

John George Sigg †

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THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

AFTER DINNER SPEECHES.

Since a discussion has been invited on this subject, may I say that I feel sure that "ck" and "Bufo" are expressing the feelings of the majority of both sexes when they say the "After Dinner" speeches are too long. It is charming to suggest restricting them for the benefit of the ladies, but I wonder how many of the males present really enjoy these "oratorical displays." Do they indulge in them between themselves, or do the "speeches" on these occasions take the following trend? "I heard a good story to-day . . ." or "Have you heard the one about . . ." or "I say, I must tell you this one . . ." etc., etc. What a welcome change it would be to hear selections from the repertoire of some of our "Leading Lights" instead of the usual dissertation!

The Editor suggests that it would be cruel of us to deprive the speakers of the few opportunities they have of displaying their oratory. Is he holding a breach for the married man whose wife has the proverbial "Last Word?" Naturally one would not like to deny him a little "free speech." However there appears to be no apparent reason against curbing the bachelor.

The fact is, man is a born chatterer, although he will not own to such a fact. He still delights in that anatomical discrepancy that a jaw bone was employed in the creation of Eve, whereas, it is he himself who revels in hearing his own voice, regardless of what he is inflicting on his listeners. Generally the subject is uninteresting, often inaudible and certainly no aid to one's digestion.

After a dinner in congenial surroundings, one is naturally in the mood to be amused, hence my former suggestion.

I think if we made an honest confession, we would all say we disliked "After Dinner" speeches, unless they had two redeeming features, brevity, and a sense of humour, and how many of them have?

(Miss) G. A. NOTARI.

LOWER TONE OF THE S.O.?

Sir,
In your last issue of the *Swiss Observer* you invite ladies to voice their opinions on the paper. May I, as a daughter of an old member of some of the Swiss Clubs in London, give my views? I must confess that I find the tone of the *Swiss Observer* has recently become decidedly lower.

The articles by "ck," when not actually vulgar, display an extraordinary lack of good taste, which, in my opinion, is detrimental to the well-being and reputation of the Swiss Colony in London.

The remarks, in the Notes and Gleanings section of the last issue, on the ladies' dresses and those on the restriction of dancing in the Ticino seem to me rather unnecessarily "comic," and the style is undeniably poor.

Having myself some knowledge of the editing of periodicals I feel that the "blue pencil" could with advantage be used more freely. The *Swiss Observer* must not sink to the rank of a cheap comic paper.

MARY.

How distressful that both our faithful contributors who occasionally try to introduce a humorous note into our columns should be subjected to such deprecatory criticism. May be that perhaps "ck" made a mistake some months ago by not entirely discussing the fact that he knows his Rabelais and other masters of satire. We mentioned that to him and he has surely ever since exercised the most judicious restraint in his laudable efforts to enliven our pages with a little fun. That also our friend "Kyburg," who week by week goes through mountains of dull press-cuttings for us, selecting a few that may be interesting, should be so severely criticised seems to us altogether unmerited. His sense of humour may appear to some as being "unnecessarily comic," but surely most of our readers would rather have more of that sort of innocent fun than censure it. Still, we must take note of our critic's opinion and promise to scrutinise our

contributors' effusions even more carefully than up to now, although we cannot undertake to cut out "unnecessarily comic" passages as long as they are not offending against good taste. Perhaps some other readers will express their opinion on the matter.—THE ED.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I hope you will not think me impertinent if I draw your attention to the danger of the lowering of the courteous and impartial tone of your paper, if communications in the somewhat rude strain of those published recently regarding the articles of the official press reporter to the City Swiss Club, should continue to appear.

After all, our dear "ck" has willingly undertaken a task which is not of the easiest and out of the sometimes rather boring monthly meetings of the City Swiss Club he has succeeded in sending you what most of your readers would call, I am sure, entertaining reports.

His wit is very harmless and surely no-one with the least sense of humour could object to his articles. I only hope that the two objections raised will not act as a damper on "ck's" style and that he will bravely continue his commentaries.

"CK'S" DISTRESS.

Dear Mr. Editor,

So I am in trouble again. In truth this is a hard world and it is difficult to please all men.

Alas and likewise alack! I am grieved and sorely distressed.

For the present I will say no more, but I will deal with master Bufo later.

Nevertheless I hope others will express their opinions on the subject of speeches on ladies nights, for I still persist in the idea that they are a mistake on these occasions and that there are plenty of other opportunities for those who are oratorically inclined to exercise their talents.

Yours faithfully, ck.

JOHN GEORGE SIGG.†

We very much regret to announce the death of Monsieur John George SIGG of 2, Palmeira Mansions, Westcliff-on-Sea and 9, Mincing Lane, E.C.3. He passed away after a short illness on Friday morning, November 1st, at the age of 66.

Monsieur Sigg was well-known in London and Liverpool in which latter place he started business in the cotton trade. Previously he spent about twenty years in Calcutta. He finally settled down in London where his firm was one of the leading houses in the shellac trade; he was for a number of years President of the Shellac Trade Association. He was a member of the Eccentric Club and the City Swiss Club and liberally supported the institutions of our Colony.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, Nov. 5th, at Southend-on-Sea, and apart from a large circle of business friends from London was attended by his brother from Zurich, Dr. med. Ernst Sigg, and Mr. A. F. Suter.

The deceased leaves a widow to whom on behalf of the Swiss Colony we wish to tender our sincere sympathy.

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YEARLY COMPETITION

LAST TWO WEEK-ENDS

November 9-10 and 16-17

The Final Shoot has already commenced and Members are advised to be at the Range at an early date to avoid unpleasant crowding on the last days

On Sunday Suppe und Spatz für Auszug und Landwehr

Please reserve Friday, November 29th for the Annual Dinner.

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Dimanche 10 Novembre 11h—11e Anniversaire de l'Armistice. Mr. M. Pradervand.

6h30—M. R. Hoffman-de Visme.

7h30—Répétition du Choeur.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffman-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 10. November 1929.

11 Uhr vorm. Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Religionsunterricht sind erbeten an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon: Chiswick 4156.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche.
Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

DEUTSCHE KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE,

47, Adler Street, Commercial Rd., E.1.

Sonntag, den 10. November morgens 11.—Messen um 9 Uhr, 10 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Deutsche Predigt um 9 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Abendgottesdienst um 7 Uhr mit deutscher Predigt.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, November 8th.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn.

Wednesday, November 13th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY, Monthly Meeting at Swiss House.

Monday, November 18th, at 8.30 p.m.—UNION HELVETIA, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. Annual Dinner and Ball. Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister, in the Chair.

Friday, November 22nd.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Victoria Hotel.

Friday, November 29th.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION Annual Dinner at the Union Helvetia.

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