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"THE OLD FRIENDS" EVENING.

At the
Union Helvetia Club,
on Thursday, November 24th, 1938.

In these times of strife and misunderstandings amongst nations and races, it is good to know, that there are still people about who are anxious and eager to cultivate friendship.

Although my engagement list has been a heavy one of late, I made it a point to attend the above mentioned gathering, because I knew I would find in these hospitable quarters many old friends.

A further inducement not to miss this friendly gathering, was the fact, that my old and good friend Alfred Schmid was in the Chair, his smiling face and good humour is an asset to any company.

I understand that the "Old friends" of this well-known Club, have foregathered for the last nineteen years at this Club, in order to spend a few happy hours in congenial company.

The prettily decorated dining hall was practically full, which goes to prove that this annual gathering has lost none of its attraction.

A simple, but very well served dinner proceeded the official part of the evening, and Mr. A. Boog, the efficient steward of the Union Helvetia, well deserved the praise which was, later on, bestowed on him, for the capable way in which he had looked after the "material" welfare of everyone present.

There is no need to make long speeches amongst friends, and I am glad to say, that the various speakers were "short and sweet."

Mr. Alfred Schmid, who was in the Chair, proposed shortly before the conclusion of the dinner, the toast to H. M. the King and to Switzerland.

The toast to the "Old friends" was entrusted to Mr. A. Wyss, one of the founders of this yearly re-union, the speaker gave a short résumé of the history of these gatherings, emphasizing that it was now more than ever necessary to stick together.

Mr. A. Indermaur, President of the "Landesverwaltung" paid a high tribute to the Chairman, who, apart from being an honorary member, had, for the last twenty-eight years rendered great and valuable services to the Society. "He has," said the speaker, "been true to the Swiss flag and to the banner of the Union Helvetia, and we are proud of calling him one of us."

Mr. Indermaur then informed the gathering that the following official guests were present:

Pastor C. Th. Hahn, M. G. E. DE Brunner, Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer, Mlle. D. Du Bois, London correspondent of the Geneva paper "La Suisse," Mr. Kummer, President of the Soc. Culinaire Suisse, Mr. L. Rey, President of the London Section of the Union Helvetia, Mr. D. Brun, President of the Swiss Club Birmingham, Mr. and Mme. Delaloye, a former Chairman of the Union Helvetia Club. He paid a special tribute to the Rev. Hahn, saying that his departure was greatly regretted by the members. He also enlighened the Ladies.

Mr. A. Schmid then addressed the gathering, thanking Mr. Wyss for having for so many years taken a leading part in organising with great success these dinners, "we pity the person," he said, "who has no friends."

Pastor C. Th. Hahn shortly thanked Mr. Indermaur for the kind words he had spoken saying that in helping, wherever it was necessary, he had only done his duty.

Mrs. M. Kummer, shortly and in a very humorous way, replied on behalf of the Ladies and guests.

The Banqueting hall was then cleared and dancing started shortly before mid-night. During a dancing interval, a "Ticinese" who hides his identity under the professional name of Howard De Courcy, intrigued the company with some efficient conjuring.

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This very jolly and enjoyable evening came to a close at 2 a.m., and everybody left Gerrard Street, very happy and content to have once again spent some golden hours in the company of old and trusted friends.

ST.

AN APPEAL.

The Swiss Benevolent Society, the Eglise Suisse and the Schweizerkirche in London appeal once again to their compatriots for their kind contributions in cash or kind, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Xmas to our Swiss in need. Wearing apparel, underclothing and footwear are much appreciated and such gifts will be gratefully received.

Parcels should be addressed not later than December 12th, to:

34, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
or to 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.
and cash remittances to:
Swiss Benevolent Society,
34, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
Rev. M. Pradervand,
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or Mr. F. G. Sommer,
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, December 14th, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by a social evening, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Tuesday, December 6th — (Dinner 7.15 sharp) — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at Paganis, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Monday, December 12th, at 7 p.m. — L'Escalade Dinner at Paganis' Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1. (For tickets apply to committee members or the *Swiss Observer*.) (See notice.)

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11h. — Ecole du dimanche.

6h.30 — Culte M. M. Pradervand.

7h.30 — Répétition du Chœur mixte.

Lundi 5 décembre, à 3h. Réunion de couture au Foyer Suisse.

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Sonntag, den 4. Dezember 1938.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst Pfr. E. Bommeli.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst Pfr. E. Bommeli.

Dienstag, den 6. Dezember 1938.

2 Uhr 30 nachmittags Nähverein im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bzw. Confirmanden Unterricht und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer Ernst Bommeli, 12, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Sprechstunden des Gemeindepfarrer's:

Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.

Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

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