

Piano recital by Albert Ferber

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S.M.S. COLLEGE.

Those members of the Swiss Colony who pride themselves on being shrewd observers have noticed a sprinkling of young men with sunburnt faces at the Swiss Functions this summer. Others, who have crossed Fitzroy Square at lunch time during June and July have passed the full length of a row of young fellows in shirt sleeves sitting on the low wall which surrounds the pleasant greenery of the Square. There could be no doubt that Swiss House had come into its own again and the young men in shirt sleeves meant business. They were the hand-picked 50 students of the first course of the Swiss Mercantile Society College. The course started early in May and readers of the SWISS OBSERVER will remember a full report from the congenial pen of its Editor about the opening ceremony performed by Dr. Escher of the Swiss Legation.

For four months the young men had worked very hard at Fitzroy Square; they were all business men of some experience — only a few were under 25 and many over 30 — and they meant to make the best of their short stay in London. Several hundred applications had reached the Swiss Mercantile Society many months before the College opened and nearly all of them gave very good reasons for wishing to join the first course. But the limited space at Swiss House — now less than half its pre-war size — had set a definite limit to the numbers that could be admitted and the Education Committee had the onerous task of selecting 50 who, by reasons of their age, position in business and thorough grounding in English commended themselves for admission. It may seem strange that those should have been chosen who had reached the highest standard in English, but the idea was to give them an opportunity to perfect themselves within a single term of four months, after which they should make room for a new set of students from Switzerland.

The first course finished in August and a good number, though not all, sat for the Diploma Examination of the College and obtained good results. In keeping with the traditional policy of the College the students were given ample opportunity of seeing the sights of London under expert guidance and to go farther afield and visit some of the places that have made England famous in the eyes of the World: Canterbury, Birmingham, Coventry, the Derby, Stratford-on-Avon, Cambridge and others.

After the first course had been in progress for some time it was found possible to accommodate more students and a score were allowed to come over from Switzerland to form a preparatory class for the second course. This has now started, over 40 new candidates having arrived late last month, and with some students of the first course who are allowed to continue their studies, Swiss House is now filled to capacity with 90 young men. They no longer work in shirt sleeves in this wet weather but they still work hard and cheerfully.

The teaching is in capable hands, as any visitor to the College may see for himself. Visitors are, in fact, welcome and are asked to communicate with Mr. H. Marfurt, the Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, at Swiss House, who will gladly give any further information about the College. Mr. J. J. Schneider is back at his desk, too, and he will be particularly pleased to hear from anyone willing to take a Swiss

student as a paying guest. Finding accommodation for the students in English or Swiss families where English is spoken has been one of the chief difficulties since the re-opening of the College was decided upon by the Swiss Mercantile Society.

But difficulties have never defeated the undaunted and when the necessary repairs have been carried out at Swiss House some time during the coming months the College will be able to receive over 100 students including ladies. That will be a further step towards returning to normal at Swiss House.

W.M.

PIANO RECITAL BY ALBERT FERBER.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a piano recital by our compatriot Albert Ferber, which will take place on Friday, October 11th, 1946, at Wigmore Hall, W.1.

Mr. Ferber, who hails from Lucerne, is well-known in musical circles of this country; he has played in most European capitals and finished his studies with Gieseeking and Rachmaninoff.

This young and promising artiste has, on several occasions kindly given his support to some of the social events which have taken place in the Swiss Colony, such as the "Fête Suisse" and "1st of August" celebrations, and as a small recognition for his courtesy, we sincerely hope that many of our readers will find it convenient to attend his recital at Wigmore Hall.



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