

# "Der Altjahrsrobe"

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may find it at times difficult to find their bearing in their new surroundings. Do not forget that you are here as guests among friends, and that a guest is never welcome when criticising his host. Do not forget either that it takes two to make a friendship and that kindness must never be let go unrequited.

Do not take this as a lecture. We have come here to eat, dance and be merry. We all are here amongst friends and I wish you to think that your honorary uncle of Montagu Place is also one of your friends.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is one more thing for me to say. It is to thank you for not having shouted me down so far. Do be sure that I appreciate it.

Long and sincere was the cheering when M. Girardet concluded his address.

The next speaker was Mr. B. Rosenberg, a student of the College, who, with a good accent, expressed, on behalf of his colleagues the thanks to the Swiss Mercantile Society for the opportunity they enjoy of gaining a wider experience both in the English language as well as in other subjects.

Mr. Rosenberg said:

It is my privilege and honour to be called upon to speak on behalf of all the students. Do not fear that I am going to tell a long, long story for nearly all present know the old proverb, "Short speeches and long sausages."

We students owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Swiss Mercantile Society which is the London Section of the "Schweizerische Kaufmännische Verein." As far as I have been able to see, the chief activity of the S.M.S. is the College to which we have the pleasure to belong.

The year 1938 is now coming to an end and with some trembling we think of some of the dark days we have spent in this hospitable country. This is not the time or the place to refer to political matters but to what I refer are the dark days of hard work and the light nights, when instead of being in bed our landladies complained of the consumption of electricity which enabled us to stay up late in order to continue our studies. I am certain my fellow students will agree with me that not one of us regrets the time we have spent at Swiss House and if we had our choice over again we should not miss the great opportunity of going to the College in Fitzroy Square. At that great seat of study we have learned very much and if on our part we had worked harder we should have known much more. If we at times missed some of the excellent lessons, it was not entirely due to the number of "Corner Houses" and cinemas in this great city. I hope the teachers will realize that on all occasions "the spirit was willing but the flesh was weak." There were times when we were officially advised to miss work. That delighted us very much indeed for they were the occasions when we went on the various interesting excursions arranged by the College. Although I am not a great athlete, I know most of the students appreciate the College arrangements made for athletics, tennis and football.

May I express a few words of our great gratitude to the Teaching Staff of the College for all they do for the students. I must admit that sometimes some of us are troublesome in different ways but I assure you that *Your* "naughty girls and naughty boys" in no way bear you any malice. I ask you to forgive us, for our "mental indigence" is in no way intended to be "criminal."

I am fully aware that the success of the College largely depends on those Swiss gentlemen who are on the various Committees and give up so much of their time to direct the affairs of the Swiss Mercantile Society and its College and specially on those "Ausländer," the Principal of the College and his active teaching staff.

We shall ever keep happy memories of those delightful days spent at Swiss House and I ask all my fellow students to drink to the continued success of the College.

The efficient delivery of the speech was befittingly acknowledged.

M. A. Levy, Principal of the College, who received an almost riotous reception on rising, thanked M. Rosenberg for the words of appreciation so spontaneously given; he continued saying "our College is a very important institution, it was not founded as a commercial concern, and it never will be run on commercial lines. The machinery of the College is very intricate and the Gentlemen on the various committees will see that the machinery is in full working order."

Addressing the students in particular, Mr. Levy said: "I do sincerely hope for yourselves that a fair number of hours every day are devoted to serious study, so that when you come to that horror, the Diploma Examination you will not

imagine that the Examiner has put down questions simply to trick you and to cause mental tortures."

The speaker then said, that it is common knowledge that the Diploma issued by the College is recognised by many big firms in Switzerland as a document worth having.

In concluding Mr. Levy said: "We sincerely hope that our efforts for the students are not in vain. Our great purpose is not simply to try to ram into your heads the various subjects marked on the time-table. If you learn all that, well and good, for that will help you in the course of time to get a little bread and butter which is very important. We try to do more than that. When you get out into the world we want you to do your best for the happiness of mankind in general, for the welfare of yourselves, and last but not least for the honour and glory of your small but great country — Switzerland."

On the conclusion of this sincere address, the gathering witnessed another great ovation.

This was the last speech, and everyone was then asked to adjourn to one of the adjoining halls, where a "Schnitzelbank" was recited by one of the students. Unfortunately the usual caricatures were not forthcoming, either the artist or his work failed to appear.

Then dancing started, to the accompaniment of a very lively orchestra.

Paul Jones, valses and the Lambeth Walk followed each other in quick succession. During an interval Mr. W. Mathyer, a student of the College, gave us a few yoddles, accompanied on his accordion which were greatly enjoyed.

The *clou* of the evening was again the *Polonaise*, under the direction of M. J. J. Schneider, the lively secretary of the S.M.S. Here I must confess to a rather mean trick, which I played on one of my colleagues from the Press, a newly appointed Lady correspondent of some French Swiss papers.

This charming Lady could, of course, not know that this famous *Polonaise* ended up under the mistletoe, as she had never attended before, but I, full-well knowing what was in store for her, led her to the "slaughter-bench;" when it dawned on her what was waiting for her, I noticed a certain nervousness but I am glad to say, that she bravely faced the ordeal, and as some good friends of mine mercifully drew the curtain, I will not divulge what actually happened in that "seclusion" I am, however, still alive "to tell the tale."

At two o'clock this very successful evening came to an end, and everybody departed with the satisfaction of having spent an enjoyable few hours, which were, alas, far too short.

ST.

#### "DER ALTJAHROBE."

Chömmet ihr Fründe vo nah und vo fern  
Hüt fieret mer Sylvester im goldige Stärn,  
Näh Abschied vom nünzährdrissig und acht  
Das üs so viel Chummer und Sorge het gmacht.

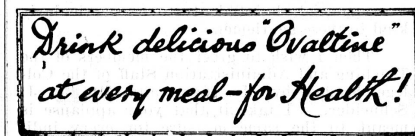
Weì vergässe, mags au für an Obe nur sy  
Alli Mueh, alles Wueschte und böse derby,  
Da lueg, nur was z'Menu üs offeriert  
Zufriedenheit wird als ersti Platte serviert —

Druf G'sundheitsuppe and den persee  
A Glückspastete, als würdigs Entree,  
G'Muetlichkeit isch der Name vom Brate  
Zum Dessert ihr chönnets gwüss errate —

Gibts artige Flouse, a bitzli Humor  
Mit Frohsinn, as Liedli vom g'sammte Chor  
A' gfiechtet mit eme Tröpfeli Wy  
Da chame gwüss vieles vergässe derby

Jez lütte d'Glogge, so fierlig und schön  
Zur "Gräbt" vom Altjahr i tiefdumpe Tön,  
Und hält jubliierend dem neue etgäge  
J wünsche Euch Alle viel Glück und viel Säge.

H.E.



#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, December 26th, from 8.30 p.m.-2 a.m. —  
Boxing Day Ball — Helvetia Club — at 1,  
Gerrard Place, W.1.

Saturday, December 31st, at 8.30 p.m. — New-  
Year's Eve Grand Ball and Carnival —  
Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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#### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).  
(Langue française).

79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.  
(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche, 25 décembre 1938.

11h. — Prédication et Culte de St. Cène. M.  
M. Pradervand.

Lundi, 26 décembre 1938.

Arbre de Noël, avec le concours du Cheur,  
violoniste, et enfants de l'école du dimanche.

THE de 4 heures à 5 heures.

Invitation cordiale à tous.

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.  
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 25. Dezember 1938.

11h — Vormittagsgottesdienst mit Abend-  
mahlsfeier Pfr. E. Bommeli.

Kein Abendgottesdienst.

Sylvester-Altjahrsabend,  
Samstag, den 31. Dezember, 7h. Abends :

Gottesdienst und Feier des Abendmahles,  
Pfr. E. Bommeli.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bzw. Con-  
firmanden Unterricht und Amtshandlungen  
sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer Ernst  
Bommeli, 12, Bedford Way, W.C.1.