

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: - (1937)
Heft: 841

Rubrik: Eglise suisse = Schweizerkirche

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: 16.02.2026

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

to bring in one or two "and last but not leasts." Speeches at Cantonal or Federal "Schützefest" invariably include something about "la Patrie qui a besoin de vous au moment du danger." Speeches to Swiss Colonies abroad distinguish themselves with warm messages to the "Patrie lointaine." And my speeches to the Swiss students invariably contain a reminder of the importance of speaking and reading foreign languages perfectly, of the importance of knowing the various peoples with whom we exchange goods and capitals, and so on. I even believe that I invariably make it a point to remind the students of the Swiss College of how lucky they are to be able to enjoy what is, to my mind, the best tuition and the best training at the smallest expense. I cannot help repeating this to you this evening and I feel sure you will bear with me if I discharge this very agreeable task of telling your excellent teachers, the devoted members of the Education Committee, and naturally also the Trustees of the School, what wonderful work they are doing for our country.

Here I would like to add one special word of appreciation for the Principal of the College, Mr. Levy, who is celebrating his coming of age as a Master of the School. Someone else will tell you more about it this evening, and I do not want to poach upon his territory. I am merely anxious to offer Mr. Levy my personal heartfelt congratulations and good wishes.

People belonging to my generation are perhaps better placed than the older or the younger generations to gauge the extent of the difficulties with which younger people, who are embarking on business life to-day, are faced. Your lot, my dear students, is not as easy as was, for example, the lot of that lucky generation who came of age towards the end of the last century. When I tell them that, they will not believe it, but it is true nevertheless. Heads of firms expect a great deal from you and the jobs offered are rare. They expect a lot not because these business men or industrialists have forgotten that they may perhaps have had an easier time, not because they have become pedantic, but because everything nowadays is more difficult, more complicated than it used to be. I have specialised in questions of international trade for fifteen years, and I ought to know something about it. You may be tempted to ask me how it is then that the specialists have not been successful in making things better. But this is another question and its discussion would lead us too far, quite apart from the fact that this is hardly the time to discuss such a problem. We must dwell on happier thoughts this evening, and as I cannot cut short my remarks about international trade let me tell you this: things are better than they were, and you will be the first to benefit by this state of affairs.

This is right, this is as it should be.

If I were a good Father Christmas I would give you all a nice present. To the ladies I would give a choice between the husband of their dreams or a good post as a private secretary. To the men — as the ladies have chosen they are naturally roped into that choice — there is only one thing I could give, and that is a good post.

I cannot do this, but if sincere wishes can be of any help to anybody, you may rest assured that you ought all in a very short time to be the happy possessors of either a good husband, with a good job, or of just a very good job!

And now, just a few words with which I ought to have started my speech. Don't think, however, that this is an afterthought. I meant to say this all along. You will have noticed on your programme, on the page opposite the Bill of Fare, that a Counsellor of Legation has been served to you. This, as you know, is only an "Ersatz" for the real thing. The Minister unfortunately could not attend your Fête, and I need hardly say how sorry he was. Owing to a great number of social functions at this moment, he has to share his pleasures with the members of his Staff, and guessing how very much I enjoy spending an evening with the students and members of the S.M.S., he sent me in his stead. He asked me to convey to you his greetings and his very good wishes.

Now I want to thank you for your fine hospitality. I wish you all once more Good Luck and I also wish that you may enjoy yourselves as much as I am going to enjoy myself."

Long applause greeted the words of this old and trusted friend of the Society.

The next speaker was Mr. C. L. Schenker, a Student of the College, who with an almost perfect accent, expressed, on behalf of his fellow students the thanks to the Swiss Mercantile Society for the opportunity they enjoy of gaining a wider experience both in the English language as well as in other subjects.

The efficient delivery of the speech of this young orator was befittingly acknowledged.

Mr. A. Steinmann, Chairman of the Council of the S.M.S., replied as followed:—

"It gives me great pleasure to reply to Mr. Schenker's excellent toast of the S.M.S. with which he has so graciously coupled my name.

Whilst I appreciate the privilege of being called upon to fulfil this duty for the fourth time, it has one personal disadvantage in so far as I can hardly be expected to say anything original. I know that the younger members and, I think I am right in saying the older ones too, will be anxious to proceed with the second half of the evening so that I do not intend to keep you more than a few moments.

I should like to express the very sincere appreciation of the Council for the energy and devotion which has been shown by Mr. Meier in his capacity as Chairman of the Education Committee. From the remarks of Mr. Schenker I realise that you appreciate the services rendered by the S.M.S. I do not suppose it does Swiss democracy any harm that you should even go to the extent of carrying away with you the portraits of the King and Queen. It is very satisfactory to know and to have it confirmed by Mr. Schenker that the various S.M.S. Old Students' Clubs in Switzerland offer a useful opportunity for our students to practice their English and keep up that close association with this country which it has been possible for them to establish through our Society. The work done by Mr. Burraston in his visits to Switzerland has certainly borne fruit.

My task would not be complete without a word of cordial thanks to the faithful subscribers to our Educational Funds and renewed expression of appreciation of the financial assistance which the Swiss Government continues to give us.

In conclusion I would wish you all a very happy Xmas and hope that in the New Year you will be able to realise your best expectations and that the S.M.S. will have contributed very materially to this possibility."

The Presidents words were greeted with applause.

Mr. J. J. Boos, Vice-President of the S.M.S., then gave the toast to *The College and the Teaching Staff*, he too, like the previous speakers received a hearty reception. Mr. Boos paid a high tribute to Mr. DE Brunner and Mr. J. Pfendler, two of the founders of the College. He gave a short resumé of the history of the College, mentioning that from occupying a few rooms in Henrietta Street in 1922, Swiss House was acquired in 1926. "From that time onwards the College has gone from success to success," he continued, coupling with the progress of the College the names of Messrs. Paschoud, Stahelin and Steinmann, Presidents of the Society and Messrs. Bretscher, Deutsch, Hardmeier and Meier, Chairmen of the Education Committee.

"Up to date over 8,000 students have passed through the Day Classes of the College, and many thousands through the Evening Classes," he said.

The speaker expressed his admiration for the untiring services M. Meier, President of the Education Dept. is rendering, and also expressed the thanks to the Federal Authorities for their constant financial support.

No less a tribute was paid to Mr. A. Levy, the Principal of the College, and Mr. J. J. Schneider, the Secretary of the S.M.S. After shortly referring to social and sporting events, he mentioned the teaching staff, saying "Mr. Levy has been associated with the S.M.S. since January 1918, just 20 years ago, first as an evening class teacher and since 1929 as the Principal of the College, a record of which he can well be proud of. On his side he has an excellent array of teachers, each an expert in one subject or another, who could equal in Commerce our Vice-Principal, Mr. Burraston? the wit of a Mr. Schaap? the verbosity of a Mrs. Paull? the punctuality of a Mr. Thompson? the shyness of a Miss Benzie? the happy smile of a Mr. Bottoms?"

The applause which greeted the words of the jovial speaker was a very hearty one.

Mr. A. Stauffer, a former President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, referred in his short speech to the fact that Mr. Levy, the Principal, was engaged as a teacher under his Presidency, wishing him "many happy returns of the day."

The last speaker on the Toast List was Mr. A. Levy, the Principal of the College. If applause is a sign of popularity, surely Mr. Levy must be the most popular man in the S.M.S., nearly five minutes of voracious cheering passed before the speaker could start his oration.

Mr. Levy, who seemed deeply touched by the hearty reception which he received, thanked Messrs. Boos and Stauffer for their kind words on his behalf.

He continued by saying: "I am very deeply touched by that beautiful message, His Excellency, the Swiss Minister, has sent me this evening. No words of mine can adequately express my thanks for those kind wishes."

Mr. Levy then thanked Mr. Rezzonico for the great interest he has always shown in the College, and his much appreciated help so willingly given. The speaker also shortly referred to the social

activities that go on at Swiss House, as well as the sports events, saying "We all very strongly believe in that old Latin saying: *Mens sana in corpore sano*, and we try in every possible way to encourage our students in their study and also in their play, i.e., in their pleasure."

Mr. Levy then made a passionate appeal to the students, in saying: "some years ago I used a very strange expression which perhaps I may be permitted to repeat this evening. Every one of you students is in the Swiss Diplomatic Service. By that it is meant that wherever you go, Switzerland, your native country, will be judged by what you do and what you say. So, therefore, no matter where you go you are expected to pay a due obedience to the laws of the State which may for a time become the place of your residence or afford you its protection and that not for yourselves but for the benefit of your beloved Switzerland."

On the conclusion of this sincere address, the gathering witnessed another great ovation.

This was the last speech, and the company was asked to adjourn to one of the adjoining hall, where a most enjoyable "Schmitzbank" was recited by one of the students.

Then suddenly the orchestra started a lively dance tune, and all and sundry started to swing around.

A *Polonaise*, headed by Mr. and Mrs. Meier and under the direction of Mr. J. J. Schneider, was a most enjoyable affair, all the more as the couples had to pass underneath a large bunch of mistletoe, with the obvious result of receiving or giving a kiss. Now some were very shy, some just a little so, and others seemed to enjoy it, judging from their unwillingness to move on and give the other fellow a chance.

It was a fine evening and I feel sure, the memory of it will remain with all those present for a very long time.

87.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, December 31st, at 8 p.m. — "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) — New Year's Eve Dinner and Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (Extension till 2 a.m.)

Tuesday, January 4th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — (preceded by dinner at 7.15 sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).

(Langue française).

79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.
(Near New Oxford Street).

Samedi 25 décembre, Jour de Noël, à 11hrs:
Culte et Ste. Cène: Mr. Emery.

Dimanche 26 déc.: Culte à 11hrs: Mr. Emery.
(Le culte du soir est supprimé.)

Lundi 27 déc. à 5 hrs.: Arbre et Fête de Noël
avec participation des enfants de l'Ecole du
Dimanche.

Thé entre 4h. et 5h.

Vendredi 31 déc. à 8h.30. — Service liturgique de
Fin d'Année, suivi de Ste. Cène.

(L'arbre sera rallumé.)

Dimanche 2 janvier, culte du Nouvel An:
à 11h. et à 6h.30: Mr. Emery.

(L'Ecole du Dimanche est supprimée.)

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Samstag, den 25. Dezember 1937, Christtag.

11 Uhr Morgens — Gottesdienst und Feier
des Heiligen Abendmahls.

Kein Abendgottesdienst.

Sonntag, den 26. Dezember 1937.

Weihnachtsbaum in der Kirche 4 Uhr Nach-
mittags.

Der Morgengottesdienst fällt aus.

Freitag, den 31. Dezember 1937, Sylvester.

7 Uhr Abends — Gottesdienst und Feier des
Heiligen Abendmahls.

Der Weihnachtsbaum wird wieder angezündet
werden.