

News of the colony

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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."

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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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**W. MEIER.**

On the occasion of the recent General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. W. Meier, who for the last eleven years has been at the helm of this Society, relinquished the office which he had occupied in such a noteworthy manner, and we take this opportunity of thanking him, not only for the eminent services which he has rendered to his Society, but also for those to the Swiss Colony.

To be President of one of the most active Societies in London is no sinecure, and requires patience and tact; both of these Mr. Meier fortunately possesses in abundance.

With never-flagging energy he has carried on the good work of his predecessors, and if to-day the Swiss Mercantile Society and its College are enjoying an enviable reputation, both in the Colony and at home, it is principally due to him, and to his small band of collaborators.

As will be seen in another part of this issue, Mr. Meier has been elected an Honorary Member of the London section; it is an honour which he richly deserves. Two years ago, on the occasion of the Delegates' Meeting of the "Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Verein", which took place at Basle, he was made an Honorary Member of the S.K.V. Thus the faithful work which he has rendered for so many years has not passed unnoticed, and it must be a measure of satisfaction to him that it has been appreciated.

Apart from his work in the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. Meier has sat on many committees dealing with the affairs of the Colony, such as "Fête Suisse", Swiss Sports, 1st of August, etc., where his sagacity and sound views were much appreciated and frequently acted upon. He also was at one time Chairman of the Presidents' Assembly.

In all his undertakings he has been ably and devotedly assisted by his life partner, who has always taken a keen interest in his work. We are glad to say that no small part of the appreciation which was so abundantly expressed to the late President at the Meeting of the S.M.S. went to her also. Like her husband, Mrs. Meier has rendered — and is rendering — useful services to the Colony.

May we express the hope that in the coming time of more leisure we shall still enjoy their collaboration for the benefit of the Colony and our country.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club Manchester, held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on February 15th, the new committee was constituted as follows:— President: M. E. Lichtensteiger; Vice-President: Dr. H. B. Knuchel; Hon. Secretary: A. Aeby; Hon. Treasurer: J. Sohm; Librarian: Mrs. L. Themans; Members: Miss A. Rietmann and H. Monney.

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