Schweizerkirche

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1939)**

Heft 927

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By Kyburg.

Coming down to more mundane matters now, a writer in the "*Christian Science Monitor*" of 12th July is surprised:

Fancy, Keeping Cheese as an Heirloom:

Most of us would be rather startled if, when we called on a friend in the country, he were to show us among other treasured heirlooms an ancient cheese! Yet this is an experience that might actually occur in the Swiss Canton of the Valais, where cheeses are frequently preserved in memory of some important family event.

Some years ago at an exhibition of cheese in that Canton there were quite a number of such "museum pieces" on view. The patriarch, weighing 14 pounds, had been "born" 150 years before! This precious relic was finally handed over by the family that owned it to the safe keeping of a large dairy organization.

But the Swiss, as a general rule, eat their cheese, and in large quantities, too; although they certainly have a fancy for letting it first attain years of discretion. Some of the "alp" cheese is kept four to six years before being offered for sale, and buyers are then advised to lay it by for another 10 to 15 years.

Alpine Alchemilla for flavour.

There are in Switzerland quite a number of interesting cheeses apart from the common ones like Gruyère, which, incidentally, is said to owe its excellent flavour principally to a plant called Alpine Alchemilla that grows abundantly in those parts.

You can get cream cheeses, semi-cream cheeses, whey cheeses, curd cheeses, yohurt cheeses, combinations of cheese and butter. There are also sweet cheeses, cheeses flavoured with alpine herbs and with garlic, with caraway seeds, with fruit and with ham.

Quite typical of Switzerland is the soft herb cheese called Schabzieger, which can be spread on your bread. It is sold in little pyramid shapes and is a decided green owing to the herb called "Ziegerklee" or "whey clover" which is mixed with it. Schabzieger is made, and has been made for centuries, almost exclusively in the Canton of Glarus. It has a very special flavour which you either like very much or not at all. Its smell, too, is so aggressive that one whiff may put you off forever from tasting the cheese!

Known to Thackeray.

Schabzieger must have been known to Thackeray, for he has in "Vanity Fair" a character called Baron Shapsugar. He is one of the guests at a reception given by Becky Sharp, the other guests also bearing the names of well-known Swiss cheeses.

The above reminds me of a family in the old-world village of Tolleshunt d'Arcy in Essex — there are plenty of beautiful and entirely unspoilt villages in our part of the world, if you know *Where* to look for them! — who keep a *Ham* as an heirloom and have kept it for about 100 years already, so that it would appear that hams, or cheeses may form objects of family pride and veneration.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 5 Septembre au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Démissions.
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Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, September 4th at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Committee Meeting — at Westgate House, Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Tuesday, September 5th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — (preceded by dinner at 7 p.m.) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, September 6th at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, September 7th at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Meeting — (introduction by Mr. B. Megall) at Westgate House, Bedford Place, W.C.1. *All young Swiss invited.*

Wednesday, September 13th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, September 14th at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Meeting — (introduction by Pastor E. Bommeli) at Westgate House, Bedford Place, W.C.1. *All young Swiss invited.*

Friday, September 15th, at 6.30 p.m. (Supper 6.30 p.m.) — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W. C. 1.

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Dimanche, 27 août 1939:

11h. M. le Pasteur Emery.

Les cultes du soir sont supprimés pendant le mois d'août.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser jusqu'à nouvel avis à M. le pasteur U. Emery, Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1 (Phone MUSeum 3100).

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Sonntag, den 27. August:

11 Uhr vormittags: Gottesdienst, Predigt von Prf. E. Bommeli.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bezw. Konfirmanden Unterricht sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer E. Bommeli. Sprechstunden: Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche, Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Printed and Published by The Frederick Printing Co., Ltd., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.