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SWISS MALE CHOIR. Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Male Choir took place on Friday, December 10th, 1948, at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, and was preceded by an excellent dinner, consisting of a very appetising "Bernerplatte." The compliment paid, later on, by the President to the stewards of the Club, Mr. and Mrs. A. Diethelm, was well deserved.

Whilst some of the Annual General Meetings of Swiss Societies are rather tedious affairs, the Swiss Male Choir, know how to make it attractive and less tiresome, by interrupting the proceedings at intervals to render a song or two; it is a splendid idea and has a soothing effect, especially in cases where tempers might get a little ruffled.

There were a fair number of passive members present, amongst them such stalwart supporters as: Messrs. Strubin, Wyss, Keyser, Bruschweiler, Ad. Schmid, Mayr, etc.

Mr. F. G. Sommer, President, opened the proceedings, by welcoming the members, and especially the two guests, Colonel Anton Bon, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.

After the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Jaccard; the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Ritzmann, acquainted the Meeting with the financial position of the Choir, which, proved to be satisfactory, the total resources having been slightly increased.

This welcome news caused general satisfaction and in order to give expression to their feelings the Choir burst forthwith into song.

The Meeting was then resumed, and the President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, read out his Annual Report. He regretted the loss of two active members owing to their departure from this country, namely Messrs. A. Tall and Wehrli, to whom, although absent, he addressed his and the Choir's gratitude for their support in the past.

He mentioned, that the Choir numbered at present 39 active members, 69 passive members and 7 life members.

The Choir participated during the year under review, on the following occasions: Xmas Tree Celebration of the two Parishes of the Swiss Church at Kingsway Hall (26th December, 1947); Concert in conjunction with the Swiss Orchestra and Swiss Accordeon Club at Conway Hall (23rd April, 1947); and 1st of August Celebration at the London Coliseum.

Amongst the future fixtures, Mr. Sommer mentioned, the Xmas Tree Celebrations of the Swiss Church (Sunday, December 26th, 1948), a concert in conjunction with the Swiss Orchestra and the Accordeon Club at Conway Hall (March 25th, 1949) and participation at the Fête Suisse (June, 1949) and 1st of August Celebration. A "Gemütlicher Abend" with the Ladies is envisaged for February.

The President voiced his regrets, that during the structural alteration of the premises at 74, Charlotte Street, practically all the music of the Choir was lost, which he termed as being a very serious matter, he expressed his hope that the music will ultimately come to light again.


Mr. Sommer ended his concise report with thanks to his colleagues on the Committee, and to both active and passive members.

Mr. Ritzmann also voiced the thanks of all the members to the untiring conductor of the Choir, Mr. E. P. Dick.

On the termination of the business part, the President asked Colonel Bon to take the Chair *pro tem* during the elections of a new Committee for the next twelve months. The latter expressed, on behalf of the members, thanks to the outgoing Committee for the excellent services they had rendered to the Society. In the capacity of President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, he warmly thanked the Choir for the splendid amount of £68. 11. 10, being the net proceeds of the last concert, handed over to this Society.

Mr. Bon then acquainted the Meeting that all the members of the late Committee were willing to carry on for a further term of office, and amidst applause, they were re-elected *en bloc*, namely: F. G. Sommer, President, L. Jobin, Vice-President, A. Jaccard, Secretary, C. Sykora, Librarian. Auditors: Messrs. Luthert and Wagner; Music Commission: Messrs. Fischer, Sommer, Ritzmann, Finsler and Dick. Mr. E. P. Dick, was, with acclamation, confirmed as Conductor of the Choir.

Mr. F. G. Sommer, in taking again the Chair, thanked Colonel Bon for having conducted the Meeting during the elections, and the members for the con-



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fidence they had shown in him and his colleagues by re-electing them.

This Annual Meeting closed with more songs excellently rendered; and before I end this report I wish to thank the Swiss Male Choir for having given me again an opportunity to pass a few enjoyable hours in their midst.

ST.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The quarterly meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society took place at 31, Conway Street, W.1, on Monday evening, 29th November. The President, Col. A. Bon, was back in the Chair after prolonged absence due to ill-health. He opened the meeting with two pleasant announcements, one that a cheque for £50 had been received, representing the surplus of the collection made to cover the entertainment expenses of the Swiss Folklore people who came here last May, the other that the collection taken at the Annual Dinner and Ball of the City Swiss Club amounted to £100. This news was particularly welcome as expenses had gone up considerably owing to the increased cost of living and a number of new cases. The Hon. Treasurer expressed some doubt as to whether the accounts could be balanced by the end of the year without having to draw on the capital. It was hoped that sufficient donations would be received to meet the demand for relief.

After the Secretary had read his report dealing with unusual cases two new pensioners were elected. Mr. Berti, President of the Unione Ticinese, regretted that this year his society would not be able to give as much financial help to the S.B.S. as in the past as they had to meet a specially heavy expense in the near future. The Chairman took this opportunity to thank the Unione Ticinese for their regular generous support. The meeting also expressed its appreciation of the space which was always readily put at the Society's disposal free of charge in the Swiss Observer.

Mariann.

JEUNESSE DE L'EGLISE SUISSE.

La soirée théâtrale de Kingsway Hall le samedi 11 décembre eut un grand succès.

Plus de 200 personnes applaudirent nos "Jeunes."

La partie musicale du programme fut très appréciée.

Les deux pièces anglaises "MIMI" et "The Monkey's Paw," cette dernière surtout, furent jouées avec entrain et quelques uns de nos jeunes acteurs firent preuve d'un vrai talent d'artistes.

La délicieuse pièce en français "PAR UN JOUR DE PLUIE" eut passablement de succès et fut très applaudie, particulièrement par le jeu naturel et plein de gaieté des acteurs.

Le temps passa si vite que bien trop tôt l'heure de cloture sonna et chacun s'en retourna plein d'entrain tout en félicitant sincèrement nos jeunes de leur entrain, mérite et travail pour arriver à un pareil succès.

Déjà on se réjouit de la prochaine soirée.

W.B.K.



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