

Forthcoming events

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Issue No. 401 (June 29th, 1929).

Death of Mr. Ad. Meister.

Issue No. 405 (July 27th, 1929).

Death of Mr. A. L. Dumoulin.

Issue No. 407 (August 10th, 1929).

First of August celebration at Hendon.

Issue No. 408 (August 17th, 1929).

Swiss Team wins Army Officers' Jumping competition at Dublin Horse Show.

(To be continued.)

Back numbers of the *Swiss Observer* are obtainable from this office at 4d. per copy (post free). Orders, which must be prepaid, should be addressed: "Swiss Observer," 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

Notes and Gleanings—(Continued)

before either the one or the other has had time to cool. The various parts thus stuck together are then assembled, and the whole placed in these enormous presses, where they are squared so perfectly that it is the rarest thing for Swiss furniture to lose a wedge or gape at a joint.

After this the pieces are subjected to chemical treatment to add to their colour or decoration. Special workshops are set aside for this purpose where the least speck of dust is hunted down pitilessly for fear of spoiling the perfect polish of the pieces of furniture under treatment.

Up to the present the modern cabinet-maker in Switzerland has been devoting his energies to very dear and extremely fin-de-siècle sets of furniture, simple in form but elaborately ornamented as regards inlay, polish and colour. Certain signs, however, tend to prove that he is turning his attention to less expensive work; and at the recent exhibition at Basle bedroom and living-room sets of furniture suitable for folk of modest means vied in charm and utility with more pretentious furniture. Needless to say, simplicity of design is one of the marks of modern Swiss cabinetmaking.

It is surprising to see how many various bits of information about Switzerland get into the British Press, and I generally conclude therefrom that British Readers take a gratifying interest in things Swiss in general. Which is as it should be, because the two peoples have much in common.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

During last week in connection with the scholastic programme, the debating classes dealt with the following subjects:

"Are you in favour of Missionaries?" Miss E. Wissmann, Zurich: Proposer. Mr. P. Bertschmann, Basle: Opposer.

"Charity begins at Home." Messrs. Bertschmann, Kilcher: Proposers. Messrs. Schüpbach, Egg: Opposers.

On Friday Evening, January 2nd, 1931, Captain F. F. G. Messum delivered a lecture (with lantern slides) on the "Argentine Republic."

XAVIER CASTELLI. †

Mr. Xavier Castelli, whose sudden death at his residence in Hampstead, at the age of 68, we regret to announce, was well known to the Swiss Colony in London through his many years of association with the Swiss Bank Corporation.

Mr. Castelli began his banking career with the Crédit Lyonnais in London and subsequently joined the staff of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris. It was in the service of this latter institution that he went to India, where some years afterwards he was appointed Manager of the Calcutta branch. On his return to England he became Manager of the Eastern and Foreign branches of this Bank at the London Office. During the next stage of his career he acted as secretary to Sir Ernest Cassel, from whose service he was called in 1905 to the position of Manager of the London Office of the Swiss Bank, where he worked under the leadership of Mr. Leon Rueff.

It was from this time onwards that Mr. Castelli's association with Switzerland and Swiss people, both at home and in England, commenced to grow. The outbreak of war in 1914 naturally placed the Swiss Bank in an outstanding, and not always enviable position among London financial institutions and it was due in no small measure to Mr. Castelli's tact, enthusiasm and courage that the Bank became accepted from the start as a centre of "neutrality" in the City.

The position of General Manager, to which he was appointed in 1916, carried with it many extra responsibilities in this connection and involved much travel between Switzerland and London at a time when such journeys were not the simple affair to which the traveller of 1931 is accustomed. The writer remembers Mr. Castelli's passport, stamped and counter-stamped by hundreds of authorities, as a striking testimony to the travels he accomplished during those years.

In 1923 he was elected to a seat on the Board and consequently to the position of Managing

Director in London, and when, in 1926, he retired from the London Management, he retained this directorship and continued in active association with Switzerland through his attendance of Board Meetings. His directorship of the Clayton Aniline Co. Ltd., in Manchester, also represented a close tie with Switzerland, as this concern is the English subsidiary of the great Society for Chemical Industry in Basle.

Before his retirement Mr. Castelli had moved from his London home to Westgate for reasons of health but during the last year he returned to London and settled in Hampstead. His sudden death came as a great shock to his City friends, many of whom had met him quite recently and were unaware that he was in any way an ailing man. He leaves a widow, three sons—the lost two sons in the War—and a daughter. The sincere sympathy of the Swiss Colony in London is extended to his family.

ARMAND PAUL ROSSELET-DROUX. †

Notre ami n'est plus; cet homme au caractère droit empreint d'une extrême franchise, aux abords parfois frondeurs mais où la bonté et la bonhomie finissaient toujours par percer, vient d'être enlevé subitement dans la fleur de l'âge à l'affection des siens et de notre colonie.

Pour nous tous, la mort d'Armand Rosselet est une grande perte, et les nombreux amis qui ont assisté dimanche passé au service funèbre à l'Eglise suisse, ont entendu retracer en termes poignants ce qu'avaient été sa vie et ses aspirations.

Bourgeois des Bayards, né à St. Imier en 1889, il y suivit les écoles et compléta son apprentissage à la "Nationale," puis recherchant l'aventure et plein de ressort, il courut le monde et fit plusieurs voyages au long cours dont il se plaisait à raconter les péripéties à l'aide de savoureuses expressions, mais ce n'est qu'en 1914, grâce à certaines conditions dues à la guerre, qu'il se fixa à Londres afin d'y faire carrière.

Chargé de l'exécution de divers travaux par la maison d'horlogerie Moïse Dreyfuss, il s'y attacha définitivement en 1916, et fit preuve à maintes reprises d'une grande capacité de travail, ses chefs, savaient apprécier son jugement sûr de parfait comptable.

Dans la suite, Armand Rosselet ne tarda pas à s'intéresser aux affaires de la colonie; ses goûts le conduisirent tout d'abord en 1916 à la "Swiss Mercantile Society," dont il fut chef de cours, vérificateur des comptes, et finalement, élu membre honoraire en 1930 afin de marquer la reconnaissance et l'estime qu'il inspirait.

Durant quelques années, il assista régulièrement au Fonds de Secours aux séances hebdomadaires dites du lundi, et là encore, ses services furent mis à contribution lors des révisions annuelles.

C'est à la "Société de Secours Mutuels" qu'il se manifesta peut-être le plus activement, il y entra en 1919, fit partie de son comité dès 1922, et en 1929 voulant témoigner l'affection qu'il lui vouait, accepta le poste de trésorier qu'il remplit avec son dévouement coutumier; terminons en disant de lui, qu'il avait à cœur de mener à bien toute mission dont il s'était chargé, à témoin aussi le grand zèle dont il fit preuve chaque année lors de l'organisation de la Fête suisse.

Il s'en va dans ce coin de France, où repose déjà depuis plus de trois ans sa chère fillette dont il avait tant pleuré la mort, c'était son désir souvent exprimé et auquel il est fait droit hélas! bien prématurément.

Qu'il nous soit permis ici, de renouveler à sa famille l'expression de la sympathie la plus profonde de notre colonie, un vide vient de s'y creuser, un caractère marquant a disparu!

CeC.

An inquest on the late Mr. A. P. Rosselet-Droux was held by the Battersea Coroner on Tuesday, 6th inst. A verdict of death from accidental causes was recorded and the Coroner expressed his sympathy with the relatives.

La Maison Moïse Dreyfuss a le regret de faire part à ses amis et connaissances de la perte qu'elle vient d'éprouver en la personne de Monsieur

Armand Rosselet-Droux,
leur fidèle collaborateur pendant 15 ans.

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Dimanche 11. Janvier 11 h.—M. M. Pradervand.
6.30 h.—M. M. Pradervand.
7.30 h.—Réunion de prière.

BAPTEME.

Paul Georges Rodolphe Ryf, né le 1 Août 1930, fils de Rodolphe et d'Éthel Louise née Spalding—de Rumisberg (Berne)—le 4.1.31.

SERVICE FUNÈBRE.

Un service en mémoire d'Armand Paul Rosselet-Droux des Bayards (Neuchâtel) né le 23. octobre 1889, décédé dans sa 41^{me} année le 31. décembre 1930 a été célébré à l'Eglise suisse le 4. janvier 1931.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798).—Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30—12 h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 11 Januar 1931.

11 Uhr vorm: Gottesdienst und Sonntag-

schule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen u. Religionsunterricht sind an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde, C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4, erbeten. Telephone: Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, January 14th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS

MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at

"Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, January 17th.—CITY SWISS CLUB:

First Cinderella at the May Fair Hotel,

Berkeley Square, W.1.

Wednesday, January 21st, at 7.45 p.m.—NOT-

VELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Monthly Meeting

of the London Group, followed by a short

address by Dr. Walter E. R. Mors on "The

Psychology of Cancer in the light of the latest

Research," at the "Swiss House," 34/35,

Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, January 30th at 8 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL

SOCIETY: Social Evening and Tombola at the

Union Helvetia Club, 1, Geraud Place, W.1.

Wednesday, February 4th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ

DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting, at

74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, February 7th, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Ban-

quet and Ball, at the Midland Grand

Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Wednesday, February 25th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS

MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meet-

ing at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square,

W.1.

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