

City Swiss Club

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Perhaps some jobs were of a routine nature, the same few operations all day long. But, then, that was no different when in days gone by everything had to be done by hand. No, this could not be the cause of the malady. When all was said there remained the fact that this mass mentality was nothing else than the collapse of the individuum. He had lost his inner measure of values.

Coming to politics we found that modern political institutions had to some extent assisted in creating the mass-type. The majority had become a semi-god. Yet, as Schiller said in Demetrius, majorities all powerful are dangerous. Often it was the minority which was right, had the right ideas and judgement. Thus democracy demanded that the minority should not only be heard but that their views should receive due consideration. But we also found that the mass-type of citizen refused to elect and to decide on his own estimation. Often he refused to elect or decide at all, leaving the responsibility to those who would. It was the same here as in other directions, people who had little or no inner resources of strength, no inner basis of life, were of course entirely dependent on outside stimuli. That was also the case in the use or misuse of the increased leisure modern times had given us. Mechanised leisure, mechanised entertainment, they were the results of our unreadiness for the pursuit of leisure. They filled the emptiness in mass-man's make-up.

Lastly, said the lecturer, there was the danger springing from the excessive demands of security. A modicum of security gave a feeling of independence and gave self-confidence. But we were nowadays faced with, what could only be called security mania, which did the opposite. The flight to the state was a symptom of it. The achievement of economic security might be the aim of democratic government but it was not the foundation of democracy. Democracy in the last instance, was a political philosophy; if applied it demanded the willing co-operation of all citizens and, at the same time, allowed them all actually and individually to take part in its work. But also, individuals must be willing and able to take on themselves the responsibilities of their decisions and choices and to do so by keeping their personal interest and emotions in perspective.

Well earned long applause told Professor Zbinden how highly the audience thought of his lecture.

JHB.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, on Friday, November 13th, of Mrs. Margaret Grace Hangartner, the beloved wife of Mr. R. Hangartner, of 36, Bonnersfield Lane, Harrow.

We very much regret to announce the passing away on November 1st, at his home 15, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1, of the Hon Neville Stafford Solomon, O.B.E., M.E.C., M.L.C., late Treasurer of the Bahamas, dearly beloved husband of Margaret Stafford Solomon, and brother of the late Sir Kenneth Solomon. C.B.E., Q.C., M.L.C., J.P., at the age of 85.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club, which was held at the Dorchester Hotel on 20th November, will be fully reported in our issue of 18th December.



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