

Professor William Rappard at the City Swiss Club

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PROFESSOR WILLIAM RAPPARD at the CITY SWISS CLUB.

Amongst the many eminent speakers who have addressed the City Swiss Club in the past, Professor Rappard is perhaps the one who comes nearest to what one might call, the perfect after dinner speaker.

His astounding command of languages, and a perfect and easy delivery makes it a pleasure to listen to him. It was therefore not to be wondered at, that the members of the City Swiss Club turned up in large numbers, at the Dorchester Hotel, on Monday, July 30th to hear Professor Rappard speak on "Switzerland to-day".

Mr. Bon, President of the City Swiss Club, in opening the Meeting, extended to the guest of honour the greetings of the members, expressing to him the gratitude of the Assembly for having consented to address for the second time, within three years a Swiss gathering in London.

The President also welcomed the following guests: Monsieus Paul Ruegger, the Swiss Minister, Dr. Weizmann, President of the Zionist Congress, Dr. Zehnder, Sir Alfred Zimmern and Commander Agar.

Professor Rappard received a spontaneous ovation on rising to give his address, he paid a warm tribute to the Swiss Minister, congratulating the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, on having such an experienced Diplomatist as its head. He also voiced his pleasure at meeting Dr. Weizmann, whose acquaintance he had made years ago at Geneva, and whom he had had the pleasure to meet in Palestine some time ago as the head of the Zionist movement.

With undisguised emotion, he spoke of the great services rendered to humanity in general, and to Switzerland in particular of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, whom he termed the saviour of Swiss independence.

It is to be regretted that Professor Rappard's elevating address has not been made available for publication in this paper, but all those who had the privilege to hear our eminent countryman will remember this evening as one of the outstanding events in the history of the City Swiss Club. The speaker, on resuming his seat, was greeted with long and sincere applause.

Monsieur Ruegger, the Swiss Minister, thanked Professor Rappard for his splendid *exposé* enumerating his manifold services rendered to our country during many years, as a member of the Economic Missions to London and Washington, as representative of the Federal Council at the Versailles Peace Conference and the Zionist Congress at Palestine, as a member of Parliament, author, diplomatist and *homme de lettre*.

Dr. Weizmann thanked the President and members of the City Swiss Club for having given him an opportunity to make the acquaintance of the Club, whose name he said is well-known outside the borders of this country. "I take this opportunity" he said, "to thank through you the Swiss people for all they have done for my brethren in their period of persecution and sufferings."

The President, in closing the Meeting, proposed that a telegram of thanks, on behalf of the entire Swiss Colony in Great Britain should be sent to the Federal Council, on the occasion of the National Day, for the

great services they had rendered during the war period. This proposal was accepted unanimously and with acclamation.

Close of the Meeting 9 o'clock.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).

The 117th Half-Yearly Meeting was held at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, on Saturday 11th August, 1945. The President, Mr. H. Muller opened the meeting at 4 p.m. and expressed great pleasure at being able to welcome such a large gathering. The Balance Sheet for the Half Year ending 30th June, 1945, which showed an excellent result, was discussed and duly passed with a recommendation that an amount of £100 should be invested in Government Loan and placed into the care of the Trustees. During the past 6 months 2 Committeemen, Messrs. W. Eichenberger and H. Kaegi tendered their resignation for private reasons, and Messrs. M. Bachofer and B. Balmer were duly elected to fill the vacancies. The Meeting again recommended that nothing should be left undone to attract new Swiss Members and Societies, and to improve the amenities of the Club. Steps to this effect are being vigorously pursued by the Committee.

To wind up the proceedings a letter from the Swiss Legation was read, announcing the passing away of our late Swiss Minister, Mr. W. Thurnheer. The members present expressed their sincere regret and wish their heartfelt sympathy to be conveyed to the bereaved family.

The Chairman then closed the Meeting at 6.30 p.m.
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