# City Swiss Club

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willing to listen to their poisonous and revolutionary doctrines.

On the whole, however, the meetings are well conducted, goodnatured and orderly; spiced with mother wit and good humour, frequent interruptions and clever repartee.

And so here we are, in the midst of a Nation's struggle for life and death, but Hyde Park oratory goes on in the same old way.

As I left Marble Arch, I tried to think of some words a great poet and critic wrote 70 years ago. They had slipped my memory for a moment and I was still cudgelling my brain when passing Piccadilly and Trafalgar Square. Suddenly opposite the Houses of Parliament, the words flashed back into my mind and as Big Ben was striking the hour I quietly recited the words of Matthew Arnold:—

"The Nation is sound enough if only it can be
"taught that being able to do what one likes and
"say what one likes is not sufficient for salvation.
"Its dangers are from surfeit of clap-trap."

*F. I.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The following is one of several encouraging letters we have received from our readers.*

The Editor of the Swiss Observer,
London, E.C.2.

July 1st, 1940.

Dear Sir,

I have not received my copy of "The Swiss Observer" for last week, it usually arrives first thing Saturday morning and I look forward to getting it. I sincerely hope this does not mean you have given up publishing it, because I am sure that all good Swiss do look forward to its receipt. I do appreciate the difficulties under which you are "working" at present as to my knowledge none of us have received any letters from Switzerland for some three weeks, although cables are still coming through.

I very sincerely hope that the absence of this copy does not mean that you have had to throw up "the sponge." That must not be allowed to happen because "The Swiss Observer" is the only means we, the Swiss Colony in England, have to keep in touch with one another. If even during the next few weeks you should find it necessary to publish reports of activities of Swiss Clubs, with one or two tit-bits from the homeland, I am sure that most of us will appreciate your difficulties and that every good Swiss will nevertheless look forward to the arrival of your paper. If you decide to give up you will but add to the tragic situation in which most of us find ourselves to-day and I for one hope most earnestly that you will not do so.

Yours faithfully,

*CHARLES FER.*

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

If ever there was a moment when one felt exceedingly proud of being Swiss it was on Tuesday night at the monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club. Members had been asked to attend and support their committee, and particularly their President, Mr. Louis Chapuis, who in his capacity as Chairman of the Swiss Relief Centre was to address the meeting and explain the object of the Centre.

No surprise, no attraction, no conference, was necessary to attract the large attendance of 58 members who came there with the unanimous purpose of helping those who might be in need during the tragic crisis we are going through.

Pagani's themselves went out of their way and produced what may be termed a gorgeous peace time dinner.

After the toasts to H.M. The King and Switzerland has been honoured, and the usual business of the Club, including the addition of a new member, had been dealt with, the President in a moving speech explained the amount of work which had already been done by the Swiss Relief Centre committee, and left no doubt in anybody's mind as to the large amount of work which was still in front of us. The whole assembly was magnetised with the single desire to help here and now. Mr. Louis Chapuis had hardly had time to sit down and be loudly acclaimed for a most magnificent explanation of the purpose of the Relief Centre, than our popular Treasurer sprang to his feet and proposed that the City Swiss Club should vote a donation of £100 to the Swiss Benevolent Society in favour of the Swiss Relief Centre. This gesture on the part of a Treasurer who has the reputation of studying the expenses of the club to keenly shows the great patriotism with which he must have been animated when he made this recommendation to the club. That proposal, seconded with emotion by Léon Jobin, was unanimously carried.

Other members of the Swiss Relief Centre committee then appealed for further assistance from members, and the House Committee which was worthily represented by Mr. Sigerist, Mr. Carlo Chapuis and Mr. Boos, who have done such excellent work at Swiss House, explained how far the organisation had pro-

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gressed. The Secretary "with his big drum" then made a final appeal to the members to make their donations now, as the money was urgently required to carry on the good work.

The response was magnificent, some members subscribing as much as 100 guineas each, and a good many promised to send further substantial cheques within the next few days.

When one recollects the happy times which have been spent at meetings of the City Swiss Club, it is indeed a great satisfaction to put on record the practical way in which all members took the opportunity of showing their attachment to Switzerland and to their compatriots in the Swiss Colony. As long as members carry on in the same spirit there can be no fear for the future irrespective of the hard times we may all be expected to go through.

So that those members who were unfortunately precluded from attending should also have an opportunity of co-operating in this patriotic effort, the Treasurer will include with his applications for subscription a special form of appeal, and we have no doubt that every patriot will give it the same enthusiastic support as those who were privileged to be present on Tuesday.

*Bee.*

## SWISS RELIEF CENTRE.

### Working in conjunction with the Swiss Benevolent Society.

The Committee appointed by the Swiss Minister has now fully equipped Swiss House, in Fitzroy Square, W.1, with thirty new beds and all other essentials for the reception of compatriots who may have been deprived of their homes or become stranded in London by reason of air raids over the capital.

One of the Members of the Committee has been charged with the duties of evacuation from Swiss House to private residences of the Swiss colony in London and the home counties. Swiss House can only be regarded as a first shelter to possible air raid victims, after which these will have to be housed elsewhere.

All resident Swiss in London and the home counties who have accommodation are therefore urgently requested to send to the Committee as soon as possible particulars of their capacity to shelter such victims. A full register is in course of production and the Committee is anxious to know exactly how many evacuees each Swiss household can absorb at the moment when Swiss House has been filled to capacity.

Will YOU kindly let the Committee know without delay how many persons YOU can receive in your household, and whether preferably males or females, children or adults, or possibly a whole family of how many persons.

Every Swiss household can and should help.

Register NOW!

*THE COMMITTEE.*

## PERSONAL.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. René Stoll, of 37, Portland Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, whose mother passed away last Wednesday.

## LETTER BOX.

**F. G. S. and others.** We regret to hear that the S.O. reaches you sometimes on Monday morning only. If you will kindly return to us the wrapper we will take it up with the P.O. As a rule the S.O. is posted early on Friday afternoon.

**A. N.** — We are afraid we cannot help you; the only way of communication is by radio telegram, particulars of which we published in our last issue. We have been told, unofficially, that a restricted mail service between this country and Switzerland may be operated soon via Spain.

**A. F.** — You might apply to the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, W.1. As your friend born in Paris of Swiss parents has evidently omitted, before being called up, to lodge the necessary declaration in order to retain his birthright he cannot claim Swiss nationality without being released by the French authorities. The fact that the fortunes of war made him a temporary resident in this country can hardly influence the legal aspect.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, July 10th, at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, July 19th, at 7.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — to be followed by the usual "Comment on the International Situation," by G. J. Keller, Esq., at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Tuesday, August 6th, at 7 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at Pagani's Restaurant.

## Divine Services.

Dimanche 7 juillet 1940: à **l'Eglise Suisse,** 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.
11h. Culte et Ste. Cène M. M. Pradervand.
6h. Culte au Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Mardi 9 juillet, à 2h.30, au Foyer Suisse, Réunion de couture pour la Croix-Rouge britannique.

BAPTEME.

Le 30 juin, Andrée-Jane CHALLANDES, fille de Robert Gustave et d'Yvonne-Clémentine née Golay.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 7. Juli 1940: in der **Schweizerkirche,** 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
11 Uhr Gottesdienst Mr. B. Segal.
6 Uhr Gottesdienst in Französisch im Foyer Suisse.

Dienstag, den 9. Juli, 2.30 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse, Nähverein (für das brit. Rote Kreuz).

Für alle Amtshandlungen wende man sich z.Z. an Pfr. M. Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (MOU 5003)

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