

To the Swiss Benevolent Society, London

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Shaftesbury Avenue, was overtaken by a hansom. In the fare he recognised a caller of that morning. The cab turned down Gerrard's Place, he followed, and found the beggar spending the remainder of his 2/- in liquid refreshment. After this the Sunday distribution ceased."

"... 'I often came to our Meetings upset by business trouble or domestic sorrows, but after the evening's work, in comparison with the suffering of some of our poor, my difficulties seemed less. I felt rich and was full of gratitude for all the good things life had given me. I recalled the old Chinese proverb of the man who grumbled because he had no shoes until he met a man who had no feet'..."

"... 'In terminating, may I sum up with a quotation by Barrie, which concerns all of us — 'Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves'..."

A hearty, deeply felt and spontaneous ovation once more must have assured our friend that so much devotion to the poor and friendless amongst our own can never have been in vain and must carry its own reward in all the kindly deeds done.

Our Minister M. Ruegger, then rose to say in so many fitting words, as we are already wont to hear from him, in English and French, how much he had learned and could appreciate the great and generous work the Society had done in its long history, and how much of this was personified in the person of Mr. Ritter, whom we had all gathered to honour. His words were also to the future, however unknown as yet, and that charity and succour to our own in distress and to suffering humanity at large was our heritage from olden times and was to guarantee our Country the respect of the great ones of this World and an honoured place amongst the comity of Nations.

Mr. Dupraz in a lighter vein then thanked the Ladies for their presence, and their very much appreciated part in the works of the Society, when Col. Bon once again rose to say, in Schwyzerdütsch what we all felt to be our duty in the years to come, only to be followed again by Mr. Ritter as well to say once more

thank you to those who had so kindly spoken of him and wishing all a real Vergelt's Gott. Mr. Willy Deutsch then read two poems written by him for the occasion, one to the Society and the other to its Secretary. (See page of this issue). Mr. F. G. Sommer, to conclude, readily responded to a call from the Chair to tell a story or two of the lighter side of life, and Mr. von Bergen accompanied by Mr. Raymond Chappuis at the piano finally delighted those present with a few yodlers from his well-known repertoire.

The President then concluded the evening and the company dispersed. It was an evening that must have delighted and conveyed to all how happy a place this World could be if all were bent to make others happy and content, and that we are all brothers in a world meant to be brothers: "One for all and all for one" as our Swiss motto says.

W.B.B.

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TO THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, LONDON.

(On the 75th Anniversary of its Foundation.)

BENEVOLENCE — melodious, noble name,
Enshrining virtues of the loftiest kind:
Love, pity and a charitable mind,
A heart, nurt'ring compassion's holy flame.

Can there, in truth, be any higher aim,
Than help poor brethren, so that they may find
Not to have been forgotten, left behind;
For all God's creatures have their rightful claim.

't is said that charity begins at home;
To this the London Swiss have pledged their bond,
Watchful that, in misfortune, none shall roam.

They've striven seven decades and five years,
Succ'ring all pressing needs and far beyond
And, by their work, eas'd pain and banish'd tears.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY, THEO. RITTER, Esq.

(On having completed 40 years of devoted service.)

He, who like your goodself does never cease,
Through half a lifetime — maybe in excess —
To help his countrymen when in distress,
Finds his content in toil, bereft of ease.

Where there is want, depression and disease,
When folks have griefs or troubles to confess,
They turn to you — for pity and redress;
None asks in vain amongst the least of these.

The debt which, as a Colony, we owe
To you, can never fully be repaid,
Whilst thanks express but feebly the intent.

May you go on your blessings to bestow;
The lustre of your task will never fade —
Its due reward shall be your monument.

LONDON, February 24th, 1945.

"GALLUS."

ALBERT FERBER (SWISS)



PIANO RECITAL
at WIGMORE HALL
TUESDAY, MAY 1st
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Works by
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From Box Office, Wigmore Hall,
or from Musical Culture Ltd.,
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★ Mr. Ferber, a Native of Lucerne, well-known in musical circles of this country, has played in most European Capitals. He finished his studies with Gieseking and Rachmaninoff and will also be broadcasting on the B.B.C. Home Service in the Star Programme, Wednesday, April 4th, 1945, at 7.15 p.m.