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Le Conseil fédéral ne doit pas se laisser intimider par certaines tentatives démagogiques. Il trouvera certainement, au parlement, une majorité disposée à soutenir un projet vraiment efficace. Malgré toutes les mauvaises volontés coalisées, il importe d'agir énergiquement, avec la certitude que c'est ce que veut le peuple.

La situation actuelle est devenue à ce point intenable que l'année 1936 ne saurait finir sans qu'elle soit redressée.

*Léon Sarary.
Tribune de Genève.*

A SAD ANNIVERSARY.

A year ago this week swift tragedy fell in the sunshine of the Swiss Alps. Queen Astrid of the Belgians was killed when the car in which she was riding with King Leopold left the smooth white road that skirts the southern arm of Lake Lucerne and crashed down a gentle green slope into the water.

A thick solid cross hewn from block of grey-white granite marks the exact spot where she died. Across the road stands the chapel built by the King that will preserve the memory of a beautiful and beloved woman when the tale has dimmed into legend.

Visitors from half the world have journeyed down the lake from Lucerne on the white steamers that traffic in its green-blue waters, or have gone overland to Kussnacht by car and auto-bus, to stand reverently looking into the tiny chapel and murmur a prayer for the departed.

No one knows how many have made this pilgrimage in the year. Their number can only be guessed. When I asked a resident of Kussnacht he spread his hands and said: "Many hundreds come every day. Perhaps 50,000, perhaps many more — who can tell?"

Belgians would head the list of nationalities, if such a thing existed. They have come as parties, families and couples.

During the winter Alpine sports enthusiasts came down with the snow upon them to visit this simple monument. In summer climbers with their packs slung about them have made it a place of call on their way to the higher altitudes.

This week most visitors bring flowers to lay on the walls that surround the chapel and on the steps leading up to it. For weeks past there have been magnificent wreaths of flaming gladioli, of pale lilies, and of simple garden flowers, and among them little bunches of fragrant mountain flowers that fade quickly in the hot sun.

Five minutes' walk from Kussnacht brings visitors to the Astrid Kapelle. It faces obliquely across the lake to where the Rigi climbs steeply against the sky to more than 6,000 feet.

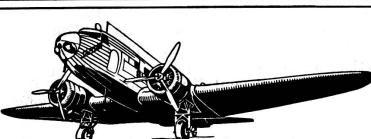
The spirit of peace hovers over the scene, yet it is painfully easy to reconstruct the drama. One realises that the tree that has been protected with stakes and wire has a tragic significance.

Men, women and children speaking many different tongues to-day are filing up the steps to the chapel. They pause and read the inscription, in French, or Flemish, or German, chiseled into the stone wall to record the event that shocked the world.

The kindly Swiss go regularly, as to the shrine of a saint, to pray — perhaps to ask a blessing. As I watched the stream coming and going a few days ago a bride in her wedding finery drove up with her groom. They had come straight from church so that she might lay her sheaf of flowers there.

It is more than a memorial to an individual — it is a new symbol of peace.

*P. H. POWELL.
(STAR.)*



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L'AMOUR.

L'amour est une maladie contagieuse à manifestations très diverses, redoutable surtout par ses complications. Son maximum de fréquence est vers la vingtaine année; elle frappe également les deux sexes. Le microbe qu'on n'a pas encore réussi à cultiver et à apprivoiser est de la race des "cocci" ou "coccus"; il prospère dans les cocktails et se colore au rouge de Coty.

Les lésions que provoque cette maladie sont peu connues, parce qu'elle est rarement mortelle; toutefois on a noté une hypertrophie du cœur et une atrophie du cerveau, que vous comprenez.

Au début de la maladie, les sujets se montrent nerveux, agités, inquiets; ils ont des troubles vasomoteurs; rougeur ou pâleur subite du visage. Ils passent parfois par des crises lyriques avec émissions de vers. Cette période a été appelée "fift." Elle peut manquer et les sujets entrent directement dans la période d'état.

Cela débute par une douleur brusque dans la région du cœur, différente du "coup de poignard" de l'ulcère d'estomac, et appelée "coup de foudre." Le malade devient pâle, prend un air langoureux. Les pupilles sont souvent dilatées, l'œil brillant, le regard fixé sur une personne particulière, comme dans certains troubles mentaux, sans que les autres gens puissent comprendre l'intérêt que cette personne présente.

Les sujets atteints du mal d'amour perdent l'appétit; tout au plus supportent-ils quelques pâtisseries ... Ils présentent, parfois des mouvements bizarres, irréguliers du pied ou du genou, parfois une manie déambulatoire qui les entraîne à des courses répétées, coupées d'arrêts incompréhensibles, parfois enfin une agitation motrice rythmique appelée "danse," pas la danse de Saint-Guy! —

On note des troubles du caractère; une humeur changeante, un goût bizarre pour la solitude, le clair de lune, les petits sentiers. Les malades se livrent à des achats inconsidérés que les marchands regardent avec une sympathie attendrie. Citons aussi l'excitation épistolaire, avec abus de points d'exclamation, de diminutifs, d'épitèthes idiotes, l'emploi soi-disant affectueux de noms d'animaux, etc.

Cet état peut durer quelques jours, des mois, des années paraît-il. La guérison est habituelle, mais certains sujets font des rechutes. Les complications sont fréquentes.

Les auteurs distinguent : une forme infantile, bénigne, mais qui révèle une constitution inflammable que les parents feront bien de surveiller; une forme *sénile*, marquant parfois un début de paralysie générale, à pronostic très sombre — une forme *bénigne*, appelée aussi "bégum," ou "toquade" — une forme chronique d'emblée, très grave, car elle aboutit au mariage.

Vous distinguerez des complications traumatiques; yeux pochés, ecchymoses, plaies et bosses, corps étrangers comme balles de revolver, etc.

Il y a des complications budgétaires; le sujet a ce qu'on nomme "l'air fauché"; la bourse est plate. Il peut s'y joindre des complications familiales qui amènent parfois, dans une crise salutaire, la brusque cessation de la maladie.

Mais la plus redoutable des complications c'est le *mariage*. Il se caractérise par une déchéance du sujet, qui change de caractère, perd sa personnalité, devient craintif. Quelquefois il se produit un empâtement progressif qui peut amener la mort en une quarantaine d'année.

Je ne dis pas cela pour décourager nos jeunes camarades qui, comme Séchaud, paraissent déjà bien atteints. Car ceux qui y échappent deviennent souvent desséchés, racornis, bizarres et meurent encore plus jeunes. —

C'est mon devoir de médecin de vous parler du traitement de cette triste maladie. Il est décevant. On a recommandé les feuilles de salade, trois fois par jour; le sérum de convalescent; les saignées, l'isolement, les douches froides. Mais trop souvent après divers accès plus ou moins bénins le malade tombe dans l'état chronique, où le médecin l'abandonne et dont il finit par s'accommoder et se sentir même assez heureux.

OTHMAR SCHOECK.

Othmar Schoeck, the famous Swiss conductor and composer has celebrated his 50th birthday anniversary. He is at present the strongest creative personality in the Swiss musical world.

Already at the age of sixteen he had composed a number of songs which interested, among others, Max Reger. Having studied at the Zürich Conservatory, Schoeck went for one year to Leipzig but became independent so early that Reger could but slightly influence his developments. At the Swiss Composers' Festival in 1909 he entered for the first time the ranks of successful composers with his orchestra serenade (Opus 1). It was, however, the publication of his collected songs in the following years which opened the concert halls to him. He conducted choirs at Zürich, composed several choral and instrumental works, and has been the permanent conductor of the St. Gallen Symphony concerts since 1918. In

1928 the University of Zürich awarded him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, *honoris causa*.

His most important works are: About two hundred songs chiefly set to the words of Swiss and German poets; his Song-cycles (1923-30); including *Elegy*, a cycle of twenty-four songs with chamber orchestra. Of operas he has composed *Erwin and Elmire*, based on Goethe's little-known playlet; *Venus*, after Merimée's *Don Ramon*; a comic opera with words by Holberg; *Penthesilea* (Kleist), and a scenic cantata, *The Fairy Tale of the Fisherman and his Wife*. He has also composed two String Quartets, two Violin Sonatas, a Violin Concerto, a Sonata for Bass Clarinet and Piano, and a pantomime based on Busoni's "The Picture on the Wall."

An Expressive Style.

The main feature of Schoeck's style is a very personal method of combining old and new ways of expression. His music represents the ultimate summit of "impressionist" music. His compositions are closely bound up with nature, with the fresh breath of lake and forest, of hills and dales. Always and everywhere Schoeck's music remains *song*. The *Elegy*, composed in 1923, and since then frequently performed in Switzerland, may be taken as his principal work. Twenty-four poems, set for voice and chamber orchestra, constitute, as it were, a musical autumn landscape.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The September meeting of the City Swiss Club is undoubtedly one of the most interesting ones of the year.

After a respite of two months, we met again, some to tell how they have been faring in Switzerland and found the hotels cheap but empty, others in England and found the hotels full but expensive, while others have remained at home.

It is surprising how many changes can take place in such a short time. Some have disappeared, and others have made their entry into this world, but still Pagani's continue to provide a good dinner for the members of the City Swiss Club; and once again about 30 members and one guest met to enjoy the evening. After the usual toasts, the President, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, proposed the health of the guest, M. M. D. Rutty, son of the late Swiss Consul at New South Wales.

The Club decided unanimously to give a donation of £21. 0. 0 towards the Fund of our compatriots in Spain, opened by the "Swiss Observer."

The President also announced that the Annual Dinner will take place on November 27th, at the Grosvenor House.

No admission — no resignation.

PARLAMENT UND AUSLANDSCHWEIZER.

Ansprache von Dr. A. Lätt,

Präsident der Auslandschweizer-Kommission der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft

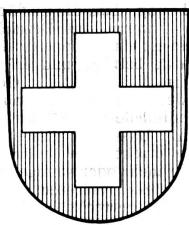
am parlamentarischen Abend für Auslandschweizerfragen in Bern am 24. April 1936.

Sehr geehrte Herren National- und Ständeräte!

Der heutige Abend beweist, wie schwer es ist, unser Parlament für Auslandschweizerfragen zu interessieren. — Ihre Vorgänger in der alten Eidgenossenschaft, die Tagsatzungsabgeordneten und die gnädigen Herren und Obern in den ländlichen Orten nahmen sich ihrer Kinder im Ausland mit viel grösserer Aufmerksamkeit an als unsere heutigen Behörden. Sie hatten zwar weniger diplomatische und konsularische Vertreter draussen, aber die Mehrzahl der Ausgewanderten stand doch infolge der Kapitulationen und Soldverträge in einem sehr engen Verhältnis zur Heimat. In der Tat, der Soldat in französischen, holländischen oder sardinischen Diensten verstand auch draussen schweizerische Gesetze. Sein Regiment war ein Stück Heimat, das mit ihm ging. Die Fahne, auf die er verpflichtet war, trug die Farben der Kantone und das Schweizerkreuz. Kameraden und Offiziere sprachen die heimatlichen Dialekte. Man sang die Lieder von daheim und spielte schweizerische Märsche, veranstaltete schweizerische Spiele und hatte schweizerische Geistliche und Schulmeister. Das Regiment sorgte für seine Invaliden und Veteranen und für die Hinterbliebenen der toten Kameraden. Offiziere und Regimentsinhaber waren ja zumeist Mitglieder der regierenden Kreise daheim, deren Privatinteressen mit denen des Staates vielfach nur zu sehr zusammenfielen. Die kapitulierten Regimenter waren das "Loch," wie der "Schweizerkönig" Pflyffer sagte durch welches unserer nationalen Bevölkerungsüberfluss sich ins Ausland ergoss. Sie waren lebendiges schweizerisches Volksgut in fremden Unternehmungen angelegt, streng verwaltet, gründlich ausgenutzt, hoch im Kurse auf dem Weltmarkt.

Das Kapitel ist so gründlich abgeschlossen wie die Geschichte der Tagsatzung. Unsere Auslandschweizer leben unter andern Verhältnissen, und Zweck unseres heutigen Gedanken-austausches soll es sein, zu ergründen, wie das

UN POUR TOUS



TOUS POUR UN

In the last issue of the *Swiss Observer* we made an appeal to our countrymen living in the British Isles, to help our brethren who are in dire distress, owing to the revolution in Spain.

All over Switzerland committees have been formed to help these unfortunate compatriots of ours in their hour of need.

Furthermore a number of Swiss Colonies all over the world, especially in America and the South American Republics have opened subscription lists; surely a splendid example of Swiss solidarity.

Touching letters have been received by small children who have forwarded their little money box savings in order to help their little sisters and brothers who have lost their homes; — many of them being at present on the high sea, — to return to their homeland, which, most of them, have never yet seen.

The exodus of Swiss from Spain is still progressing, and the number evacuated so far nearly reaches the 2,000 mark. Most of these unfortunate ones are absolutely destitute, they were unable to take even the smallest amount of their personal belongings with them.

There are still a large number, who, for one reason or another, have been unable to leave this unfortunate country, their fate is uncertain and most of them have lost their position and thus their livelihood.

The accounts of many of our countrymen, who are forced to leave are heart-rending, families, who have resided in Spain for twenty and more years are left penniless, as they are unable to realise any of their assets. Apart from this distressing state of affairs the future for them looks equally bleak.

In their distress and sorrow they look to their more fortunate compatriots at home and abroad for assistance.

We are sure they will not ask in vain.

The Swiss Colony in Great Britain has always shown a generous heart, whenever it concerned a deserving cause, and we feel certain that in this hour of sadness, for so many of our brethren, our appeal will find an understanding and sympathetic ear.

Parlament sein Interesse an der Erhaltung des Schweizerstums im Ausland ins Werk setzen kann.

Im 19. Jahrhundert gingen unsere Leute hinaus als Kaufleute, Arbeiter, Bauern, Künstler, Gelehrte, Erzieher, Missionare, Ingenieure, Forscher, Ströme unseres besten Blutes und wertvolle geistige Kräfte haben sich von Neuem über alle Weltteile ergossen und da dort und auch Kolonien gegründet. Diese blieben mit der Heimat verbunden nicht durch die Macht, welche sich auf Kriegsschiffe und Bajonetten gründet, sondern durch das Band der alten Schweizertreue und Heimathilfe, die dauerte bis ins dritte und vierte Geschlecht.

Der Staat hatte wenig zu tun mit den Ausgewanderten. Sie wählten ihr Reiseziel, ohne um Rat und Subventionen zu fragen. Mit einem guten Schulsack, mit einem gesunden Geist und Körper und mit Tugenden der Sparsamkeit, Willensstärke und Anpassungsfähigkeit ausgerüstet, musste es ihnen im Jahrhundert der Individualität und Freiheitigkeit wohl gelingen. Das Heldenbuch dieser friedlichen Auswanderer ist dem Volke weniger bekannt als die Geschichte der alten Söldner. Erst in neuester Zeit scheint sich dank der Wirkung des Auslandschweizer-Sekretariates eine regere Anteilnahme an der Geschichte der schweizerischen Auswanderung bei Schriftstellern, Journalisten und beim lesenden Publikum zu entwickeln. Aber um das Schicksal der Kolonien, um ihre Erhaltung und die Pflege schweizerischen Geistes unter den Ausgewanderten haben sich Einzelne, Behörden und Öffentlichkeit lange viel zu wenig gekümmert. Der Verkehr mit den Konsulaten wurde nicht gerade fördernd beeinflusst durch den Einbezug der Auslandschweizer unter die Militärärster. Hatte man vor dem Kriege noch darüber gelacht, so tragen heute viele sehr schwer an dieser Steuer und Hunderte haben wegen den damit verknüpften Schikanen auf das Schweizerbürgerecht verzichtet.

Conditions which are prevailing at present in Spain, will, as far as human providence can judge, never happen in this country, and it is not likely that we shall ever be obliged to ask our people at home for help in similar circumstances. This should be one reason more, that we should be grateful and that we should help, each of us, even if only in a small way.

This appeal will unfortunately reach only a limited number of our countrymen, but we make a sincere appeal to all those who are reading it, to pass it on to their friends..

We Swiss abroad should feel the disaster which has overtaken our countrymen even deeper than those at home. We too, like so many of these unfortunate ones, have left our native land years ago, to lay the foundation of our fortunes, we can still look forward to prosperity, and if we compare our lot with theirs, surely we should feel inclined to make some sacrifice.

If our contribution, be it large or small, can help to soften some of the distress and despair, and make our brethren feel that in their hour of need they have not been forsaken, then this Appeal has not been made in vain, and we have truly lived up to our splendid national motto:

UN POUR TOUS — TOUS POUR UN!

ST.

(All subscriptions received will be acknowledged, week by week, in the columns of the Swiss Observer, cheques and P.O.'s should be made out to "Swiss Observer, Relief Fund."

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Légation de Suisse en Grande-Bretagne,
Londres.

18, Montagu Place,
Bryanston Square, W.1.
September 2nd, 1936.

Editor, Swiss Observer,

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Mr. Editor,

It is with great satisfaction that I have taken note of the Appeal you published in the last number of your paper in favour of our compatriots in Spain, who, as a result of the troubles there, are faced with complete destitution and the total loss of the fruits of their labours.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that your efforts will have the full support of this Legation, and I hope that our compatriots in England will respond to your Appeal in the same splendid way they have in the past, whenever there has been occasion to help fellow Swiss in need.

There are two special reasons which should, I feel, make every Swiss in this country wish to join in this contribution: the first is the spirit of union with all those Swiss people who, like themselves, have had to leave Switzerland and seek a living abroad, and the second is the feeling of gratitude that their own destiny brought them to a country in which they have lived — and will continue to live — in perfect safety, enjoying the same rights and the same freedom as British subject and thus being a great deal more fortunate than many other "Auslandschweizer."

Wishing you every possible success,

I am, Dear Mr. Editor,

Yours very truly,

Ch. de Jenner,
Swiss Chargé d'Affaires.

Heute aber ist das Bild der "Fünften Schweiz" lange nicht mehr so hell. Der Geist der Vorkriegsgeneration ist ungebrochen, aber der Tod und wirtschaftliche Veränderungen haben schwere Lücken in die Kolonien gerissen.

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