

Swiss Male Choir

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SWISS MALE CHOIR.
"Gemuetlicher Abend".

After a fair number of Banquets, Soirées Familiales, Dances, Concerts, Lectures and General Meetings (with-and-without-dinner) have taken place, they have been followed by the "Gemuetlicher Abend" or "Jolly Evening" of the Swiss Male Choir, which was held on Friday, March the 26th at the "Schweizerbund", (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

This is an annual event to which many look forward with pleasant anticipation; it is not held at any of the palatial West-End places, there is no red-coated toast-master to announce the various celebrities of the Colony, there are no Lords nor Diplomats sitting at the top table, and there is only one speech delivered. This all helps to make — what is intended — an evening "gemütlich" and homely.

About 70 members and ladies were present, who previous to dinner assembled in the "Bündnerstube" of the Club with its attractive Bar, to wet their appetites with various stimulants. This done, the company adjourned to the pleasant Banqueting Hall where a very good dinner was served, for which the stewards of the Club Mr. & Mrs. K. Caluori deserve full credit.

After the toasts to the Queen and Switzerland had been given, the President of the Swiss Male Choir, Mr. F. G. Sommer, welcomed the company, paying an especially warm tribute to the Ladies present by saying that a social evening without them would be unthinkable, he also greeted the following guests: Mr. & Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", and Mr. & Mrs. A. Gandon, leader of the Swiss Accordeon Group. The President then voiced his disappointment at the absence of the Vice-President, Mr. L. Jobin, who had recently to undergo an operation, wishing him, on behalf of the members, a speedy and complete recovery. Mr. Sommer also greeted a member of the company, Mr. C. L. Schlaeppi, who in spite of his 78 years still looks hale and hearty. This concluded the official part and the members of the choir assembled to render a number of songs, starting with "Notre Valais" followed by a "Jodel" by the champion jodeller of the colony Mr. E. Luterbacher, judging by the applause from the audience these two performances were much appreciated.

The choir then sang, with much feeling, "Ewig liebe Heimat", and a young member gave an un-accompanied solo in French which was much applauded. After a further song by the choir "Mein Herz ist fröhlich", Mr. Anguish, who not only sings well but is also an accomplished comedian, gave a Monologue dealing with little Albert who was devoured by a lion. This number rendered in broad Yorkshire dialect was much enjoyed. The musical programme concluded with the singing of a song called very appropriately "Märzwind".

This choir under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr. E. P. Dick, is improving year by year, and it is always a pleasure to listen to them. The Colony owes them a debt of gratitude for the many happy hours they have given to them in the past in the realm of music and songs.

Then followed the showing of a most interesting film in Technicolor, dealing with the 600th anniversary festivities of the canton of Berne's entry into the Confederation, which were held last year in Berne. The film was taken by Mr. Sommer himself. It showed the various parts of the beautiful little capital in festive garb, and different episodes of the historical procession were thrown on the screen. Mr. Gandon rendered appropriate musical accompaniment on his accordion. A really fine show which was watched with great interest, and the frolics of the bears in the bear pit caused much amusement.

In conclusion a film concerning winter sport, skating and skiing was shown which was equally enjoyed. After the lights were switched on again, dancing began, the Swiss Accordeon Group providing the music under the able conductorship of our old friend Mr. A. Gandon. The dance band was dressed in national costume and included a pretty young lady, who yodelled very charmingly. Waltzes, Laendlers, polkas and one-and-twosteps followed each other in rapid succession, it was in the real sense of the word an orgy of merriment.

Shortly after midnight this most enjoyable "Gemütlicher Abend" came to a close and nobody will, I am sure, dispute the fact, that it was a really jolly and happy evening. The Swiss Male Choir is good company and "so say all of us!"

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