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ALBERT FERBER RECITAL.

The piano recital of our compatriot, Albert Ferber, at Wigmore Hall on Saturday, February 15th, was an outstanding success. It is, therefore, all the more to be regretted that a greater number of his fellow countrymen did not take the opportunity of hearing this fine artist.

C. P. E. Bach, Beethoven, Scriabin, Ravel and Chopin were the composers chosen by him.

Once again we witnessed his wonderful technique, which is his most impressive attribute, but he is also thoughtful and imaginative. To each composer he brought the right sort of tone and the right range of dynamics; there is always considerable thought and feeling behind his playing, everything was made to sound right, the playing had authority, and pleasure was the outcome.

It was the close interpenetration of fine technique and refined interpretation insight that made his performance so impressive.

"The Times" wrote: "Outstanding from the whole programme was his group of Ravel, 'Nocturnes', 'Oiseaux tristes' and 'Une Barque sur l'océan'. The fastidious clarity of detail and the emotional discipline, which this French composer cherished, seem also to be part and parcel of Mr. Ferber's own musical personality, so that his playing here was blessed with the all-important, elusive quality known as style."

The "Daily Telegraph" reported: "A model recital with admirable perspective. For intelligence of fair treatment of all ten works in the programme,

Albert Ferber's piano recital was a model of its kind. There was little to choose, as to efficiency in technique and good taste in interpretation, between one performance and another, whether the music was by Beethoven or Chopin, Scriabin or C. P. E. Bach."

ST.

NEWS OF THE COLONY.



O. GROB.

President of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

As mentioned in another part of this issue, Mr. O. Grob, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society which took place on Wednesday, February 12th, at "Swiss House", 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, was elected President.

Mr. Grob was born at Frauenfeld in 1900. After finishing his schooling at the Primary and Cantonal Schools in his home town, he made his apprenticeship with the "Leih- & Sparkasse" Eschenz (Ct. Thurgau), and on its conclusion he entered the "Schweizerische Kreditanstalt" in Romanshorn, and later the "Bank in Schaffhausen" as a clerk. The latter being taken over by the "Schweiz. Bankverein" he was transferred in 1924 to their London Office. Eight years later (1932) he became a signature holder (Fondé de pouvoirs).

In August 1939, Mr. Grob was sent to New York in order to organise the new office of the Swiss Bank Corporation, returning to London in May 1940. At the end of 1944 he was promoted to the office of Sub-Manager.

The new President married, in May 1931, the second daughter of the late Major and Mrs. E. J. Hogan of New Barnet, and has two sons.

Mr. Grob joined the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1925 in which he has held the following posts: Hon. Treasurer from 1928 to 1939, Vice-President and Chairman of the House Committee since January 1st 1956. When the Society was formed into a registered company in 1931 he became a member of the Council.

Ever since his arrival in this country the new President has taken a keen interest in the life of the London colony, ably supported by his charming wife. He is a member of the City Swiss Club and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

We wish him a successful year in the responsible position he now holds.

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