

# Correspondence

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willing to listen to their poisonous and revolutionary doctrines.

On the whole, however, the meetings are well conducted, goodnatured and orderly; spiced with mother wit and good humour, frequent interruptions and clever repartee.

And so here we are, in the midst of a Nation's struggle for life and death, but Hyde Park oratory goes on in the same old way.

As I left Marble Arch, I tried to think of some words a great poet and critic wrote 70 years ago. They had slipped my memory for a moment and I was still cudgelling my brain when passing Piccadilly and Trafalgar Square. Suddenly opposite the Houses of Parliament, the words flashed back into my mind and as Big Ben was striking the hour I quietly recited the words of Matthew Arnold:—

“The Nation is sound enough if only it can be  
“taught that being able to do what one likes and  
“say what one likes is not sufficient for salvation.  
“Its dangers are from surfeit of clap-trap.”

F. I.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*The following is one of several encouraging letters we have received from our readers.*

The Editor of the Swiss Observer,  
London, E.C.2.

July 1st, 1940.

Dear Sir,

I have not received my copy of “The Swiss Observer” for last week, it usually arrives first thing Saturday morning and I look forward to getting it. I sincerely hope this does not mean you have given up publishing it, because I am sure that all good Swiss do look forward to its receipt. I do appreciate the difficulties under which you are “working” at present as to my knowledge none of us have received any letters from Switzerland for some three weeks, although cables are still coming through.

I very sincerely hope that the absence of this copy does not mean that you have had to throw up “the sponge.” That must not be allowed to happen because “The Swiss Observer” is the only means we, the Swiss Colony in England, have to keep in touch with one another. If even during the next few weeks you should find it necessary to publish reports of activities of Swiss Clubs, with one or two tit-bits from the homeland, I am sure that most of us will appreciate your difficulties and that every good Swiss will nevertheless look forward to the arrival of your paper. If you decide to give up you will but add to the tragic situation in which most of us find ourselves to-day and I for one hope most earnestly that you will not do so.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES FER.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

If ever there was a moment when one felt exceedingly proud of being Swiss it was on Tuesday night at the monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club. Members had been asked to attend and support their committee, and particularly their President, Mr. Louis Chapuis, who in his capacity as Chairman of the Swiss Relief Centre was to address the meeting and explain the object of the Centre.

No surprise, no attraction, no conference, was necessary to attract the large attendance of 58 members who came there with the unanimous purpose of helping those who might be in need during the tragic crisis we are going through.

Pagani's themselves went out of their way and produced what may be termed a gorgeous peace time dinner.

After the toasts to H.M. The King and Switzerland has been honoured, and the usual business of the Club, including the addition of a new member, had been dealt with, the President in a moving speech explained the amount of work which had already been done by the Swiss Relief Centre committee, and left no doubt in anybody's mind as to the large amount of work which was still in front of us. The whole assembly was magnetised with the single desire to help here and now. Mr. Louis Chapuis had hardly had time to sit down and be loudly acclaimed for a most magnificent explanation of the purpose of the Relief Centre, than our popular Treasurer sprang to his feet and proposed that the City Swiss Club should vote a donation of £100 to the Swiss Benevolent Society in favour of the Swiss Relief Centre. This gesture on the part of a Treasurer who has the reputation of studying the expenses of the club to keenly shows the great patriotism with which he must have been animated when he made this recommendation to the club. That proposal, seconded with emotion by Léon Jobin, was unanimously carried.

Other members of the Swiss Relief Centre committee then appealed for further assistance from members, and the House Committee which was worthily represented by Mr. Sigerist, Mr. Carlo Chapuis and Mr. Boos, who have done such excellent work at Swiss House, explained how far the organisation had pro-

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