

Eglise suisse = Schweizerkirche

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pitiable glimpse of the young tortured face as Marguerite is released from the stocks, and the heartrending gesture of hands still virginal as some wretch in the crowd hurls at her a name she has not yet realised.

And there I would to God the film had finished. Tragedy indeed is inevitable. But the tragedy of Faust lies not here beside Marguerite. To bring her to the stake was not necessary, an historical error and a dramatic climax unwanted in a story so lovely and heart-touching. As soon as I saw Faust flying past storm-swept coasts to regain his Marguerite, I gathered my things about me and began to leave, partly so that I might avoid seeing Faust dragged to the stake at which they would burn my Marguerite, and partly so that when the lights went up those about me should not see my tears.

A little over-dramatic and sentimental though the end may have been to my taste, the fact seemed obvious to me that the film was a masterpiece. I am not so stupidly proud as to believe that I alone of those who first saw it was capable of appreciating it. Doubtless there were hundreds who wept and yearned as I did over this fine young actress and the marvellously contrived pictures. But these hundreds were not the critics, as their reviews showed. Not that one should be surprised at that, for the professionally critical audience is the last to take light from the spark of genius. Its attention is too damp with the determination to criticise rather than to enjoy. Thus it is that new departures in the arts are not as a rule received with open arms. Putting aside all the classical examples of Wagner and Beethoven, we may turn to this very subject of Faust. The reception of Gounod's Opera at the Theatre Lyrique, of Paris, in 1859, was indeed chilly. The burden of the criticism was just like that of the film, namely the failure to reproduce all of Goethe's philosophy. Berlioz, who himself wrote an opera on the same subject superior, from the classical point of view, to Gounod's work, was the only one present who wrote of its great popular possibilities. It was a new departure, and the critical fraternity with their minds fixed upon the poem could not see the Opera. Afterwards, the people had to discover it for themselves.

Well, the critical public cared not overmuch for the film. But I imagine and hope that the people will discover it for themselves. History must inevitably repeat itself.

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The January Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House, 34 and 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1., on Wednesday, the 12th January. This marks the first meeting of its kind that has been held there; over forty members attended, and everybody looked quite at home, especially after the nice little supper which was served before the business part of the programme.

The President, Mr. A. C. Stahelin, was in the chair. There were 11 admissions and 9 resignations; also the meeting elected unanimously Mr. J. Geillinger, in consideration of many services rendered to the Swiss Colony, honorary member of the Society. Mr. B. Bretscher and Mr. J. Boos, Chairman and Secretary of the House Committee, presented brief reports on the activities of their Committee, also how much money had been spent so far on furniture, and they were then authorised by the Meeting to purchase a billiard table. A rather lengthy debate followed on "The Swiss House Club Bye-Laws" and the "General Rules of Swiss House Education Dept." which had been drawn up and submitted to the Members by the Committee, and ended by same being duly accepted.

On the recommendation of the President of the Entertainment Committee, the Meeting decided to increase the price of the tickets for the future Cinderella Dances to 8/6, as, since the introduction of supper, these dances have been a loss to the Society. For the Annual Dinner and Dance, which takes place on the 5th of February at the Midland Grand Hotel, a Banquet Committee was elected, and the price of the tickets fixed at 12/6. The meeting concluded at 11 p.m.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. Erich Hofmann, Zürich: "Do you Be-

lieve in Fate?" Mr. Max Studer, Basle: "The Russian Problem." Mr. E. Hüni, Zürich: "English History." Mr. Traugott Plüss, Olten: "The Game of Football." Mr. Theo. Bögéholz, Chur: "Brazil." Mr. Werner Füllemann, Steckborn: "The Universal History in Films." Mr. Edwin Schlenker, Wetzikon: "Sicily." Mr. Joseph Schmid, Sursee: "The Organisation of Silk-stuff Factories." Mr. Fritz Messerli, Lenk B.O.: "The Swiss Army and its Abolishment." Mr. Paul Etter, Romanshorn: "The Question of our Canton Ticino." Miss Yvonne Baron: "Guy's Hospital." Miss H. Hodel, Lucerne: "Why We Work." Miss Marta Inglin, Altdorf: "Bird Life in Spring." Mr. Fritz Michel, Interlaken: "Modern Jewellery."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Which of the two has the greater influence upon mankind at present, the Cinema or the Theatre?" Cinemas: Miss Marguerite Fischer, Menziken/Aargau; Theatre: Mr. Peter Thomi, Burgdorf.

"Should Switzerland be a Member of the League of Nations?" Proposer: Mr. Jean Jordi, Brugg; Opposer, Mr. Emil Lutz, Rheineck.

"Is Missionary work amongst the uncivilised a good or a bad thing?" 1st Proposer, Mr. Freddy de Segesser, Degersheim (St. Gall.); 2nd Proposer, Mr. F. Rigert, Lucerne; 1st Opposer, Mr. Freddy de Segesser, Degersheim (St. Gall.); 2nd Opposer, Mr. A. Antenen, Thun.

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Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 1er FEVRIER au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Ordre du Jour:

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

Divine Services.

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(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 23 Janvier, 11h. et 6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

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SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 22 Januar, 11 Uhr vorm: Predigt.
7 Uhr abends: Predigt.

8 Uhr: Chorpöbe.
Konfirmandenstunde Mittwoch abends 6.30, im Foyer Suisse.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 in der Kirche.
Mittwoch 3—5 im 'Foyer Suisse.'

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc. an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, January 28th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Debate, "Are Science and Inventions Beneficial to Mankind," at 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Tuesday, February 1st, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting at Pagan's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

Friday, February 4th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture, "English and Swiss Local Government Contrasted," by A. T. Pike, Esq., at 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, February 5th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Saturday, February 19th, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Pagan's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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