

City Swiss Club

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is now 881. About 120 of these are in service, and it is hoped that this figure will be increased to some 500 main-line diesel locomotives by the end of this year.

Details of the orders are as follows:—

English Electric Co. Ltd., Marconi House, Strand, W.C.2.: 42 Type 3, 1750 h.p., main-line diesel-electric locomotives, and 30 Type 1, 1000 h.p., main-line diesel-electric locomotives.

British Thomson-Houston Co. Ltd., Rugby; 17 Type 1, 800 h.p., main-line diesel-electric locomotives.

Crompton Parkinson Ltd., Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex: 137 diesel-electric power-equipments for Type 4 locomotives to be erected in British Railways' workshops.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Albert Ferber at the "Soirée Familiale" at the Dorchester Hotel.

Despite an epidemic of "Flu", and no less than three functions following each other within three days, nearly a hundred ladies and gentlemen were present at the *Soirée Familiale* which took place at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Wednesday, 25th February.

In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. H. Knoll, the Vice-President, Mr. X. Speckert, occupied the Chair. He extended a hearty welcome to the Swiss Ambassador, and Madame Daeniker, Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, 1st Counsellor, and Madame de Tribolet, Monsieur R. Faessler, Commercial Counsellor, and Madame Faessler, Consul E. Ribi and Madame Ribi, Mr. A. J. Staehelin, Director, and Dr. John Brunner, Vice-Director, of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, Zurich, the last two gentlemen being the personal guests of the Swiss Ambassador.

Mr. Speckert then introduced Albert Ferber, our eminent compatriot, by saying: "He is an artist we always look forward to welcoming at the City Swiss Club", and in conclusion extended a warm welcome to the ladies.

Albert Ferber, suiting the occasion, had chosen for his pianoforte recital a conventional programme by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Scriabin and Debussy.

By his playing the Fantasy in D minor by Mozart, he exhibited a lyrical seriousness and a sustained beauty of tone. He gave a marvellously unhackneyed and uninhibited performance of Beethoven's Sonata op. 13 No. 8 (Pathétique) in three movements. Much as this work is overplayed, it was pure pleasure to listen to his rendering.

Schubert's Impromptu, op. 90 No. 1, gave him the richest opportunity to display those subtleties of phrasing that have always made his musicianship so memorable. This was followed by Polonaise in C minor, Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor, in which he displayed qualities of musical imagination, fullness and warmth of tone.

Scriabin's 2 Etudes proved that Albert Ferber has an extremely well-developed and brilliant technique, particularly in his fast-moving fingers.

The recital ended with Debussy's Reflets Sans l'eau, Mouvement Jardins sous la pluie, played with rich variety of tone colour and tempo and scrupulous attention to detail.

Each item of the programme was loudly and deservedly applauded, and at the close of his recital he received a spontaneous ovation, which he generously acknowledged by an *encore*. It was all in all an evening of superb music making.

The committee of the City Swiss Club deserves thanks from all those who were present for having given us once more an opportunity to hear our gifted compatriot, who possesses technical skill and musical insight in such great abundance.

Before breaking up, Mr. Speckert, on behalf of the company, warmly thanked Albert Ferber for the great pleasure he had given us.

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