: "Coal Industry in England." Mr. W. Stauffer, Gampelen: "Arbeitschein Tammehof."

During the last two weeks in connection with the scholastic programme, the debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Should one keep a Diary?" Proposer: Dr. H. Brunner. Opposer: Mr. A. Isotta.

On Friday evening, February 6th, 1931, an interesting Lantern Lecture was delivered by E. Reginald Taylor, Esq., on "The Cinque Ports." The lecturer gave historical and geographical descriptions of those towns in Kent known by the title of the lecture.

On Saturday, February 7th, a party of students of the Swiss Mercantile Society, some fifty in number, spent a very enjoyable morning at the Tate Gallery. The representative collection of the paintings of Turner attracted particular interest, as well as those of Watts, Rosetti, Constable and Millais, and the students were able to form a very favourable opinion of the British School, the works of which naturally predominate in this gallery.

On Friday last, February 13th, 1931, the students of the S.M.S. College had the pleasure of a lecture by a distinguished historian and economist, Professor Gooch, M.A., D.Litt., who lectured upon "The European Situation."

Professor Gooch spoke in some detail about the situation in Russia, and the Five Years' Plan, which he described as the most interesting and in some ways the most important experiment in Europe, that may eventually prove to be a wonderful success, or a tragic failure, bringing untold misery in its train. Then the lecturer reviewed the serious position in Poland, and the racial antagonisms there; the more hopeful situation in Austria, and Greece, the disquieting position in the Balkan States, and finally the grave position in Spain. The position in France and Italy was briefly commented upon, but Professor Gooch laid great emphasis on the necessity for keeping the Constitutional party in power in Germany if further revolution was to be averted.

At the conclusion of this excellent lecture, one felt bound to agree with Professor Gooch that although there are bright spots on the political horizon, there are many dark clouds hanging over Europe.

On Saturday morning, the students of the S.M.S. College paid a visit to the Zoological Gardens, where they spent a most enjoyable time, and thanks to Mr. Doubleday, an official of the Zoological.

UNIONE TICINESE.

The Annual General Meeting of this society was held on the 25th of January at the "Schweizerbund," Charlotte Street, W., and was quite well attended. The general survey of the activities of the society having been given at the meeting in December, the first item on the agenda was the report of the auditors, which was read by Mr. E. Lucca, and found the accounts and balance-sheet quite correct. They were unanimously approved, without discussion, and the net result is considered a record for the society.

The task of the outgoing Committee being completed, Mr. G. Delmè was elected President *pro temp.* for the purpose of the election of the new Committee. Before it started, however, Mr. O. Gambazzi intimated that he would no longer be able to accept re-election, on account of his other duties, and having served uninterruptedly for 32 years he thought he deserved a rest, promising however his co-operation, in a private capacity, whenever he could help the society. In view of the earnestness of the appeal his request was acceded to.

Mr. W. Notari was re-elected President, by acclamation, and the other places on the Committee were filled as follows: Vice-President, C. Berti; Secretary, P. Demaria; Assistant Secretary, R. Orelli; Treasurer, E. Biucchi; Collector, C. Moresi; Members (without portfolios), A. Bolla, O. Braga, G. Camozzi, E. Longhi, E. Lucca.

On resuming the Chair Mr. Notari thanked Mr. Gambazzi warmly for the long and unselfish services rendered to the Society and proposed that he should be elected member "benemerito" (who has deserved well of the Society—not honorary). At the same time it was felt that the position should be regularised in respect of the one Ticinese who has for many years been considered as "benemerito" by all members and friends of the Society, and thereupon Mr. A. Meschini and Mr. O. Gambazzi were elected to the honour by hearty acclamation.

As delegates to the Swiss Sports were elected Messrs. E. Lucca, G. Meschini and C. Donati. Four new members were admitted. The regular donations for charitable purposes and hospitals were renewed in the same measure as last year and having disposed of various other minor administrative matters the meeting dispersed after a well-spent fifty minutes. O.B.

CONCERT NOTES.

With reference to our notice in last week's Swiss Observer regarding the singing at the Queen's Hall on the 26th February of Miss Nellie Meyrat, we have been asked to state that her professional name is Nellie Palliser under which name she has been singing for several years.

We hear that quite recently she has sung one of the principal parts (Donna Elvira) in "Don Giovanni" (Mozart) with the Carl Rosa Opera Co. at the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield, with great success and will be giving another performance in the same role and theatre on February 28th.

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