

Fête annuelle de l'arbre de Noël des enfants de la colonie

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A FAMOUS RESTAURANT.

It is a well-known and undisputable fact, that the Swiss have established a solid and renowned reputation in the Hotel and Restaurant Profession. In this domain they are past masters, and the list of our compatriots, who are at the head of world famous Hotels and Restaurants, either as Proprietors or Managers, is a very long and distinguished one.

One of the most famous Restaurants in this big Metropolis of ours is "Pagani's" in Great Portland Street, which for many years has enjoyed the reputation of being the haunt of Bohemian London: it is, by the way, also the home of the City Swiss Club, one of the most exclusive Societies of the Swiss Colony in London.

The Restaurant was opened in 1871 by Mario Pagani. It was in 1896 that the present Mr. Meschini's father became connected with the business and in 1903 he bought out the remaining Pagani. In 1907, Mr. Meschini, sen., died, and since that date the Restaurant has been under the Management of his wife, Mrs. Linda Meschini, and their son Mr. A. Meschini.



MR. A. MESCHINI,
Joint Proprietor of PAGANI'S RESTAURANT.

In 1907 the premises were not half the size they are to-day. Mr. A. Meschini took over the premises at the back of the Restaurant (a Unitarian Chapel in 1910) and incorporated them in the Restaurant. There is something so charmingly unlike other structures about the building and the exterior symbolises the entire character of the Restaurant. It will, no doubt, interest our readers to know that the building itself is worthy of notice from an architectural view-point, since it was remodelled by one of the most distinguished architects, Professor Beresford Pite, F.R.I.B.A., late Professor of Architecture at South Kensington.

There are two banquetting rooms capable of holding 200 and 100 people respectively, and smaller rooms, including the now famous Artists' Room. The latter, being the Rendez-vous of the most famous people known in the sphere of Arts, the walls of which are decorated with pictures, caricatures and autographs of the most famous people of the day. King Edward, when he was Prince of Wales, was a frequent visitor. Celebrities such as Tosti, Albanesi, Caruso, Paderewski, Kreisler, Melba, Phil May, Louis Wain, Sir Henry Wood and many others, used to meet regularly at Pagani's.

It is quite superfluous to dwell to any extent on the excellence of the Pagani menus, and Pagani's cellar, will satisfy even the most exacting connoisseur, their extensive wine cellars harbouring some of the best vintages in town.

Many of our countrymen have, no doubt, at one time or another visited the Restaurant of our famous compatriots, Mr. A. and Mrs. L. Meschini, and have undoubtedly experienced a feeling of homeliness, a feeling of being "chez soi," and those of our readers who have not yet entered the portals of this famous realm of "Schlaraffia" should lose no time in spending an evening at Great Portland Street, they will not regret their visit, and will return there again and again.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

CITY SWISS CLUB

JANUARY 5th, 1932.

January meeting. Attendance poor. Twenty one present. Two admissions. No resignations.

Discussion — Cinderellas, to be or not to be.

After 21 persons had expressed 21 different opinions including propositions, counter-propositions, amendments and counter amendments while Mr. G. Marchand, who presided, continued to smile benignly, it was decided to hold a Cinderella Dance on February 20th and a "Soirée familiale" on a date to be fixed later, coinciding with one of the ordinary Meetings—

Shall we dance, shall we dine; shall we dine, shall we dance.

Shall we leave the whole of the question to chance?

Some wanted to dance, and some wanted to dine

While others thought both would be really divine.

Will members who were present as well as those who were not, kindly note.

ck.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED.

The annual Fancy Dress Ball was held on the 2nd January at the Midland Hotel, and was attended by 140 members and friends. If one bears in mind the uncertainties of the present times and the bad weather prevailing on that evening, this can certainly be considered a very satisfactory result.

And none of those who attended had cause for regretting it, as the function was, from beginning to end, a great success. Everyone seemed most anxious to give the New Year a good start, and to make the best of the opportunities, the happy result being a very friendly and joyful spirit much in evidence all the time.

When it is further added that the arrangements worked to perfection, that the dinner was excellent, the prizes very acceptable and, last, but not least, that the Band gave a wonderful performance, it is certainly not wrong to state that those who stayed away missed quite a lot.

Unfortunately, only a very few turned up in Fancy Dress, but, in fairness, it must be said that "quality" made up for "quantity," as proved by the unanimous applause with which the prize winners were greeted.

One o'clock, the unfortunate time when one had to part, arrived much too soon, but the recollection of those happy hours will remain for long in the memories of all those who were fortunate enough to be present.

Our congratulations and thanks to the organisers.

One who enjoyed himself thoroughly.

The next social event which, by the way, will be the last one of the Season, namely a Cinderella Dance, will take place at the Midland Hotel, on Saturday, February 6th. Further particulars will be sent in due course. In the meantime please keep this date open.

FETE ANNUELLE DE L'ARBRE DE NOEL DES ENFANTS DE LA COLONIE.

Samedi 2 janvier eut lieu au "Victoria Hall" de Southampton Row, la Fête Annuelle de l'Arbre de Noël pour tous les enfants de la colonie, fête fort bien réussie à laquelle prirent part 407 enfants (un record) et bon nombre de parents qui les accompagnaient.

Au début, quelques fleurs furent offertes à Mme. Hoffmann-de Visme par une mignonne fillette, gracieux et touchant témoignage de reconnaissance à cette bienfaitrice de notre colonie, que Dieu, dans sa miraculeuse bonté, lui a rendue après une longue et très grave maladie. Puisse-t-elle longtemps encore garder sa place active au milieu de notre jeunesse.

Pendant qu'on allume l'Arbre de Noël, M. le pasteur Hoffmann ouvre la cérémonie par une allocution religieuse et quelques paroles très senties suivies de l'Oraison Dominicale, puis les enfants des deux Ecoles du Dimanche exécutent avec vigueur des chants en allemand et en français. Ensuite, ici et là, quelques garçons et fillettes offrent spontanément leur petite part au programme: récitation pleine de naturel en anglais, français, et allemand, morceaux de piano, danses féeriques des plus gracieuses, etc. puis viennent des chansons populaires d'ensemble dirigées avec verve et enthousiasme par deux jeunes amateurs, M. Joss et Steiner Jrs, enfin, le clou de la soirée pour les grands comme pour les petits: des tours de prestidigitateur très savamment exécutés par un artiste de profession et ventriloque émérite, performances des plus réussies auxquelles les réparties du petit Marcel, un des enfants qui avait obligeamment offert son aide, firent l'hilarité et l'amusement de tous!

L'une après l'autre les bougies s'éteignent. La parole est maintenant au thé, et, tandis que les parents reçoivent sur place leur part de collation, toute cette jeunesse défile en ordre parfait dans le grand réfectoire attenant à la salle de spectacle. La vue de ces enfants assis autour de six longues tables est vraiment délicieuse, 400 petites têtes roses affublées de bonnets de papier de toutes couleurs, la joie et l'entrain brillant sur tous les jeunes visages de cette élite de notre colonie, à laquelle sera tout à l'heure distribué un petit sac avec cadeaux appropriés à l'âge de chacun.

Il est bon de rappeler ici, pour ceux qui ne le savent pas, que la salle de thé spéciale, vu sa capacité assise restreinte, est réservée exclusive-

ment aux enfants, et que pour faciliter le service d'ordre et de distribution, aucun adulte, les membres du Comité exceptés, ne peut y être admis. Les enfants sont d'ailleurs reconduits après la collation à la salle principale où les retrouvent leurs parents.

Bref, fête réussie dont tous garderont un excellent souvenir, fête qui marque chaque année un pas en avant, grâce aux efforts inlassables de ses organisateurs dévoués et des nombreux souscripteurs qui savent ce que le "carnet noir" signifie pour notre jeunesse et la joie qu'ils apportent à beaucoup de cœurs. Qu'ils continuent leur bon patronage à cette oeuvre utile à la vie et au développement de la colonie suisse de Londres.

Un gros merci à M. Campart, l'infatigable président, à Mlle. Matthey, qui est l'âme même du mouvement, aux pasteurs, qui apportent toujours leur précieux concours, à Mmes. Joss, Wyss, Kummer, Müller, Reber, à MM. Niklaus, Fischer, à tant d'autres encore que je devrais aussi nommer, qui par leur aide efficace et leur dévouement font de cette fête un succès grandiose, sans oublier Mlle. Sidler et son Etat-Major de cuisine, dont l'organisation parfaite contribue au bien-être et à la satisfaction de tous.

Le fait que, malgré la crise et les difficultés de l'heure présente qui pèsent lourdement sur la colonie tout entière, cette fête annuelle des enfants suisses marche toujours de progrès en progrès, est une preuve évidente que ceux qui s'en occupent ou contribuent à son maintien, loin de se laisser aller comme beaucoup au découragement, savent mettre de côté leurs soucis personnels, dans leur désir de semer la joie et l'espérance dans ce champ nouvellement défriché, s'inspirant de la parole du Maître: "Celui qui fera ces choses au plus petit d'entre vous me les fera à moi-même."
P.B.

A HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND IN THE ENGLISH TONGUE.

Large numbers of visitors to Switzerland are struck by peculiarities in the public life of this country without understanding the reasons of the same. This is particularly the case with Anglo-Saxon visitors who find it very difficult to gain knowledge of the necessary facts on account of the want of special books in their own language. The want thus felt has been largely supplied by the recent appearance of an English translation of the History of Switzerland written by William Martin, editor of the *Journal de Genève*. Mr. Martin's book, which appeared in French a few years ago, has the great merit of giving a synthesis of the historical development of the Swiss Confederation and of her present state. The English edition has been rendered complete by special notes intended to help Anglo-Saxon readers, who generally know less than others of European history, to a better understanding of the subject.

In his preface to Mr. William Martin's book, Lord Hewart remarks that the peculiar conditions of life in Switzerland fully justify the wish for further knowledge of her history expressed by a growing number of visitors to this country. The League of Nations has its seat in Switzerland, an honour that is in all probability due to the fact that Switzerland herself is, on a small scale, a league of nations. Being the home of individuals who speak four different languages (German, French, Italian, Romance) and belong to different denominations (Protestant and Roman Catholic), Switzerland and her history, characterized by an evolution from a very free union to a federal state, seems to point out the way which international organisation should go. Facts concerning Switzerland are only incidentally learnt by pupils at English and American schools in connection with historical events in France, Germany or Italy. It was highly important, Lord Hewart concludes, that the Anglo-Saxon public should be supplied with a book containing the history of Switzerland as a whole. Mr. William Martin has done this in a very concise and complete manner.

(A History of Switzerland, An Essay on the formation of states by William Martin. Translated by Grace W. Booth. With a preface by the Rt. Hon. Lord Hewart of Bury. Notes by E. Ibbetson James and specially drawn maps. Grant Richards, 8, Regent Street, London, 1931. p 333. Price: 10s. 6d.)

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