Film Show : "With the Swiss mountain troops in the Alps"

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As the May Fair Hotel ballroom allows of a larger number of guests than the King Edward VII Rooms at the Hotel Victoria did (where the Banquet and Ball has been held for some years past), this new arrangement should prove an added attraction to all concerned and will undoubtedly contribute to the success usually attending these functions.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week :—

Mr. E. Sommer, Haupswil : " The Mystery attached to the figure Seven." Mr. F. Oswald, Chiasso : " Human Victims in Sport Competitions." Mr. C. Von Moos, Zurich : " A Visit to the Motor-Show at Olympia." Mr. H. Gysin, Liestal : " The English Money System." Miss K. Baumann, Bern : " The Egyptian Galleries in the British Museum." Mr. A. Isotta, Lugano : " The Cathedral of San Lorenzo at Lugano." Miss G. Pfeiffer, Vevey : " Alfred Tennyson." Mr. H. Weidmann, Bern : " Holidays by the Adriatic Sea." Mr. W. Staenz, Aarau : " A Visit to the Tower and the Tower Bridge." Mr. C. Schaer, Langenthal : " Sport and its Influence on Humanity." Mr. A. Kilcher, " Edison." Miss M. Perrenod, " Modern Fashions." Mr. H. Gremli, " Valencia." Mr. C. Pfenninger, " A Visit to the Law Courts." Mr. E. Schmid, " Cognac."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject :—

" Are you in Favour of International Language?" Proposer : Mr. A. Dejung. Opposer : Mr. H. Berruex.

The Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society College was very fortunate in securing the services of so eminent and delightful a lecturer as Sir Cecil Hertslett, who, on Friday evening last, talked in charming, intimate style to the students about " Famous Belgian Towns." Sir Cecil was introduced by Mr. Deutsch, the Chairman of the Educational Committee, who emphasised our great good fortune in having Sir Cecil to give us of his best. When war broke out in 1914, Mr. Deutsch told us, Sir Cecil Hertslett was Consul-General in Belgium and did an enormous amount of valuable work there, until circumstances forced his recall by His Majesty's Government. Later Sir Cecil was created Consul-General in Switzerland, where, as we learned later in the evening, his long diplomatic experience and sympathetic understanding of the Swiss people enabled him again and again to reconcile conflicting parties in so conciliatory and friendly a manner that he was accorded an official farewell banquet at the termination of his Consulship.

For the next forty minutes Sir Cecil kept the students enthralled while he talked of Antwerp and its siege in 1914 ; Antwerp of 1914 and Antwerp of to-day ; Liege and its never-to-be-forgotten resistance and fall ; the bombardment of Ypres and the destruction of the world-famous Cloth Hall ; the " inside " details of the Zeebrugge attack and so on ; in short, the lecturer made the terrible years of 1914-1918 live again for those who exerienced them, while he must have made the " youngsters " present realise that the tragedy of those years must never again be repeated if civilisation is to survive.

At this point, as Sir Cecil was a little tired, Mrs. Paull sang to the students ; and was loudly applauded. The lecturer then resumed, and gave us some intimate reminiscences of his stay in Zurich, and other Swiss towns, as well as details of intimate " human " stories of his connection with the Belgian Royal family.

At the conclusion of this lecture, which was vociferously applauded, Mr. Seiler, one of our older students moved a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Cecil, who then expressed not only his pleasure in addressing us, but also the hope that he would meet us again on some future occasion.

Mrs. Paull then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Deutsch, who had so ably introduced the lecturer, and renewed loud applause broke out for our genial and popular "Education" president !

FILM SHOW.

" WITH THE SWISS MOUNTAIN TROOPS IN THE ALPS "

at

King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique has given an untold number of our compatriots and friends great pleasure and enjoyment in showing a film about the life and work of our Mountain Troops. The pictures were beautifully reproduced and in seeing again those snow clad giants and picturesque little chapels nestling on the mountain slopes, one could almost envy the happy soldiers who have the good luck to serve their country in such glorious surroundings.

To those of us who are " ex-soldiers " it brought back many sweet memories of bygone happy days, of days of hardship too, but who of us would not go back willingly to protect our beautiful country from foreign invasion.

Mr. A. F. Suter, President of the N.S.H., gave a very interesting address about the various periods our little army went through, and his patriotic appeal earned a well merited applause. Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Chargé d'Affaires, and the Rev. C. Hahn also addressed the audience.

The N.S.H. deserves sincere and hearty thanks for having given us an opportunity to view this lovely film which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. During the performance Mr. Newman rendered some appropriate gramophone music, which in no small way helped with the success of this most enjoyable afternoon. Both performances were well frequented. ST.

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

To the EDITOR of the *Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,—I am rather surprised to see that " A Wellwisher " of the School of the Swiss Mercantile Society in London should have thought it necessary to have to resort to the courtesy of your esteemed paper in order to elicit an authoritative explanation from the *proper quarters* whether the complaints he had received direct from Switzerland about the School were justified.

May I be permitted to give vent to my humble opinion in assuming that by *proper quarters* " A Wellwisher " refers to the London Section of the Swiss Mercantile Society. If so, his proper and only course should have been to submit the sources and nature of his complaints direct to them, who, I feel most confident, would have been able upon their closer investigation to refute them entirely, or to prove them grossly exaggerated, if not wholly unfounded.

Although I cannot claim that privilege of being " an authority " on the subject raised, I am sufficiently acquainted with the gratifying and steady progress registered by our School and its most useful and exhaustive curriculum as to be able to state that by " A Wellwisher " having taken recourse to publicity, he not only ill served the S.M.S. and its School, but also its various Committees who with untiring devotion have and are still giving their very best services to promote the progress and welfare of the School. They hardly deserve such irresponsible publicity which may lead a large number of our Colony, who have the success of the School at heart, to wrong and misleading conclusions.

The school is run on the best possible lines when considering the very low fees charged, and nothing is left undone to improve further its well merited reputation and prestige.

The Society and its Committees are fully conscious of its national importance and are sufficiently patriotic to realise the vast responsibilities undertaken in endeavouring to make the School the big success it has already proved to be. The accommodation available is not nearly as bad as " A Wellwisher " would have us believe and the debatable necessity of the acquisition of new premises will by necessity largely be dependable on £ s. d.

It is to be regretted that " A Wellwisher " should have found it necessary to make his criticism under the cloak of anonymity.

46, Bramley Avenue, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Yours sincerely, H. C. MEILI.

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Dimanche 16 Novembre 11 h.—"Pourquoi prier?" M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30 h.—M. le Pasteur F. Christol—par échange.

7.30 h.—Réunion de Prières.

BAPTEME.

Richard Frederic Charles ZAUBONI, né le 28 Juillet 1930, fils de Fred. C. et de Frances, née Hosler, de Bevers (Grisons)—le 9 Nov. 1930.

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

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

Sonntag, den 16. November 1930.

11 Uhr morgens : Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

Sermon in English by the Right Rev. Bishop H. Bury, D.D., Assistant Bishop of London.

7 Uhr abends : Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr : Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen u. Religions-bzw. Konfirmandenunterricht sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde : C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Telephon : Chiswick 4156).

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, November 19th, at 7.45 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE : Monthly Meeting, of the London Group, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, to be followed by a causerie on " History of the Swiss Church in London," by the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Friday, November 28th.—CITY SWISS CLUB : Annual Banquet and Ball, at May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Monday, December 1st, at 8.30 p.m.—UNION HELVETIA CLUB : Annual Banquet and Ball, at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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