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NEWS FROM THE COLONY



A COMPATRIOT HONOURED

It will, no doubt, interest our readers to learn that our compatriot Oscar F. Boehringer, whose late father founded the "Swiss Observer", has had the high honour and distinction conferred on him to have been appointed a Justice of the Peace by H.M. Lord Chancellor, with Magisterial duties in inner London. As Mr. Boehringer is also the "Swiss Observer's" publisher and Honorary Secretary to its Advisory Council, as well as possessor of both British and Swiss nationality with very many links in both countries, it seems appropriate to mention a few more facts concerning his very distinguished and successful career.

Oscar F. Boehringer was born in London in December, 1915, and educated at the St. Paul's School and the Ecole de Commerce in Neuchâtel. After adventurously active service on the British side in World War Two he was admitted to the Freedom of the City of London in 1951. He has taken an active part in the establishment of the Technical Library of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), for which the French Republic conferred on him the honour of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques" and "Chevalier de l'Ordre International du Bien Public" in 1958.

Oscar F. Boehringer is a very active Liveryman, serving at present on the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Upholders. Moreover he is an executive member of the Earl of Longford's Committee "New Horizon", which deals with young drifters and drug addicts in London's West End. In addition to all this he is an active member of the United Wards Club, the City Livery Club and the Rotary Club of London.

As one who has been in touch with him over many years and who knows just how painstakingly and conscientiously Mr. Boehringer attends to problems large or small, I feel certain I am

speaking on behalf of many—no doubt of all who really have the pleasure of knowing him personally—if I extend to him my sincere congratulations on this latest high honour which has been bestowed upon him.

Gottfried Keller

RACLETTE PARTY IN KNUTSFORD — THURSDAY, 12th FEBRUARY

Strengthened and encouraged by a series of happy successes our Committee decided to hold again a Raclette-Social in the inviting and friendly premises of the Cottons Hotel, Knutsford, which is being patronised more and more by a large section of our members mainly living in the South of Manchester and, therefore, very conveniently situated.

Having only five raclette-machines at our disposal and also for reasons of accommodation, it was decided this year to limit somewhat the number of compatriots and friends qualifying for admission. This was done in such an efficient and friendly way that an outsider would have been completely unaware of it.

Still in the grip of a severe and cold winter and for the many of us who are just convalescing from the serious and unselective influenza epidemic, it was most fortunate that clear and dry roads helped us to reach our meeting place without fears and undue risks. We really only felt safe when at last we could gather round the well-stocked bars, humming with happy and informal chat, meeting friends and acquaintances, whilst all the time observing and following the slow build-up of food supplies, bottles, and machines. Being a raclette-party, emphasis had to be laid on food and drink, and some might be forgiven for the signs of impatience which could be detected here and there—the writer included. The table arrangement was a very convivial one and soon a large number of parties, within the large one, took possession of the available seats, all very excited, communicative, and really all out for a jolly and interesting evening, as eventually it turned out to be.

Our acting President, Mr. Simon, must have been gratified and happy to see so many friendly faces amongst us and specially honoured by the presence of our Consul, Madame Born, and their charming daughter Sylvia. He was also able to welcome some members of the Liverpool Swiss Club and two Officials of the Yorkshire Swiss Club.

By now we were all ready for the battle and the operators installed behind their five raclette machines, slowly warming-up. During the whole evening these five worthy compatriots, led by our President in suitable attire, ably helped by our Vice-Consul, Mr. Zell-

weger, by the popular and dynamic veteran, Mr. Duerig, Dr. Rudin (a committee member), and Dr. Lang, who devoted all their energy and learning to satisfy the never-ending appetites of Swiss and British alike. The "Gamser-Kaese" from the Oberwallis was well matched with excellent new potatoes, salads, pickles and other "contornis" and the tables were never empty of bottles and the glasses filled, and filled, again by a most excellent white "Fechy" Dorin, Vaud from the cellars of our Vice-President, Dr. Bolliger, who was unfortunately away on business abroad; however, his wife and daughter represented him very well.

It was indeed a happy, noisy and congenial crowd, a great proportion being composed of our younger generation, whom we heartily welcome amongst us. All these young people are flowing to our parts for the purpose of education and training, covering the largest possible corona of activities; a tribute to the standing and force of attraction of this country. It also clearly shows that it is both a duty and privilege of us "Residents" to be the rallying point of this ever changing and milling section of compatriots and in creating such possibilities of meeting them, it will also strengthen a climate of reciprocal understanding and be truly beneficial to them and to us.

After the third, perhaps fourth and, why not, the fifth helping, a small group of young people started on a very "heimatlichen" sing-song, joined in by many of us and also this was a contribution to the happy and warm atmosphere surrounding us all the time. Alas, only too quickly the evening drew to a close and in wishing each other a hearty "au revoir" and safe journey home, we sincerely hope that our Committee will soon regale us with a similar meeting or function. From us all: "Thank you Swiss Club, Manchester".

E. Berner

CITY SWISS CLUB FAMILY EVENING

Magic being an inspiring subject, this year's family evening was well attended. Unfortunately, I do not remember the names of the two wizards who were the guests of the evening (they had already appeared on a previous City Swiss Club occasion) nor could I describe in detail their more subtle tricks.

Forgers of 100-fr. notes having been judged at the Old Bailey a few days beforehand, it was an appropriate time for our magician to transform pieces of cut-out newspaper into a wad of clean, new banknotes and prove us the advantages of his method. Another way of acquiring things cheaply was to transform a penny into a glass of whisky by hiding the penny in a handkerchief covering the palm of the hand

and saying "abracadabra!". Using his craft in another field, the magician knotted two handkerchiefs together and gave them to a lady, who presently stored them in her bosom. After some garrulity, he ripped the handkerchiefs from the neck-line and pulled the lady's brassiere, knotted between the handkerchief, and almost hauled other things as well! There followed a number of card tricks, where the magician and his magic mind were always able to tell which cards had been picked from the pack by a voluntary collaborator. There were telepathy tricks as well: the magician asked a lady to write down the name of the town in which she would like to spend her holiday, he then played a song called "Sorrento" on his tape recorder, and this, sure enough, had been the city written down by the lady.

Wizard no. 2 didn't perform from a platform but visited each table separately. "Will somebody give me a white gentleman's handkerchief, sorry, I mean a gentleman's white handkerchief" was the joke with which he introduced his illusory gags at every table. One of his tricks, a rather neat visual one, consisted in making chalk markings on a piece of slate appear and disappear.

The City Swiss Club family began to depart at about 10 o'clock, dazed with magic and not knowing whether the world wouldn't suddenly change into a pumpkin, but completely happy over the evening that had just been spent.

(PMB)

THE ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

104 Anglo-Swiss peers were present at the Dorchester on 2nd March, to listen to Monsieur Pierre Boissier, Head of the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva. His speech was on two remarkable persons with two unique but converging vocations, Florence Nightingale and Henry Dunant. His story was so interesting that I hope to be able to retell it in some later issue.

(PMB)

EASTER FIXTURES BY THE SWISS CHURCHES

The German-Swiss Protestant Church will be having a special service on Good Friday at 10 o'clock. There won't be any service in the evening. On Sunday, morning service at 10 a.m. at Endell St. and evening service at 7.30 p.m. at St. Ann's. The French-speaking Protestant Church will be having a Communion-service on Good Friday at 11.15 a.m., a Communion and Confirmation service at 11.15 a.m. on Easter Sunday. There will probably be three catechumens to be confirmed and to take communion for the first time.

The Swiss Catholic Mission at St. Ann's, Abbey Orchard Street, will be commemorating the last supper of our Lord at 8 p.m. on the Thursday preceeding Good Friday, and will be com-

memorating the death of our Lord on Good Friday at 3 p.m. Mass will as usual be celebrated at 6.30 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

A splendid example of ecumenicity, the German-speaking Protestant and Catholic Swiss churches get together every Saturday at 6.30 p.m. for an *ecumenical service*. One week the Sermon is "Catholic" and Communion "Protestant", the next week, it's the other way round. These services have only begun recently and four of them have been celebrated to date.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Miss Bertha Köcher on 9th January at her Wimbledon home. She was 86.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Friday 13th. Swiss Rifle Association, Annual General Meeting at 6.30 p.m., Glendower Hotel, followed by a dinner.

Tuesday 24th. City Swiss Club monthly meeting. Dr. T. F. Gaskell will speak on "Pollution".

Tuesday 31st. Swiss Club Edinburgh, sing-song and Wurst-Abig at 187 Canongate. 8 p.m.

APRIL

Every Thursday from 6 to 7.30 p.m.—Discussion Circle in English. Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss YMCA Building, Great Russel Street, W.C.1.

Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres. Monthly Meetings every first Wednesday of the month at 34 Fitzroy Square, W.1. at 7 p.m.

Friday 3rd. Swiss Church Endell St. 18th Century music for strings and harpsichord by the Frenkendorf Ensemble, under the patronage of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Wednesday 8th. Swiss Mercantile Society monthly meeting, 35 Fitzroy Sq., W.1. Talk on the "History of the Thames" accompanied with slides.

Sunday 12th. Annual General Meeting of the Committee of Swiss Catholics at 48 Gt. Peter St., S.W.1., at 7.30 p.m. Before this, at 6.30 p.m., there will be a traditional Easter Service at the same address.

Tuesday 14th. Swiss Club Edinburgh, 7.25 at 187 Canongate or 7.30 at Sheep's Head Inn, Duddington, for the Skittle Evening and the Edinburgh-Dunfermline match.

MAY

Sunday 3rd. 4.30 to 11 p.m. UNIONE TICINESE DANSE, Dorchester Hotel. Harry Vardon's Band. Tickets (inclusive of tea) 25s. obtainable from the Secretary, E. P. Morganti, 10 Newport Buildings, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps; voir "Le Messager"

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2^e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Gemeindebote".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1. Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. Ann's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. in English. At 6.30 p.m. for the Swiss community with regard to the different language groups.

HOLIDAYS of obligation: Holy Mass at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS: Holy Mass at 1 p.m. afterwards time for consultations.

CONFESSIONS: German, French, Italian and English:

Sundays: one hour before Evening Mass.

Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.