

Swiss Club Manchester

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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.
Address by Prof. Jean P. Inebnit,
"Jean-Jacques Rousseau en Angleterre".

This year again the Manchester club had the privilege of enjoying an intimate "causerie" by our friend and Hon. member M. Jean P. Inebnit.

On Thursday 30th October, with the Count d'Ormano, French Consular Agent in Manchester, and Professor Vinaver, cultural counsellor to the French Embassy, with Madame Vinaver, as guests, and audience of about fifty listened for over an hour to a fascinating talk on Jean-Jacques Rousseau, given with many intimate details of the peculiarities of this famous compatriot.

Beginning with a few remarks about the birth of Rousseau at Geneva and the rival claims of French and Swiss origin, M. Inebnit took it for granted that his audience already knew of the life and revolutionary philosophy of Rousseau and the opposition, nay almost persecution, that his conduct and ideas had engendered. He began with Rousseau's hurried departure from France after being warned of his impending arrest. His arrival in the — then Prussian — principality of Neuchâtel and his stay at Motiers were described with many humorous anecdotes. When his welcome there was exhausted, his removal to the Isle of St. Peter on the lake of Bienné, where his short stay is described by Rousseau himself as the happiest of his life. When later Berne signified that he should leave this sanctuary also, he was offered hospitality in England — liberal England where surely all would be well — at the invitation of David Hume.

His stay in England — he landed at Dover in 1766 — where he was lionized by London Society as also severely censured by the moralists, notably by Dr. Johnson. After tiring of London Rousseau came to Derbyshire, staying at Wootton as the guest of Mr. Davenport. Here Prof. Inebnit, in his inimitable and romantic manner, portrayed Rousseau the admirer of open air and the lover of botany, as walking along the path in Dove Dale, scattering seeds of Alpine flowers on the way, thus trying to alleviate his nostalgia for his

native land. This would explain why, while visiting Dove Dale M. Inebnit found many alpine flowers such as gentians that would not normally grow in these parts.

And so on, continually moving from one place to another, quarelling with friends and benefactors and always haunted with the feeling of being persecuted. Not a very pleasant person to know, but a very rude man, although on rare occasions he could be quite charming. Some letters to his benefactors are in such abusing language that they can only have been written by a man a little mad. For instance a letter to Mr. Davenport after leaving Wootton. Details were given also of a quarrel with David Hume, whom Rousseau accused of treachery. Rousseau was often ungrateful, selfish, rude, but could not help it. In spite of such conduct he had always many supporters, this of course because of his admirable writings.

In conclusion M. Inebnit made a brief comparison of Rousseau with Voltaire, and whilst Voltaire's philosophy is much simpler, simpler to grasp and easier to apply, some of the ideas of Rousseau, going much deeper in our individual and social life, have never ceased to be a challenge to both the rulers and the peoples of the world.

H.M.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A very large attendance of members welcomed Miss Rose Titford when she visited Swiss House on the 31st October. For the first time in the history of the Society one of the gentler sex was the guest of the evening, and her display was an eye-opener for many of the members. It was a "mixed grill" and included pages, not only from her matchless collection of Austria and Lombardo-Venetia, but also from Bahamas, St. Christopher, Orange Free State, Bavaria, Shanghai and Brazil (Don Pedro). Everyone present agreed that this was the "best ever" meeting, and welcomed Miss Titford's promise of another display at a future date.

An Appeal . . .

The SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES in LONDON appeal once more to their compatriots for their kind contributions in kind or cash, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. All kinds of wearing apparel, household goods and furniture would be much appreciated and gratefully received.

Please send parcels, if possible not later than the end of November, to 31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and cash remittances to:

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31, Conway Street, W.1 · **The Revd. C. Reverdin, 7, Park View Road, Finchley, N.3.** · **The Revd. H. Spörri, 1, Womersley Road, N.8.**
The Revd. Father A. Lanfranchi, St. Anne's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

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