

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1931)

Heft: 500

Artikel: Prominent Swiss colonist in goal

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691866>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 22.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

order to explain the uneasiness, the agitations and conflicts which, from time to time assail Nations and peoples and force them to wage wars or induce them to join such wars, or desert from their own peaceful ranks in order to participate in the fighting going on elsewhere...

Let me, to conclude, give one or two examples of what I call the disturbing, but beautiful arguments of this book abounds.

Marie-Louise, Pierre's wife speaking to the Colonel, father, after her husband's acquittal:

"Ne croyez-vous pas, mon père, que ce n'est pas dans sa condamnation par contumace ou son acquittement, en Suisse, non plus que dans ses blessures et ses citations en France, qu'il faille chercher un dénouement décisif... mais bien, plus haut, plus loin, au-dessus des lois humaines, au-delà des contingences matérielles et des jugements faussés par l'habitude, les préjugés et la tradition, dans la communion mystérieuse des âmes et des choses, domaine spirituel où la raison n'a point d'accès..."

And finally this wonderful little pen-picture:

"Le drapeau passe, tranquille et souverain sur la haie sombre des fusils... Il Passe, tout enveloppé de poussière... ardent comme une flamme qui trouve la fumée..."

"L'AUTRE HORIZON" by Charles Gos. Un volume in-8 couronne fr. 4.50, relié fr. 7.— Editions Victor Attlinger, Neuchâtel.

PROMINENT SWISS COLONIST IN GOAL.

Mme. WYSS IN WORMWOOD SCRUBBS.

It was raining dismally and the clock on the prison tower had just struck the half-hour after 4 o'clock when the door beneath was opened to release our compatriot, Mme. Sophie Wyss from Wormwood Scrubs prison last Saturday afternoon upon a dark and dreary world. Her incarceration was unusual, since Wormwood Scrubs does not extend its hospitality to women. And if she had been guilty of theft, the crime was committed inside the walls where she has certainly perpetrated the by no means petty larceny of stealing the hearts of about a thousand inmates. Mr. W. H. Kerridge of His Master's Voice and the British Music Society had arranged with Mme. Sophie Wyss to give a concert in the chapel of the prison with the governor's consent. She sang songs of Elizabethian England, and when she turned to the songs of France and Germany, she prefaced each song with an explanation that made its aims clear to all. No wonder they lost their hearts to her!

CK's CORNER.

In our recent number 495, ck offered a prize for the first correct solution, which reaches the office of the S.O. of the following devinette:

Mon premier est une partie du corps. Mon second ne convient guère à une Sainte. Mais mon tout est très convenable pour un Saint.

The solution is "Courage" and the prize offered has been won by our reader and friend M. Dennler, Wormit, (Fife). Further correct solutions have reached the Editor.

"HERO" Brand

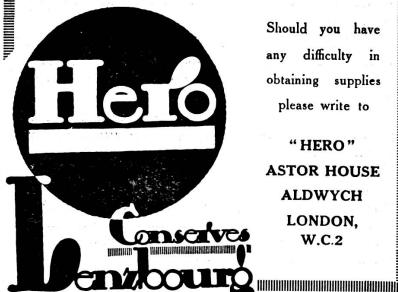
This famous Swiss pack of

STRAWBERRIES
RASPBERRIES
CHERRIES
VEGETABLES
BLACK CHERRY JAM
etc.

is stocked by all leading
High-Class Stores

Should you have
any difficulty in
obtaining supplies
please write to

"HERO"
ASTOR HOUSE
ALDWYCH
LONDON,
W.C.2



THE FOYER SUISSE.

The annual meeting of the Foyer Suisse was held on Friday the 15th May, 1931 at No. 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1., the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Hon. President of the Trust being in the chair.

The agenda consisted of the ordinary statutory business: Annual report, Financial report, Election of 1 member and of the Council of Management and Auditors.

The accounts were presented by Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.J.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., and passed unanimously.

The following gentlemen were elected to manage the affairs of the Trust for the ensuing year: Rev R. Hoffmann-de Visme, President; Mr. G. Hafner, Vice-President; H. Barth, Treasurer; C. Bertschinger, Secretary; Rev. C. T. Hahn, H. Joss, A. Müller, F. G. Sommer and J. Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon being also re-elected auditor for 1931/32.

As a new member to the Trust Mr. M. Pradervand being proposed, seconded and duly elected.

The annual report prepared by the secretary (printed below) was read, fully discussed and also approved unanimously.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.

XIII Annual Report of the Foyer Suisse.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, It is my privilege for the 13th time in succession to put before you, the Trustees of the Foyer Suisse the annual report of the working of the Trust. I may again be permitted, for reasons of clearness to divide this report into two main parts: (a) business section, (b) social section; or as some of our friends generally put it, the making section and the spending section.

Business Section :

For every branch of industry except monopolies the year 1930/31 belongs unquestionably to the most difficult years on record. The Foyer Suisse cannot altogether expect to escape the effects of such times of strain and stress. Nevertheless, there are many occasions for being grateful for the result obtained, and D. M. we have been spared accidents and losses during the year. The Council has met 4 times during the year to receive the report of the House Committee and manage the ordinary business. Our statistics show that the total number of visitors has been 1154 during the 12 months of which 706 were of Swiss nationality. Most of these come to us through personal recommendation, but many of the students come through the intermediary of the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Student Christian Movement House in Russell Square.

The donations which your Council has voted amount to the sum of £585, out of which Swiss societies benefited to the extent of £419 4s. 2d., and other charities £165 15s. 10d. It must be pointed out, of course, that these figures are abnormally high and due to the fact that some of the charitable appeals of the last 12 months were exceptional and will not be repeated again soon.

Special thanks are due to Mr. R. J. Dixon, our accountant, Mr. F. Ineichen who assists him in that department as well as our manager Mr. W. Meyer, our housekeeper Mrs. M. Koelliker and our chef Mr. F. Koelliker.

Social Section :

The only direct contribution of the Trust under this headline is the preparation and publication of the Swiss Girls' Sunday programme. Every 4 months we print and distribute many hundreds of copies. Some are regularly forwarded to the British Consulates in Switzerland for distribution among girls coming to England, and one Consulate has actually asked for a fresh supply. No restrictions on immigration appear to slacken "der Zug nach England" among our young compatriotes and the Foyer Suisse London has acted as a place of refuge for large numbers of them. The chief aims of the Sunday gatherings are:

1. to provide an open house for every Swiss girl.
2. to create social intercourse between the girls as well as the various sections who come together during the week.

3. to initiate mutual service and to broaden their outlook on life in general by holding talks and lectures on every subject of special interest to them.

During these last 8 months this hall has been filled, and on most of the Sundays some member of the Trust or of the Swiss Church has been in attendance. Without such a most generous help and co-operation of our friends it would have been quite impossible to carry through these varied programmes. The very best thanks are due from the Trust to all the lay helpers as well as the lecturers.

Besides these direct services of the Foyer there are the various separate organisations to be mentioned:

Réunion de jeunes filles every Thursday afternoon.

École du Dimanche et Anciens chateuchênes every month. Directed by Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme et Mr. Pradervand.

Schwyzerkraenzli directed by Pf. Hahn every Wednesday.

All these activities are in a most healthy and flourishing condition as you have no doubt already read from the report of the Swiss Church just issued.

The 2 nominal tenants of the Trust:

Union Chrétienne de Langue française,

Swiss Y.M.C.A.,

are both continuing their work among young men in this city and they meet regularly once or even twice a week. A great deal of good work is done in a quiet way by both groups.

The Réunion de Couture and the Nachverein are both maintaining their faithful services to the poor at their monthly meetings.

This year the Old Folks' Christmas luncheon was also held, and we again had the pleasure of having our hon. President the Swiss Minister with us at this function. The old people very much appreciate these gatherings during the long Winter months, and therefore they were brought together a second time in February last when your secretary had the pleasure of showing them about 100 lantern slides taken from the Adelboden sport film "Glücksfahrt im Schnee." As many of the old friends will never see the snow mountains again, they were highly delighted and must have felt the spirit of youth coming back once again.

At the initiative taken by our president, Monsieur Hoffmann, the Foyer offered a Luncheon on two occasions to all the protestant foreign pastors in London. This sign of Christian unity has already resulted in the publication of a special poster. All the details on it will prove of great help to hospitals, hotels and boarding houses in and around London, and it should help the foreign Churches in London materially.

Reviewing the afore mentioned visible social services rendered by the Foyer Suisse during the 12 months, we have been filled with great thankfulness to God for permitting us all to work in his vineyard. The chief work however, the hidden influence on the mind and character of the hundreds of young people passing through the Foyer year by year can never be tabulated.

For the Foyer Suisse
C. Bertschinger, Hon. Secretary.

A CONCERT OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AT THE EGLISE SUISSE.

Nearly three hundred coins were found in the offertory bags at the crowded Swiss Church in Endell Street after the silver collection for Swiss charities at the concert given on the 14th by Madame Sophie Wyss, with Monsieur Franz Walter, the cellist and Mr. Spencer Shaw at the organ. As it is re-built the church seems to be even better for acoustics than it was before, and Madame Wyss' soprano voice seemed to sound freer, more spiritual and truly ethereal here than perhaps anywhere else. Also, the great music which the artists played and sung is surely most at home in a church.

One hears the piano version of J. S. Bach's 'Toccato and Fugue in D Minor' undertaken by so many capable pianists that to hear it played with majesty and power by Mr. Spencer Shaw came as a pleasant reminder that the organ is its proper instrument. M. Franz Walter then played an 'arioso' by John Sebastian and a 'Largo' by W. F. Bach. The young cellist from Geneva produces a true and beautiful sound; his phrasing and his style is impeccable. The difference of his attitude towards the 'Suite in D' of the 18th century composer Caix de Hervelois, which he next played, proved his sense of atmosphere. One felt safe with his musicianship, and he can fill with the beauty of his tone. Mme. Wyss sang Haydn's famous air 'With Verdure Clad' from 'The Creation' rather faster than she usually takes it, as if each lovely phrase trod a little impatiently upon its predecessor. Mr. Shaw then introduced an impressive and little-known 'Marche Funèbre' by Guilmant.

In the second half of the programme Mme. Wyss sang 'O Come unto Me' from Handel's 'Messiah.' A certain mood of white fire which infused her song this evening (and which had perhaps over-hurried the stately tread of the Haydn air) gave inspiration and brilliance to the 'Hear Ye Israel' of Mendelssohn, which followed.

The cellist and the organist more than realised the fine impression they had created in the first half with interesting works by Boellman and Boccherini. (But why the tremoli in the accompaniment to the latter?) and all three artists combined in Brahms' song 'Wiegenlied,' which is in itself as beautiful a parting as ever artist celebrated in song, word or painting.

The concert, which was Mme. Wyss' inspiration, was organised by M. René Hoffmann de Visme with characteristic energy. Apart from the material benefits to the charities concerned, it provided the Colony with another opportunity of hearing the lovely voice of the singer whom M. Motta has described as 'the symbol of Swiss womanhood,' and of presenting to us a young cellist whose career we shall watch with sympathy and interest. As for Mr. Spencer Shaw, we certainly wish that we could claim so fine an organist as a compatriot also!