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Autor: [s.n.]
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"GEMUETLICHKEIT & BAERNERPLATTE".

The Swiss Male Choir recently arranged a "Gemütlicher Abend" at Bush House Restaurant, which was quite a success. Encouraged by this the "Schweizerbund", too, asked its members and friends to a similar evening at their headquarters at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, on Friday, April 12th.

As an attraction it was announced that the famous "Bärnerplatte" would be served; whilst it was perhaps not quite as substantial as when it is served at home in the "Emmenthal" it was nevertheless quite sufficient, well cooked and very reasonable in price; it was followed by a Welsh rabbit to kindle a thirst which was promptly quenched with Fendant, Neuchâtel and Dôle de Sion.

During the meal the "Tafelmusik" was supplied by Mrs. Scherrer, who untiringly played many of our well-known folk songs, and she played them so temptingly, that on various occasions the diners put their knives and forks aside and burst into song!

Mr. F. Delaloye, the congenial President of the "Schweizerbund", acted throughout the evening as an announcer, using a nasty little hammer which made the ladies jump each time he used it, and as the evening wore on, his hammering became louder and louder, and to compensate himself for this *tour de force* he had to refresh himself with some of the famous vintages of his native canton Valais.

As music is one of the ingredients of a "Gemütlicher Abend" the President announced that the Swiss Male Choir would entertain the company with a few numbers from their repertoire, and they began by singing "Mein Herz ist fröhlich alle Zeit", a very appropriate song for such an occasion, followed by J. Bovet's "La Youtse". Down again went knives and forks in respect for the performers, who were rewarded for their efforts by loud applause and, I heard it whispered, by six bottles of wine.

I was just starting to eat the delicious *choucroute* when the hammer came down with a loud bang, this time to announce that a young man was going to sing songs accompanied on the guitar. I do not know whether he had been previously lubricated with some stimulant because he sang with forcible intensity.



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In the meantime our old friend Mr. A. Gandon with his young son and a colleague mounted the platform and on their accordions played a number of Swiss melodies. Master Gandon, who recently earned quite a reputation with his delightful yodelling, then sang, and his sweet voice "brought the house down".

Then came a short interval during which the diners hurriedly finished their meal in case they should be interrupted again as in fact they were, when Mr. Delaloye mentioned that the "Corale" of the Union Ticinese had just arrived to entertain the gathering with their "Canzonette". In they walked dressed in their attractive costumes and for about twenty minutes they took us back to the Ticino, to the land of sunshine and smiles. Whilst we listened to them, forgotten were all the troubles and irritations of daily life, and their performance earned them universal applause.

In fact the enthusiasm grew to such a pitch that Mr. Gandon had hurriedly to mount the platform to ask the revellers to relieve their feelings by a "Ländler".

Mr. W. Schneeberger, a former President of the "Schweizerbund", then spoke a few words to thank the President for having arranged this "Gemütlicher Abend", saying that it is intended to hold similar functions such as a "Yass Abend", and even a "Fendue Abend".

Then dancing continued and came to a close about midnight. It was indeed very "gemütlich" and jolly and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a further edition in the near future.

ST.

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