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the most difficult gourmand would have felt at home. All this in the framework of a pleasant table arrangement enriched by tastefully applied patriotic decorations. In the true sense of the word it was the effort of everybody and all this augurs well for the future of our club, and will certainly encourage its members to further efforts.

We endeavour to make this type of function or social self-supporting and I feel that our worthy treasurer, Mr. K. Kaegi must have been well pleased with the financial aspects of the affair, so more that a "chocolate Father Xmas" put up for auction fetched over £3—quite a price for every bite of it!

Everybody will agree with me that it was a most happy and congenial affair and so more it was regretted by us that the time had come to return to our homes but this was made so much easier knowing that we shall meet again, shortly, under similar circumstances. It was sheer pleasure for all of us, but hard work, at the beginning and at the end, for the few selected ones and to those the warmest thanks of the Club.

(Ermanno Berner)

#### CHARLES H. WILLI, A PIONEER PLASTIC SURGEON

As we announced previously, Charles H. Willi died on 27th January at Aigle, where he has had a home for the last few years. He was cremated at Vevey and will eventually be buried in Brigue, where the last of the Willis are now living.

Karl Heinrich Willi was born on 22nd June, 1883 in Lucerne, the son of Johann Willi, engineer of the Jura-Simplon Railway. Their family goes back to 1445, and their ancestral home is Willidorf at Oberkirsch-Sursee, Lucerne.

Charles had his schooling in Lucerne, and at 18 he went to the USA to study medicine, specialising in plastic surgery. After four years he returned to Europe and started practising. At that time, it was quite revolutionary and daring, as it was medically not accepted. He was first in Germany, then in Paris, and in November 1910, the year of Edward VII's funeral, he arrived in London.

Charles Willi had very little money but a lot of self-confidence. He started work in earnest, and he was enormously successful as a pioneer in his field. He was the first and foremost exponent in the art of aesthetic plastic surgery, used not only for facial rejuvenation, but also for restoring faces ravaged by accidents and war wounds, and for correcting malformations.

He practised in London until 1963, performing about 16,000 operations on kings, princes, statesmen, artists and society people, as well as thousands of ordinary men and women

who have reason to be grateful to him.

Many books have been written on his work, and he himself was the author of several publications. Apart from his American M.D., he had several distinctions. He was a member of a French medical academy, a F.R.S.A. and President of the International Society for Plastic Surgery.

He loved his lawn and his beautiful roses in Hampstead's Eton Avenue. He was a keen sportsman, an amateur jockey in his youth, a champion racing cyclist, an excellent horseman, tennis player and swimmer and he was second in the Swiss Figure Skating Championships about 1922.

He was a member of many Swiss societies in London, notably the Swiss Rifle Association and the City Swiss Club. In 1911, he "called" for his childhood sweetheart, also from Lucerne, Mrs. Marie Willi died some years ago and it is to their daughter Margrit who lives abroad, that our sympathy goes in her bereavement.

(MM)

#### PERSONAL

It is with great pleasure that we announce the marriage of Miss Heidi J. Meier to Mr. Manfred E. Buechele. Miss Meier is the eldest daughter of the late Mr. Walter and Mrs. Mariann Meier. The wedding took place in Switzerland on 12th February and we sent the young couple congratulations and best wishes for the future.

\* \* \*

With equal pleasure we announce the wedding of Miss Rachel Nicod to Mr. Luciano Varesco. Miss Nicod is the eldest daughter of the Rev. A. Nicod, Minister of the French-speaking Swiss Church in London. The wedding ceremony took place on 12th February at Endell Street before a large congregation. Pastor Nicod who had the rare privilege of wedding his own children, delivered a beautiful sermon in Italian, studded with allegories drawn from nature to describe the Christian married state. We wish Rachel and Luciano every happiness in the future.

We wish to congratulate the pianist Mr. Lennart Rabes on his recent great success at a special Schubert Concert in Vienna, when he played the Wanderer Fantasy with the Viennese Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Rabes is the organist at the German-speaking Swiss Church and we wish him many more similar successes in his career.

\* \* \*

Miss Paula Marguerite Haberstick, daughter of Mr. Paul B. Haberstick, a nurse with the rank equivalent of Major in the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Families Association (S.S.A.F.A.) has left for Singapore on 15th February, where she will be posted for the next two years. Miss Haberstick has worked for the past eleven years with the S.S.A.F.A. nursing services in Osnabruck, Antwerp, Fontainebleau, Cologne and Dusseldorf. We wish her a most rewarding time for the years that she will spend "East of Suez".

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH.** Tuesday, 28th March. Wuerstliabig, chat and sing-song at 8 p.m. 112 Hanover Street.

**SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.** Friday, 24th March. Film show at Ciba-Geigy (U.K.), Heald Green.

**LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.** Convention of the Middlesex Philatelic Federation. Saturday, 8th April at the Polytechnic of London, New Cavendish Street, W.1.

**CITY SWISS CLUB.** Friday, 24th March, Soirée Familiale at the Belair Swiss Restaurant, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, Middlesex. 7.15 for 8 p.m. Price £2.50 per person (exclusive of drinks). Dress informal.

**ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY.** Tuesday, 14th March at the Orchid Suite, Dorchester Hotel, 7.30 for 8 p.m. Sir John Pope-Hennessy, C.B.E., Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum will speak on "Does the modern world need museums".

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