

Swiss Accordion Club

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the machine should turn turtle. The view below was now almost blotted out, and once again we travelled over a sea of silver clouds which gave me an impression of a mighty ocean frozen still.

At Monbéliard we left the ordinary London to Basle route and entered Switzerland, as we were told (because we could not see) approximately over Porrentruy. Here the cameras were handed back to their respective owners.

And now "Hills peep o'er Hills, Alps on Alps arise!" Sun-bright summits and lofty mountains are straight ahead of us. There was something in the unruffled calm of nature that overawed every little anxiety and doubt, the sight of the deep blue sky and the glittering peaks provided an unforgettable panorama.

How glad we were to have in our midst a keen mountaineer, and a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, only now I realised why Mr. Messmer appeared in Croydon dressed as a mountaineer, he was going to act from now on as our guide.

Once only had we an opportunity to see below, where the town of Delémont appeared in a haze. Hardly did I guess in 1914, when I was billeted in that town during the Frontier occupation, that one day, 24 years later I would pass over at a height of about 11,000 feet and at a speed of 160 miles p.h.

The view was now majestic in its grandeur, before us we had the glorious chain of the Bernese Oberland, such giants, as Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau came into view. One by one, as we passed them they were named by our untiring guide.

Who does not know these names so familiar to mountaineers all over the globe?, the majestic Blumlisalp, the ragged Finsteraar-und Schreckhörner, the Aletschhorn, Breithorn, Altels, Rinder und Fyscherhörner, Gspaltenhorn, Morgenberghorn, Grosse und Klein Tschingelhörner, etc., etc., hundreds of them, covered with a diadem of snow underneath a serene sky. — Unforgettable, awe inspiring. —

On nearing Lucerne (invisible) we could see the Pilatus, Rigi and Bürgenstock just appearing out of the clouds. Clearly, we could discern people coming out of the Hotel on the Pilatus gazing at us, we must have just disturbed their "Kaffe-Jass." Onwards we roared leaving behind untold beauty, but a new panorama came now into sight, the Urner, Glarner, Walliser Alps and Appenzeller Alps, Titlis, Uri Rotstock, Gothard Gr. Windgälle, Matterhorn, Säntis, etc.

Now and then we could see through an opening in the clouds below; the Rheintal spread before our eyes, Hanz, Thusis and Tiefencastel passed and now we beheld the lovely Grisons Alps. We flew directly over the Piz d'Aela, seeing Piz Kesch, Piz Vadret, Piz Languard, Piz Bernina, Piz d'Err, Piz Vadret and hundreds of others, bathed in golden sunshine.

On crossing the lovely Julier Pass, the Pass road could be seen, hewn out of the snow, here and there a black speck on it proved that the road was being used.

We were now nearing our "Journey's End," slowly our machine began to descend, in the distance Maloja, Silvaplana and then St. Moritz appeared, surrounded by Piz Albana, Piz Nair, Piz Schlattain, Piz Grisch, Piz Corviglia, Piz Saluver, Piz Ot, Piz Vadret, Piz Muragl, Piz Languard, Piz Rosatsch, Piz Surlei, to name only a few.

At a low altitude we circled twice over the world famous summer and winter resort St. Moritz, as a greeting to the town which was to extend to us such unbounded hospitality. Then we set out towards the Inn valley and Samaden where we made a remarkable smooth landing on the landing piste of Europe's highest Airport, after a glorious flight which took just under four hours.

(To be continued.)

SWISS ACCORDION CLUB.

I am really glad I accepted the invitation to attend the Grand Social Evening and Dance extended to me by the Swiss Accordion Players, on February 25th last, at the Clubhouse in Gerrard Place, as I little expected such a fine concert of accordion playing. — I was agreeably surprised to find a band of 15 players, mostly young and all very enthusiastic. A word with their excellent leader, Mr. Gandon, revealed the fact that 10 out of the 15 members had but for a short time taken up accordion playing under his masterful tuition. The other 5 members are of course the master players headed by Mr. Gandon himself, but the learners are close at their heels and with perseverance will in time become really fine players.

The President of the Club, Mr. Hausermann, addressed the audience of about 150 strong with a few words of welcome and then invited Mr. Gandon to begin the Concert. — The first piece was a "Ländlermarsch." It became apparent immediately that the leader had his little band well in hand and I noticed later that throughout the Concert the players watched their conductor closely, so effecting a wonderful ensemble. Then followed a "Ländler," a Valse and a Mazurka, all rendered vigorously and with fine accentuation and phrasing much to the delight of the audience. Then came Duets and Solos by the experts, Miss Niggli and Mr. Gandon. Any criticism is, of course, not possible since they are the experts, masters of their instrument; prolonged applause proved to the soloists how much the audience admired their performance. Then the fifteen players continued with a "Rheinländer Polka," a somewhat slower, very pleasing movement, — then a Concert Valse "Maiglöckchen" and a March "Basler Gruss" which I thought were the best pieces of the evening. Here and there the programme was admirably cut by special surprise items, such as a Jodel by Mr. Deubelbeis, and one by Miss Niederhäuser, accompanied on the accordion by Mr. Gandon. They richly deserved the spontaneous applause mixed with many shouts of "encore." The band then terminated the programme with three more pieces "Gruss aus den Bergen," "Militärmarsch" and "Der Filzbacher" after which we were indeed sorry that it was all over. — All over? Not likely, — it was now that the players, who so splendidly entertained us with their music, mingled with the audience and began dancing to their heart's delight to an accordion dance band until well after midnight.

It is quite obvious, therefore, that the whole evening was a great success for the Swiss Accordion Club, its Committee and especially for the Conductor, Mr. Gandon, the man with perseverance, tact and a rare teaching ability. I sincerely hope that we may have the pleasure again soon of hearing the Swiss Accordion players and in wishing them every success in the future I thank them most heartily for a very enjoyable evening.

E.P.D.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

QUIET, comfortable English home, with partial board, offered Swiss lady or gentleman as sole Paying Guest. Telephone. Piano. Wireless. Garden. Close station. Excellent train service London. References exchanged. Write Advertiser, 16, Queen's Road, Beckenham, Kent.

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HOUSEKEEPER wanted for Swiss Family in Scotland, experience in cooking and supervision of two children, aged three and seven years. Write Box No. 33, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, March 9th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by a lecture by Mr. Herbert Banyard, on "So that is London," at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Saturday, March 12th — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance — at the Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Friday, March 18th, at 8 p.m. — Monthly Meeting — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — (supper at 6.30 p.m. sharp) followed by a talk by the Rev. C. Th. Hahn, on "Einige Bemerkungen zum Buch von Emil Baer," Alemannisch (Die Rettung der eidgenössischen Seele), at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.1.

Saturday, March 26th — Annual Banquet and Ball — Swiss Club Birmingham — at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. (Reception 6.30, Dinner 7 o'clock.

Tuesday, March 29th, at 8.30 p.m. — Swiss Orchestral Society — Annual Concert, at Conway Hall (large Hall) Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Thursday, March 31st — The Symphonic Social Choir — Annual Dinner and Ball — at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1 (Tickets 6/- each.)

Monday, April 4th — Unione Ticinese — Annual Banquet and Ball, at Paganì's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

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11h. — Prédication et Sainte Cène — Mr. le Pasteur Emery.

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6h.30 — Prédication et Sainte Cène — Mr. le Pasteur Emery.

7h.30 — Chœur mixte.

Le Pasteur Emery reçoit le Mercredi de 11 heures à midi 30, à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2. S'adresser à lui pour tous les actes pastoraux. (téléphone : Museum 3100, domicile : Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.)

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 6 März 1938.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde : C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W. 4 (Telephon : Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden : Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.