

Swiss Mercantile Society

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zum Aufbruch: die Lichter werden zur Hälfte gelöscht, die Fenster geöffnet; es wird ungemütlich; man flieht ins Bett.

Der englische Komfort erscheint mir überhaupt als etwas sagenhaft, zwar sah ich ein einziges "home" (bei einem Schweizer—und das war vorzüglich); in den Hotelzimmern, in vielen Restaurants, in den Bureaux, da hat man glühende Kaminfeuer, im Rücken jedoch irgendeinen Luftzug; denn die Fenster schliessen ungefähr wie in Italien, bei etwas trüberer Witterung. . . . An ein Anderes konnte ich mich auch nicht gewöhnen: die englische Küche! Meine Freunde wissen, wie wenig ich sonst solche Dinge beachte; da war es aber zum Verzweifeln; über dieser geschmacklosen Kost begriff man endlich die Erfindung des englischen Senfes.

(Fortsetzung folgt.)

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting on January 13th held at the Union Helvetia was attended by about 80 members. The chair was taken by Mr. Strubin, Mr. Werner, the President, being indisposed. The business part was preceded by a "Schübling und Suurchrut" supper, which did great credit to the steward, Mr. Wyss, and proved that the profiteering mania had not penetrated into No. 1 Gerrard Place. Mr. Harding delivered a short lecture on "Business Efficiency" and laid special stress on discipline and organisation; nature itself, he said, is always true to time. He managed to concentrate the attention of the audience on his very interesting conclusions, and received a hearty vote of thanks.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and confirmed, 26 applications for membership were then considered. There being no objections, they were unanimously elected members; three resignations were accepted.

Mr. Paschoud addressed the meeting on the formation of a Sports Section. A discussion followed which testified to the existence of a sporting spirit, but showed the difficulty of securing sufficient active support for it in any particular form (running, football, etc.). The matter was finally left to a sub-committee for further consideration.

CONCERT OF THE NOUV. SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE,

Last Friday's Concert of the Nouv. Soc. Helvétique proved a great success, from the point of view of attendance as well as the programme. The spacious St. George's Hall of the Y.M.C.A. has probably seldom harboured such an enthusiastic gathering which filled every corner to its last capacity. The organising committee and all the artists deserved every praise for the memorable event.

The concert started a full quarter of an hour after the time announced—but who finds fault with this? The "academic quarter" is so incarnated in all our Swiss societies that we should look upon it as cultural marasmus if ever one of them should take a leaf out of the book of English timekeeping. The or-

chestra of the Swiss Institute opened the first part of the programme with the overture of "Marriage of Figaro" and the second part with "Tannhäuser." The selection of these classical pieces, which are only played by full-blooded orchestras, shows to what high musical attainment Mr. Dick aspires with the musicians under his efficient baton. But as most of us go to a Swiss concert more with the idea to hear familiar strains from our native country than classical music, the potpourri of Swiss songs at the end of the programme went more to our heart. This made our veins swell with a feeling of national exuberance and nostalgia. The Choral Society showed great progress since we heard them a year ago; under the conductorship of Mr. Pestou they sang "Das weisse Kreuz im roten Feld" and "Burschenabschied" with much sentiment and vivacity. The Gymnastic Society of the Union Helvetia gave us a very pleasant surprise with their pyramids and tableaux vivants; the entertainment of the acrobats would do credit to any professional performance. The string quartette was a fine piece of chamber music, and the following applause proved how the audience appreciated it.

It is difficult to say anything about the solo parts of the programme, because all the items were of the same first-rate character. We cannot imagine a Swiss concert without some songs from Mr. Gaillard's sympathetic and harmonious voice, and our professor of music is never appealed to in vain on such an occasion. Mr. Gaillard, together with Mlle. Chevalley, generously stepped in to replace Miss Dorio, whose absence owing to illness was deeply regretted by those who heard her on previous occasions. Of Mr. Gaillard's songs the sweet melodies of the "Vieille Chanson Suisse" seemed to make deepest impression—no doubt owing to its Swiss birth mark. Artists are naturally reticent to repeat themselves, but human nature is conservative, and for many of us our folksongs are the alpha and omega of music. Mlle. Chevalley sang "Les Noces de Jeannette" with charm and temperament, and the two duets were much appreciated.

Our humorist, Mr. Kiefer, was very enjoyable in his two recitations "Luschigs vo Basel," but, to be frank, we must confess that we have heard him in pieces which allowed more playground for his excellent Basler mimic. Apparently pure gold does not always flow from Frau Merian's poetical spring.—The soirée reached its climax with the Jodler—the Esperanto of the three Swiss nationalities. The Schwyzer and Appenzeller Jodel songs were cheered to the echo, and Mr. Roos got no peace until he had unfolded his whole repertoire.

To sum up: it was a splendid evening, and we hope that, with the coffers of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique replenished and the devotion of the artists for a patriotic cause unfaded, we shall see a repetition before another year is out. "OPTIMUS."

Mr. GEORGES DIMIER celebrates on 2nd February next his 67th birthday; he is at present staying in St. Moritz enjoying winter sports.

EGLISE SUISSE.

BAPTEMES.

Raymond Pierre GENTON, né le 27 Nov. 1920, fils de Charles et de Gabrielle, née Allan; de Puidoux (Vaud)—le 16 Janvier 1921.

René Douglas Mercer AEGERTER, né le 10 Juil. 1920, fils de Rodolphe et de Ada Lilian, née Mercer; de Langnau (Berne)—le 16 Janvier 1921.

MARRIAGE.

Bernard Louis Fritz MARTINI de Genève et de Emilienne Marie Louise BUVELAT de Genève—le 22 Janvier 1921.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Pour Walter EGLI de Zurich, né le 10 Déc. 1895, décédé le 18 Janv. 1921—le 24 Janvier 1921.

CULTES.

30 Jan. 11h.—M. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30.—SERVICE MUSICAL: Invitation spéciale à chacun.

6 Fév. 11h.—M. Boissonnas.

6.30.—Gottesdienst in "Schwyzerdütsch".

10 Fév. 8.30.—Wesley et le méthodisme. Causerie par M. Hoffmann-de Visme.

13 Fév. 11h. et 6.30.—Service de Cène.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

JAN. 29.—CITY SWISS CLUB. Cinderella Dance at 6.30 p.m.

FEB. 1.—CITY SWISS CLUB. Monthly Meeting and Supper, 6.30.

FEB. 4.—THE SWISS INSTITUTE. Karl Marx "Capital." A Criticism by J. T. Mustard, Esq., 8.30 p.m.

FEB. 11.—DITTO. "The Tonic of Laughter." A Lecture Recital by Percy Merriman, Esq., 8.30 p.m.

FEB. 18.—NOUV. SOC. HELVÉTIQUE.—General Meeting, Steinway Hall, at 8 p.m.

BY AEROPLANE OVER THE SWISS ALPS.

A Lecture combined with Cinematographic Film Display will be arranged for the middle of March next.

Lecturer: Chief Pilot Mons. Henri Pillichody, of Geneva.

Answers to Correspondents.

P. P., Sidcup.—Thanks. Your assumption is quite correct.

Miss S.—No doubt, many will agree with you that those gentlemen present at the N.S.H. Concert, who could not refrain from smoking during the singing, did not add to the comfort of the ladies in the audience nor to those of the performers.