

Musical notes

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carried away by our idealism, but we have learned some of the arts of the politicians, to chose the right moment, to proceed with caution, not to waste our energies on things of minor importance. Though you hear less of the N.S.H., it decidedly has not decreased its activities and its titles to your trust for the future. If you want to know what it is doing just now, I can refer you to the "Bulletin" and especially to our new annual "Das Jahrbuch, Die Schweiz" of which I happen to be the Editor. I am not going to advertise my wares to-night, but I want to assure you that this publication, which we thought would be welcomed also by many Swiss abroad, is destined to perform a very important service to the people, at a time when our last periodicals of a truly national character are disappearing (Neue Schweizer Rundschau, Wissen und Leben, La nouvelle Semaine, after La Semaine Littéraire, La Revue de Genève, after La Bibliothèque Universelle, die Annalen, Schweizerland, Die Schweiz, Neue Schweizer Zeitung, Hilty's Jahrbuch, etc.). Of the remaining ones the yellow "Monatshefte" the "Rote Revue," the catholic "Schweizer Rundschau" are reserved each for the purposes of one party. "La Patrie Suisse" has changed its former character too, and the "Republikanische Blätter," though very brave, are not always of a standard to suit our public.

One of the first works we undertook was to defend German Switzerland's intell. independence. One of the means of defence was the buying up and publication in Switzerland of the "Sonntagsblätter" or weekly supplements to many Swiss papers. Though this enterprise is now discontinued (big illustrated weeklies having ousted the "Sonntagsblätter"), the lesson was learned; our small press is to-day decidedly better than at the beginning of the war. Its own press service which calls itself "La presse moyenne suisse" is carrying on in a businesslike way and in a truly Swiss and independent manner, the work done 15 years ago by Dr. Schoop, now professor at Neuchâtel, P. Kohler, now professor at Berne, Dr. Ammann, now General-Secretary of that great organisation the "Pro Senectute," Dr. Weilenmann, now Secretary of the "Volkshochschule." It is indeed remarkable how all those who for a time stood in the service of the N.S.H. are now at the head of great new services many of which have developed out of small seeds thrown into the fertile ground of our meetings. Think of the "Schweizerwoche" which is now such a power in the land, the Swiss League of Nation's Union in which our friends the late Dr. Zurlinden, Prof. Bövet, Col. Dollfus and Prof. de la Harpe, Dr. Oeri, and Wm. Martin have played and are still playing such a fine part.

And greatest of all, and most important for you is the Organisation des Suisses à L'étranger de la N.S.H., which with its 200 groups is already ten times stronger than the mother society. — And here comes in your merit, dear friends and members of the London group. The example given by you, the work done here, the initiatives gone out from your meetings have rendered the whole work possible. The spirit of patriotism which animated our meetings has spread like a contagion to the remotest corners, where Swiss are found in foreign lands. The groups of Berlin and Munich, founded as early as 1912, were dissolved at the outbreak of the war. The one at Paris, founded in 1914, has never succeeded in giving the Paris Colony the lead towards unity which yours was destined to exercise for a long time in the London Colony. The Barcelona group, recognised at the time as yours, has slightly changed its character and purpose, since it made the maintenance of the Swiss school of that colony its chief concern. Your group, when I started work, numbered 260 members. In 1919, together with the closely linked Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bradford and Nottingham sections, we were nearly a 1,000 strong, and our accounts and budgets showed figures of nearly Lst. 2,000 on either side. There were Dr. Vuillemier and Thelin, and for a time, Dr. Lang working at my office besides Miss Ettlinger, Miss Emmenegger, Miss Vögeli, Miss Crawford, Miss Gordon, Mrs. Müller, and a score of voluntary workers, the good services of many of whom I remember with sincere gratitude.

Besides dealing with a formidable correspondence, we were particularly busy writing and translating articles for the press, English, American, and Swiss, preparing lectures for the Colony and for British audiences, distributing information about Switzerland, defending her against prejudices or unfair attacks, endeavouring to promote a better understanding and ever more cordial relations between the two countries dearest to us. Our headquarters were small, so we expanded over the rooms of the "Swiss Institute" with which society we were very closely related.

Chance plays a great game with people's lives. Even those who have managed theirs most wisely know that. I had myself become a member of the N.S.H. only in 1915, in consequence of the great Berne meeting during the "Two Colonies affair." On the way home I met Dr. Schoop, afterwards Secretary of the N.S.H., and Dr. Adr. von Arx, now a Judge at the Federal



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Court, and soon we founded the Olten group. Your group was founded after a lecture by Dr. Georges Bonnard of Lausanne University, whose services to the N.S.H. were all contained in this creation. Mr. Campart received me first of all in his little "Newgate office" from where we sent out the invitations for my 1st lecture. Then we went to see Mr. Baer at Nestlé's, where Mr. Joss soon joined us, followed later by Mr. Ritter and Mr. Gerber. I am particularly happy to see you in the Chair to-night, dear Mr. Campart, the one solid rock in a rapidly changing world, and I am happy to have an opportunity publicly to thank you for the help you gave me, for your example of unwearied devotion to the welfare of this Colony and its various institutions. They are all indebted to you, but none more than was the N.S.H. and its 1st Secretary. With all of you I regret the absence to-night of Mr. A. F. Suter, your excellent President. He was the man who as Treasurer of the Group made its astonishing development possible. He pleaded for us with the firms on whose support we had to rely; he succeeded in making Mr. Wüthrich and Mr. Walsler go begging for us. And well they did it. You had to give £100 sterling, if you wanted to be a really great and self-respecting firm! Of Mr. Baer, I know you have all the dearest memory. It was indeed a great thing for us all to have him as our first President. His kindness his knowledge of men and things, his patriotism and enthusiasm, his never failing tact and helpfulness have stood us good in many a difficulty. And now I have the pleasure of again collaborating with Mr. Baer on the Executive Commission of the Commission des Suisses à L'étranger, which is responsible for the management of the vast Organisation des S.E. and its Secretariat. Whenever we meet, Mr. Baer and I, we think of our common work in London, of the friends we left behind here. Alas, many have gone home for good, Mr. Roehrich and Mr. Dimier of Mr. Baer's dearest friends, good old Mr. Geilinger (whose questions and remarks were a little trying for your patience, Mr. Campart), Mr. Goetz, the courier diplomatique, Signor Cusi that good and generous heart, Mr. Rappard, Mr. E. Ziegler, Mr. Stauffer, Mr. Honegger, Mr. E. Ziegler and many others.

At Zurich I sometimes used to meet Mr. Meyer-Matthes, who was our Vice President and very active for a time, but, like far too many Swiss abroad when they return, he has not found his way into public life at home. I cannot name all those whom I shall always be grateful too, but forgive me to name at least M. le Ministre Carlin, whose kindness and friendship was so valuable to me, Mr. Ritter, who though always overwhelmed with work, and shouldering the cares and sorrows of so many others, never refused his help and advice, Mr. Wüthrich, Mr. Roost, Mr. Schaerer, Mr. Forrer, Mr. Pfaendler, Mr. A. Steiger, Mr. Häusermann and Mr. Walsler, whose personal friendship is so dear to my wife and me — and last but not least — you, dear Pasteur Hoffmann, whose devotion and zeal, whose eloquence and energy in the service of God and our country we all admire.

(To be continued.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

Our readers will be interested to hear, that Miss Nellie Palliser will sing the principal part in the Student Prince together with Mr. Harry Welshman next week, at the Golders Green Hippodrome.

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

May 3rd, 1932.

At times I am inclined to wonder if Mr. Pagani should not be considered rather as a public benefactor than one of London's finest restaurants for the excellence of the dinners provided for the City Swiss Club would seem to preclude any possibility of profit. At any rate Mr. Pagani surpassed himself on the 3rd of May when some seventy members and guests assembled under the protecting wing of Mr. Schupbach to enjoy a "soirée familiale."

Hors d'oeuvre, many and various (verily Pagani should be as noted for its hors d'oeuvre as was formerly the Brasserie Universelle in Paris) were followed by a "Tortue Claire" which was described on the menu as false and was so delicious that it might just as well have been called real. Salmon, lamb cutlets, Surrey chicken and a bombe glacée. What more could the heart of man desire or the most chronic rouspéteur (if such there be) of the City Swiss Club require.

After dinner, the President announced that no minutes would be read, no business transacted and no speeches inflicted, but that we should be given a short concert by Madame Wyss and Mr. Nickolds.

Madame Wyss then sang several songs with her usual charm and delicacy. It is indeed a pleasure to listen to her for she has the gift of clearness and precision with a complete absence of effort and the purity of her voice is only equalled by the charm of her technique. Mr. Nickolds entertained us with some amusing sketches in one of which he gave us a rendering of the March of the Men of Harlech as if it had been composed by Mendelssohn, Grieg and other famous musicians.

He then played a little sketch something as follows:—

Five little fingers along the key board tore
One got bent up, and then there were four.
Four little fingers danced for very glee
One was cut off, and then there were three.
Three little fingers played like the dence,
one got lost, and then there were two.
Two little fingers, this rhyme will soon be done
One met a threshing machine, and so there was one.
One little finger played just as well alone
But it had to go, and so there were none.
Mr. Nickolds then played with the hand which was left
Just to show what he could do, if he were so bereft.

We then descended to the marble floor and danced on the Mosaic which is so well known to the frequenters of former Cinderellas. The orchestra did its work nobly and we danced energetically to Congress Dances and other tunes until the fatal hour of midnight inexorably brought the evening to a close.

I noticed that many of the ladies wore black and I therefore surmise with my usual knowledge that black will be a predominating colour this season. The sister of the wife of one of our most prominent members was wearing a particularly delightful creation in which a black lace insertion with the modern puffed sleeves gave a distinctive touch to an ensemble which was as original as it was attractive.

The evening was the President's first function during his year of office, and both Mr. Schupbach and the Committee are to be congratulated. We are sure that it is an augury of success for the rest of his tenure.

ck.