

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:	- (1934)
Heft:	678
Rubrik:	Swiss Mercantile Society

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: 23.02.2026

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

THE SOUL OF A NATION.

Lecture given by J. T. Mustard, Esq., on Friday,
October 12th, at the Swiss Mercantile College.

Mr. Mustard prefaced his lecture by saying how proud all Swiss people should be at the memorable and magnificent stand M. Motta had made at Geneva on Sept. 17th. The Swiss had made that day a notable stand for humanity and liberty which in the years to come would be marked by a bold white milestone on the pages of history. A real nation is not measured by its size or its material wealth only, but rather by those deep moral forces which make it a guide for others to look up to. There is much in common between you and us. I have never looked upon the Swiss as foreigners. We are too much akin. You are lovers of true freedom and justice, so are we. I believe, you, like the real Britisher, are religious and believe in religious liberty to all within your country. You also believe in right and fair dealing among human beings. Yea, truly righteousness uplifteth a nation. Such are the foundations of real nations of which you are an honourable example. You have a soul. Yes, a National soul which shines through and pervades all your actions. To you I appeal with all the fervour I possess to keep that lamp ever burning bright and clear. — It is worth while. Times of danger and peril may come. You must not always expect peace and quietness; they are not good for you. But in such times of stress your soul will show of what it consists. Your morale will be tested, but in the testing your soul will carry your body through to victory; and there is no victory so real as that gained in the fight for right no matter how hard the pathway be. — Honour before all things. —

Your nation has been through the fire of an ordeal. It has been tested; and thank God it had not lost its soul. You have come through with added lustre to your honourable name and record, and you Swiss, the Swiss of the future, I feel assured will ever keep bright and unsullied that lamp of freedom and justice and pass it on untarnished to those that follow you. You have a grand heritage, but also remember you owe a very great responsibility and I feel convinced you will nobly shoulder whatever burden you may be called upon to bear and will march proudly, calmly, determinedly and brightly forward knowing that your cause is the right and true one. Your soul will illumine you in your devotion and service to all for that is honourable and just.

It is easier to take the coward's course, to march with the soul-less crowd. Your nation might have done it. "No!!" said M. Motta, to do that would be an act alien to all that your nation and people stand for — Justice, freedom, honour, family life, religious liberty. In short all those things that a developed civilised human being feels and wants. To be otherwise is to be enslaved, to be oppressed, to be robbed of all which make life full, free, and productive of good to the whole round world.

The birth of a nation. Yes nations are born — You students are reading English literature. I recommend to you Longfellow's "Paul Revere's Ride." Any one of you might have been Paul Revere, a youth thrilled through and through for what he felt was right and not counting the cost in combating what he considered an injustice. That is the stuff of which true nations are made.

The soul, a lamp burning vigorously and bright and urging the body to noble actions and brave deeds; but above all sustaining it in the long struggles which may have to be met and when one's endurance is tested to the utmost.

Your country knew struggles, and I have often been present at your Fête National — True! joy cometh in the morning, but only after victory has been won. And a greater victory than those of arms is the one your country has just won —

A Victory for Humanity and Liberty. Here let me add how deeply I regret that my country was not by your side on that epoch-making day. — It is a real and deep sorrow to many in this land; and I believe the step this country took was both wrong and false and to be fraught with much future mischief. Compromise? Yes! on non-essentials and minor things of life, but never on the great factors of human welfare and well-being. Your country, speaking through M. Motta, expressed the great and fundamental truths of what are the bases of a nation with a soul. To use a homely English saying "To live and let live." There is the great reason for opposing the admission of the U.S.S.R. to the League of Nations.

Cast your eyes back over the years that these vast areas have been dominated by that ruthless minority and the question rolls up — "How long shall the voices of thy brothers' blood call unto thee unheard and unanswered?" —

In conclusion the lecturer urged upon all to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the whole of M. Motta's speech and to make it widely known among their English friends in order to

consolidate all those who stand for freedom and justice. Finally Mr. Mustard asked all to stand and sing their National Anthem in honour of M. Motta, which they did with enthusiasm.

A cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by the Chairman and seconded by M. Keller and carried with prolonged applause.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, October 10th. The President, Mr. A. Steinmann, was in the Chair. The business part of the Meeting was dealt with almost in record time and was followed by a lecture on "Oberammergau and its Passion Play," by J. J. Boos, Esq., Vice-President of the Society. This was the first of a series of lectures which are to be held in connection with the Monthly Meetings during the coming winter session. The lecture hall was comfortably filled and it was particularly gratifying that a large number of ladies honoured the occasion with their presence. These lectures by members of the Society and external lecturers have now become a regular feature and their popularity was once more evinced by the very large audience.

The Chairman welcomed the members and friends of the Society as well as the students of the College and Mr. Boos then proceeded to give his lecture which was illustrated with lantern slides. The lecturer visited Oberammergau with a party in August last and delivered his lecture in two parts, the first dealing with the outward and return journey from London to Oberammergau for which he had obtained a series of excellent slides from the German Railways Information Bureau in London. The second part dealt with the play itself and for that purpose the lecturer was successful in securing a series of exquisite coloured slides.

The lecturer said :

Oberammergau is without doubt the most famous village in the world because it is there that the peasants of Bavaria, or better of Ammergau, for over 300 years have brought before the world the play of the life and death of our Lord in a manner that has attracted world-wide attention and is drawing pilgrims from all over the world, christians and heathens alike, into the quiet valley of the Ammer. The journey to the German frontier via Dover, Ostend, Brussels, was uneventful except for a large crowd — it was a Saturday before Bank Holiday — but we all looked for excitement when reaching the German frontier. We were warned to be prepared for a thorough examination etc., but let me tell you that we found nothing of the kind. There were certainly no less than six various officials that passed through our carriage, viz., the passport official, customs-officer, a "devisen" or foreign exchange controller, further an official who confiscated all foreign newspapers for one is not permitted to take foreign newspapers into Germany; a C.I.D. or S.S. man, etc. But we all looked such harmless individuals that we certainly passed through very quickly. From the very first our entire party, and so all visitors to Germany who behaved, were treated with greatest friendliness. The Germans have, of course, a great desire to be again good friends with the English. I must state that on the few occasions when we had to use the railways, the service was in every way perfect and quite equal to Germany's pre-war thoroughness.

There followed the first series of slides and the itinerary (the party traversed Germany mostly by coach) was via Cologne, through the picturesque Rhine valley with its many wonderful historic sites and beautiful landmarks. Many famous German towns where the past and present are brought out in clear contrast, were visited. The journey was full of interest and many of the pictures shown must have awakened memories of the past among many of the audience. Many of the slides depicted scenes and happenings of the modern Germany which forms the subject of so much discussion, criticism and speculation.

After a short interval there followed the second part of the lecture dealing with Oberammergau and the Passion Play, which this year on the occasion of the 300 years jubilee performance was witnessed by half a million people.

The lecturer went on to say :

What makes the play such a great success? First of all it is no doubt the life and soul that is put into the entire play from the leading actors down to the chorus and folk players, from the directors to the door-attendants, everyone just doing excellently what is asked of him. The players or actors in particular, you can see, just live their part, be it large or small. The text of the play goes very much on the lines of the testament. The present text dates to 1850-1860 and is the work of the then Parish Priest, Alois Daisenberger. Music was first

introduced in 1811 and to-day the musical interludes and songs form a large and imposing part of the play. The prologue, the songs and words are all in German but each visitor can purchase the text in his own language. There is a wonderful stage which was completed for the 1930 performance and a spectators' hall that holds some 6,000 people.

There followed a series of slides depicting the beautiful scenery of Oberammergau which forms a wonderful natural setting for the play; the stage the actors and numerous scenes and tableaux of the Passion Play. The wonderful pictures, and the excellent manner in which they were presented by the lecturer who spared no efforts in making the lecture a very interesting one, could not fail to make a deep impression on the audience and must have awakened a desire to follow in the lecturer's footsteps when the next performance takes place in 1940. For judging by the lecture one could not spend a better holiday than to cover this vast tract of land by coach and to witness this mighty spectacle.

A very hearty ovation was accorded to Mr. Boos for his most interesting and instructive lecture.

W.B.

LONDON GROUP OF THE N.S.H.

A series of lectures to be given in various towns in England has been arranged by M. CHARLES GOS, the famous alpinist and writer.

This series will extend from the 17th to the 29th of November and our group has been fortunate in securing Mr. Gos to give us a lecture with lantern slides on :

"La Conquête des Alpes ou comment la montagne conquit l'homme."

Mr. Gos will speak in French. The performance will take place on Saturday, the 17th of November at King George's Hall and will take the place of our second film show for the year.

We can count ourselves very fortunate in being able to arrange with Mr. Gos to give us a lecture, as he is one of the greatest authorities on the Swiss Alps and will present us with an excellent lecture, apart from the very many beautiful lantern slides to illustrate his talk. Invitations will later go out in the usual way, but we just thought it wise to give our friends in the colony an early advice of this event.

The Council of the N.S.H.

SILVER-JUBILEE.

We refer to the announcement in our last issue, in connection with the Silver Jubilee Fund for Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

The Organising Committee has asked us to inform our readers, that they are completing their arrangements, and that they would be glad to receive donations as well as applications for the dinner as early as possible next week.

C. H. SENN †.

We deeply regret to inform our readers of the death of Mr. C. H. Senn.

The following particulars have been taken from the "Times" of the 19th inst.

Born in Switzerland on September 13th, 1864, he was educated there, but came to this country at an early age. He was of British nationality. A recognised expert on all matters relating to food, there must be few, if any, who had such a detailed and scientific knowledge of dietary and dietetics. His advice was constantly sought by official bodies and by private persons. His reputation was by no means confined to this country, for by his publications alone he was known in most parts of the world.

Formerly he was consulting chief to the National Training College of Cookery, and his knowledge had been of special value to the Board of Education, the Prisons Commission, the Home Office, and the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. To numerous hospitals he had been examiner in sick-room cookery, those availing themselves of his services including Guy's Hospital, University College Hospital, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Charing Cross Hospital. He was vice-chairman of the Consultative Committee of the L.C.C. Technical Cookery School for Boys and the L.C.C. School for Waiters.

The founder and late editor of *Food and Cookery* and the *Catering World*, his publications covered both the lighter side and the