

**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:** - (1936)

**Heft:** 780

**Rubrik:** Forthcoming events

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accompanied by Mrs. Kessler, London correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," Dr. Egli, London correspondent of the "Bund," W. G. Keller, London representative of the "Agence Telegraphique Suisse."

The introduction was accompanied by various witty remarks also addressed to the Ladies, which once more proved that Mr. Stähelin is an after dinner speaker *par excellence*.

Mr. Boehringer, President of the City Swiss Club, and a former President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, responded on behalf of the guests.

In a very witty speech he related some of the experiences which were encountered by the Society some 35 years ago; these seemed to have been somewhat of a unsavoury nature, owing to the fact that it was then a not uncommon occurrence that the holder of the "purse" unceremoniously made an exit, without disclosing the whereabouts of the Funds. Thus, according to the speaker, it was often necessary for the members of the committee to go "round with the hat" in order to enable them to pay the teachers fees, a fact which made it very difficult to find members who were willing to serve on the committee, and for some considerable time the affairs of the Society were carried on by a so-called triumvirate, consisting of former Presidents.

The speaker after having referred to the more gloomy side of the Society's past, extended hearty congratulations to the present administration for having been able to direct the destiny of the S.M.S. to such towering heights, and he also extended sincere thanks to the Swiss Mercantile Society, on behalf of all the guests, for their generous invitation.

The short and witty oration of an old and experienced friend of the Society was acknowledged with great applause.

Another gentle knock of the hammer, and it was announced that the guest of the evening, namely National Councillor Schmid-Rüdin, Central Secretary of the S.K.V., was to address the company. On rising from his seat, Mr. Schmid-Rüdin was warmly greeted, speaking in German he expressed his great satisfaction for having been given an opportunity to attend one of the principal functions of the Society.

He informed the gathering that the Headquarters of the S.K.V. in Switzerland were very proud of their London Section, which has, owing to their great efforts and hard work, added to the good name, which our countrymen enjoy wherever they go.

Mr. Schmid-Rüdin then, amongst great enthusiasm, gave a short history of the Swiss Defence Loan Committee, of which he is a member, relating with what splendid success their endeavours had been rewarded thanks to the generous response in Switzerland and from the Swiss living abroad.

In terminating his short and able speech, National Councillor Schmid-Rüdin referred to Schiller's prophetic words: "Schweizer bin ich, und will es bleiben aus ganzem Herzen," hoping that this will be the motto of all the Swiss, living far away from their native land.

Prolonged applause greeted this patriotic address, which was listened to with great interest.

That the members of the S.M.S. Society are very generous was proved on this festive occasion by the remembrance of their more unfortunate brethren who are in straitened circumstances. The Appeal for Charity, was entrusted into the capable hands of Mr. Meier, Vice-President of the Society, who asked without using many words for help, and help he received. The collection amounted to £37 10s. 6d., which greatly honours the S.M.S.

This appeal concluded the official part of the evening, and the company adjourned whilst the Banqueting Hall was made ready for dancing. I need hardly say that the second part of the programme was equally enjoyable, thanks to the special endeavours of the Manager of the Trocadero Restaurant, M. Delaloye, in providing a few cabaret turns, which were greatly appreciated.

M. Ch. Chapuis, a very old and trusted friend of the Society was in charge of the various items during the second part, and he accomplished his task in a very efficient way.

It was altogether a splendid evening, which will leave behind nothing but pleasant memories.

ST.

#### SWISS DEFENCE LOAN.

An article dealing with the splendid Result of the Swiss Defence Loan will appear in our next issue.

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, November 3rd — City Swiss Club —  
Monthly Meeting at Pagani's, Great Portland  
Street. (see advert.).

Wednesday, November 4th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société  
de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at  
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, November 27th — City Swiss Club —  
Annual Banquet and Ball — at the Grosvenor  
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11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

6h.30 — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7h.30 — Répétition du Chœur.

Jeudi 29 Octobre 8h. — au Foyer — Réunion  
d'Adieux de trois missionnaires de la Mission  
Suisse en Afrique. Invitation à chacun.

#### BAPTEME.

Yvonne Valérie Eisenegger — née le 14 Juillet  
1936, fille de Norman et de Silvia née Gerber  
— de Letchworth et Schangnan (Berne) — le  
18.10.36.

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 25. Oktober 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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