

The Helvetia Club old friends dinner and dance

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England ever since she played a prominent part in European politics.

Reluctance to recognise the freedom of smaller nations may nevertheless affect the most enlightened and far-sighted critics. When American or British Federalists, for instance, speak of the desirability of enlarging the political unit they are convinced that they are not prompted in doing so by national ambition. They are shocked at the objections raised by the representatives of the smaller democracies and inclined to attribute them to reactionary obstructionism. Some of them go farther and consider such unwilling partners as negligible quantities, derelicts of the past. The fact is that there exists throughout the world a big power mentality and a small power mentality, which exerts its influence beside the democratic mentality or the autocratic mentality. Whether national sovereignty leads to the same abuses in a strong State as in a weak State is a question worthy of some consideration. The solution of our future difficulties does not lie in suppressing it, but in limiting its range of action.

There are two tendencies, among belligerent countries, with regard to these peace proposals. The first is to ignore them altogether and to "get on with the war." We know, from bitter experience, the results to be expected if this opinion prevails. The other is to prepare peace while waging war, and to try to avoid the repetition of certain faults which contributed to the failure of Versailles. Most of those engaged on this work recognise that non-belligerent co-operation will be indispensable, either in the framing of the settlement or in the economic reconstruction which must inevitably follow. How can such co-operation be effective if most Neutrals become involved in the conflict as they were in 1914-18, or if neutrality, the last bulwark of international law, is to be undermined in the countries which have dedicated themselves to its defence?

EMILE CAMMAERTS.

In Contemporary Review (March).

THE HELVETIA CLUB OLD FRIENDS DINNER AND DANCE.

This pleasant function took place on Thursday, March 28th, at the Club's premises, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Some eighty members and friends had gathered together for the occasion and the hall looked very festive; the floral decorations of the tables proving particularly attractive, proclaiming that spring really is here, at last, after the long and arduous winter which now happily lies behind us.

While the Old Friends were sipping their cocktails, the welcome announcement resounded that dinner was served. It proved very excellent and the various courses, which were being done full justice to, came round with commendable dispatch.

The Club's genial friend and well-wisher, Mr. Alfred Schmid, was in the Chair, supported on his

left by Mr. A. Indermaur, President of the Helvetia Club. The organisers had thought of everything and even table music was not lacking, whose lively strains added to the enjoyment of the meal.

After the loyal Toasts had been proposed and honoured with real enthusiasm, the Chairman rose to bid the assembly a hearty welcome. Mr. Schmid expressed his pleasure at having been asked once again to take the Chair at this function, an annual event going back a considerable number of years, during which it had steadily gained in popularity. He spoke of the three stalwarts, who conceived the idea of the Old Friends and referred to Mr. A. Wyss as the only one present. He also spoke, in the most appreciative terms, of the President, Mr. A. Indermaur, saying that he lived for his office and the Club and that nothing was too much for him in furthering its interests and its well-being. The spontaneous applause, which greeted these remarks, testified to the high esteem in which the President is held. The Chairman concluded by referring to the regretted absence of Mrs. Indermaur and wished to convey to her the best and heartiest wishes of all those present for a speedy recovery from her recent serious illness.

Mr. A. Indermaur then rose to reply and warmly thanked Mr. Schmid for kindly having consented to take the Chair and, in particular, for the generous sentiments expressed towards Mrs. Indermaur and himself. The President voiced his pleasure at the good number present, wishing them one and all a happy evening. Finally he assured the members that he was, as he had ever been, at the entire service of the Helvetia Club, a declaration which was punctuated by prolonged applause.

The next speaker was Mr. A. Wyss, who proposed, in his usual humorous vein, the toast to the Ladies and the Guests, to whom he extended a special welcome. He expressed his pleasure at the fair sex having braved the black-out, but regretted that, owing to war conditions, this Dinner and Dance had to be planned on a less elaborate scale than in former years. He said he knew that he could count on every one's appreciation of the circumstances which, however, should not be a bar to spending a thoroughly enjoyable evening, offering complete relaxation from the stress of everyday-life. Mr. Wyss's lively discourse was also warmly cheered.

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Last — but by no means least — Mrs. T. Kummer, on behalf of the Ladies and the Guests, rose to reply and in a rollicking speech referred to the worries and troubles of housewives in war time and, following Mr. Wyss's example, exhorted all present to forget their daily trials and enjoy themselves. The assembly greatly enjoyed and applauded this tour de force.

Then followed the presentation of the Veteran's Certificates and Badges to three members on having completed twenty-five years membership.

The recipients were Messrs. Wehrli, Kummer, and Rognon, each of whom expressed thanks in a few well chosen words, whilst Mr. Kummer had the privilege of handing to the Chairman a cheque for charity from his principal, Mr. A. Widmer of the Myllet Arms Hotel, in lieu of non-attendance.

This ceremony brought to an end the official part and the hall was then cleared for dancing.

Unfortunately, the advanced hour did not allow your reporter to tarry and savour the pleasures of the dance that followed, but he understands that the second part of the evening was as thoroughly enjoyable and jolly as the first and that this successful event of the Old Friends will long be pleasantly remembered by all who, thanks chiefly to the organising Committee, spent such a happy and carefree time at Gerrard Place.

GALLUS.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club takes place on Tuesday, April 9th, at Pagani's at 6.30.

The Committee's earnest wish is that every member who has the affairs of the Club at heart, should make a special effort to attend, and have an opportunity of voicing his own opinion on how the Club should be run.

May I ask each member kindly to intimate in good time whether he will be present or not. Pagani's are anxious to ensure the satisfaction of every member, but you will appreciate that in these days of rationing, it is essential to have fair notice.

Now please all make a point of being there to make certain of the continued welfare and prosperity of the Club.

Bee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

H. M. Ochsner; H. Walti; Theo Becker; Red Cross; S.M.S.; J. J. Schneider; A. Candrian; R. Hangartner; E. Belart; R. E. Denzler; Miss Olga Muller; Chas. Ferrière; H. Senn; Dr. A. Schedler; Swiss Club Manchester; Fred Kreis; A. P. Walliman; A. Steinmann; W. Graf; Miss J. A. Rothe; E. Steiner; J. Brunner; A. Tosio; R. M. Stoll; Swiss Consul Manchester; Swiss Club Bradford; Dr. A. E. Ottiker; M. Hagenbuch; C. A. Caspar; Miss R. Imhof; Elmer Baumann; J. Graf; M. Hurliman; Miss G. Zingg; M. Gerber; J. D. Bernoulli; F. Heinrich; A. Isler; Ch. Valon; W. Allenspack; H. Oswald; Miss W. Tomlin; H. Meier.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, April 9th, at 6.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Annual General Meeting preceded by a Dinner — at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, April 10th, at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, April 19th, 1940 — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at 7.30 sharp to be followed at about 8 o'clock by a talk on "The current situation" by G. J. Keller, Esq., at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

Friday, April 19th, at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Club "Schweizerbund" — Annual Dinner and Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, May 25th, from 2 p.m. — Swiss Church Bazaar — at the "Foyer Suisse," 15, Bedford Way, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Divine Services.

Dimanche 7 avril 1940: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

6h. Culte au Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Mardi 9 avril, à 2h.30. Réunion mensuelle de couture au Foyer Suisse.

BAPTEMES.

Dimanche 31 mars, Denis-Richard HARRIS, Trevor HARRIS et William-Raymond HARRIS, fils de Trevor et de Marguerite née Bishof.

MARIAGE.

Le 30 mars, Maurice-Hanun ROBINSON et Claire OBERLI.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 7. April 1940: in der Schweizerkirche, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst.

6 Uhr. Gottesdienst in Französisch im Foyer Suisse.

Für Amtshandlungen u. alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 23, Womersley Road, N.8. (MOU. 4649).

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