

# Pro Helevetica dignitate Ac securitate

Autor(en): **REutner, Alice H.**

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## PRO HELVETICA DIGNITATE AC SECURITATE.

As the first Woman Member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London), I feel it my duty to say some words about this year's Annual Meeting (18th of February, 1921, at Steinway Hall), for if women accept rights, they also accept responsibilities.

I might have been allowed to express my views at the meeting itself; but there was enough talking already—there was too much TALK, hélas!

The contrast altogether with last year's Annual Meeting was great and sad. THEN, one went away, proud to be Swiss, and proud also to belong to this Society, representing the best aspirations of Switzerland. This time one wonders really what it was all about, and those people whose time is precious might, indeed, have used it in a more advantageous way.

There were a few redeeming features. The Treasurer's financial statement was very clear, and the conclusion drawn by him at the end not too pessimistic. Mr. Baer's report (for the reason of Mr. Baer's slight illness and absence read by the Vice-President) was excellent and most hopeful for real constructive plans, also for the coming year. But Mr. Baer's PERSONALITY was missing, and although his representative did his very best, his task was truly an ungrateful one. Instead of a lively and enthusiastic discussion of the new programme set forth, small points came uppermost, such as theoretical questions of Conseil elections and their reflections on the status generally, which in my opinion might be cleared up at any other occasion and in a different spirit.

But the most painful, to my mind, was the criticism of some young Swiss, whose names are on the list of Councillors, and in whose hands the fate of the N.S.H. may lie to some extent. They complained in a rather aggressive way of what they called the "Academic Lectures," delivered in the N.S.H., and they insisted that the lectures must be more popular. We were told by one of them that it is no good reflecting on serious problems now that as a matter of fact the War will be forgotten within two years, and one might have envied the speaker for such a conveniently short memory, did one not rather wish humanity to remember this cataclysm and its consequences as a deep and serious warning.

Anybody who knows about Academic Lectures, will agree, that all the Conferences delivered at the N.S.H. were far from academic, and if they are asked to be on a lower level, it seems a sad enough sign for our Swiss youth and its general interests. As names of lectures and of lecturers were mentioned in a none too gallant way, it is fair only to point out the tremendous success which for instance Prof. Bovet had with his subject and the way he shaped it. The whole hall was filled with enthusiasm, and I think many of us will remember that evening as one of the outstanding ones of the N.S.H.

But we were assured by the same responsible people that the great success of the Concerts is by far the most important test of the welfare of the

Society, and it must work on such lines more and more.

Now, as far as I know, the N.S.H. in London, conforming to its spirit in Switzerland, was meant to be a Society of chiefly INTELLECTUAL AIMS. There surely are a number of other Swiss Societies in London which follow all sorts of other ambitions, including social ones, and the N.S.H. would do much better to keep to its own ideals, which, thank God, were on a somewhat elevated level. It will pass through a serious crisis anyway at the moment of Dr. Latt's departure, for it will not be easy, hardly possible, to find a personality with the same knowledge, tact and understanding of Swiss AND English mentality. If the N.S.H. at the same time is going to lower its mental standard, there will be a good many members who can make a more worthy use of their personal interest and extra subscription. But although we are told that lower subscriptions would be serious, it would be more serious even from an idealistic point of view, for the N.S.H. must do its best NOT to degenerate, but to keep up its high motto: PRO HELVETICA DIGNITATE AC SECURITATE.

Alice H. Reutiner.

## IS CONSUMPTION CON- QUERED?

"Sensational Discovery of Swiss Scientist"—"Cures stand Test of Years"—"Treatment which Succeeds in Advanced Cases"—"Doctors Astonished by its Success"—these are some of the headlines under which the English Press proceeded to inform the readers at large of an epoch-making discovery, which ranks as an announcement of unparalleled importance in the world of medical research.

Dr. Henri Spahlinger, of Geneva, who claims to have discovered an anti-tuberculosis serum, like the now world-famous Pasteur, is not a qualified medical man. He is a doctor of law, having abandoned a legal career to follow his strong inclination for bacteriological research, to which, after having passed through a complete medical course, he has devoted the last twelve years of his life with astounding success.

That his scientific efforts for combating mankind's deadliest foe, consumption, are duly recognised in the professional world, is signified by the important fact that Prof. D'Arsonval has recently presented a paper by the Swiss scientist on the "Treatment of Tuberculosis" at the Institute de France, the world's greatest scientific organisation, in which paper also appeared a report by Dr. Leonard Williams, the well-known Harley-street specialist and physician of the French and Metropolitan Hospitals, London, who says: "I am impelled to-day to draw attention to the scientific importance of this anti-tubercular vaccination, of which the efficiency is established in conclusive manner over a period of six years." Further, Dr. Edmond Lardy, President of the Federal Board of Examiners at the University of Geneva, in a report dated October, 1915, states: "We may say that so long as a consumptive is living, no matter how far gone his case may be, he can be cured by the Spahlinger Treatment."

In view of the tremendous importance of such a discovery it is only natural that the wide publicity given to the subject should also have called forth from amongst the medical profession voices of caution and scepticism, as the hope of the public has so many times previously been dashed to the ground by loudly heralded "consumption cures" which proved dire failures.

In the interests of humanity it is, nevertheless, to be hoped that H.M. Ministry of Health will not unduly delay the most searching and exhaustive investigation, which Dr. Spahlinger will doubtless welcome for the sake of his own reputation.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

The organising Committee and those members of the Club who co-operated by attending, have every reason to be pleased with the success which was attained by the Reception and Dinner, given in honour of the members of the "Swiss Mission for the Study of Economic and Commercial Matters" in Gatti's Large Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 22nd inst.

The chair was occupied by the Swiss Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, Honorary President of the Club, who rose to give the King's Toast.

The President of the Swiss Club, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, extended a most cordial welcome to the guests of the evening, emphasising the fact that it afforded him special pleasure to be privileged to greet such a representative and important body of industrial and commercial gentlemen from the Mother Country, and to create an opportunity for their intercourse with the members of the City Swiss Club who represented identical interests in Great Britain. The President's invitation to the members to raise their glasses and join him in drinking to the health and success of the guests was most enthusiastically responded to.

Then rose Mr. W. Marti, from Berne, President of the Swiss Mission, to offer in appreciative terms sincere thanks for the hearty and spontaneous welcome which had been extended to the members of the Mission. In alluding to the trying and most exacting times which the Swiss nation had to endure during the war, Mr. Marti mentioned that the exigencies of such an unprecedented upheaval of the world were bound to produce mistakes in some quarters or others, but anybody, having due regard to the complex composition of our Mother Country, would find such mistakes comprehensible if not entirely pardonable, and if at times the tension between the French-speaking and German-speaking Swiss appeared unnecessarily high strung, the storm was well weathered and has ultimately led to a firmer and more perfect cohesion of the three, linguistically differing, sections of the Swiss nation, all of which have at heart but one aim, to keep that standard with the White Cross proudly flying. In one direction, however, the unity of the Swiss people manifested itself supremely, earning for them world-wide appreciation, and that was in the earnest endeavour to do the utmost to alleviate the sufferings of those disabled combatants from the warring nations which