

Royal Court Theatre

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. "Grümpelschiessen"

In a very comfortable "Packard" driven by the President of the Swiss Rifle Association, I drove in beautiful sunshine through the lovely Surrey Hills in order to attend the, by now, famous, "Grümpelschiessen" which took place on Sunday, October 26th, at the Bisley Camp.

Hardly had we emerged from the car, when the targets went up, and without much further delay shooting began, soon after 9.30 a.m.

Shot after shot rang out, and the efficient range officers saw to it, that no undue delays occurred. By about noon, well over 30 members had arrived, which, I believe was a record.

This year's Grümpelschiessen was in more ways than one a memorable one. No less than three Swiss army Colonels were present, namely Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, the Swiss Minister (at one time a Colonel on the General Staff), Colonel Anton Bon and Lieutenant-Colonel i.G. P. Gygli, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation, the latter wearing his army uniform.

Shooting conditions were not exactly favourable, as a lively breeze swept over the shooting range, and the light was none to good, but in spite of these conditions, some remarkable results were obtained, which I hope to publish in one of the next issues.

Some of the competitors, however, amongst them the writer of this report, who hit various other objects baring the target, seemed to suffer from "stage fright", no doubt due to the attendance of such important personalities.

Shortly before 1 o'clock, the "cease fire" was given, and the competitors and visitors adjourned for luncheon at the Pavillion of the Surrey Rifle Club, where about 35 *couvert*s were laid.

At the top table were seated the President and Vice-President, the Minister and Colonels Bon and Gygli. Before coffee was served the President of the Swiss Rifle Association, Mr. Alfred Schmid, extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, and announced, that the excellent "Fendant" which was served with the meal, was a present from the Swiss Minister, and that the "Kirsch" which was served with the coffee came from the cellar of the Military Attaché, Lieutenant-colonel Gygli. This *beau geste* was greatly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

I am, however, not quite sure, whether this generosity did not have a bearing on some of the results obtained after the luncheon respite.

From experience, — not only on a shooting range — I hardly consider "Fendant" and "Kirsch" to have a very soothing or steadying effect on the nerves. Although there were only three targets in use, I saw at one time double that number, hence the poor result of my shooting. At least one of my good friends seemed to suffer from the same "illusion", and together we made history at Bisley by giving the markers at the other end, a no doubt, well deserved rest.

I have now been promised by my good friend and "Meisterschütz", Willy Fischer, a course of special tuition, and if I leave "Fendant" and "Kirsch" alone, at least during shooting, I may yet experience that exhilarating sensation of hitting a bull's eye.

In my youth, long since, I attended a Federal Shooting Competition in my home town, where I

obtained quite a good result. Ever since that date I had visions, that one day I might be crowned "Schützenkönig" and kissed on both cheeks by some of the attractive "Ehrendamen", but after last Sunday's performance I have given up all hope of ever being "crowned", but still hope to be kissed occasionally.

When the light faded out slowly, the shooting came to an end, and the competitors left the Bisley Shooting range after having spent several enjoyable hours in genial company.

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ROYAL COURT THEATRE.

We have pleasure in drawing our readers' attention to a West End production in French in which Miss Selma Vaz Dias, wife of Dr. H. W. Egli, is playing the lead. It is an existentialist play "Les Bonnes" by Jean Genet, much admired by Sartre, but fiercely criticised by others. Harold Hobson in the "Sunday Times" says of it: "I do not pretend that the play, though repulsive, is not first rate mental Grand Guignol for the sophisticatedly jaded. It certainly provides Miss Selma Vaz Dias, in the part of a baleful maid, with some astonishing and well-taken opportunities". . .

The play is given nightly at 8 p.m. at the Royal Court Theatre, until November 23rd. Tickets at 10/6, 7/6 and 5/- can be obtained only through members of this club theatre or by introduction from Miss Vaz Dias or Dr. Egli (Hampstead 2051 and Whitehall 0020).

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