Concert news

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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.
(London Group.)
Monthly Meeting.

The Monthly Meeting of the above Society took place on Tuesday, February 15th, 1949, at the Vienna Café, Baker Street. Dr. H. W. Egli was in the Chair, and there were about eighty members present.

Mr. Alfred Roth, the well-known architect, and editor of " Das Werk " (Zurich), gave an address on : " Contemporary Swiss Architecture."

I can best describe this evening as almost a " Tragedy " in three acts.

1st act took place on the ground floor of a Restaurant, where the Chief actors were gathered around a table finishing off an appetising meal and looking very happy and contented.

2nd act. The scene opened in the basement of the said Restaurant, where a group of slightly excited Gentlemen were gathered around a large black box, which contained, as it turned out, a lantern slide projector. Amidst much talk in hushed voices the various parts of this mysterious machine were extracted bit by bit and apparently assembled ; the worried faces of the actors proved that something was amiss ; and the tension in the audience became acute.

After about half an hour's hard work, the projector was lifted onto a table and everybody relaxed. Several strong men now carried the table to the end of the hall scattering members of the audience left and right. Lights were turned off, a screen was put in position and a picture, rather blurred, appeared on the screen. Shouts of " Light please " were heard, and promptly more strong men appeared and carried the machine a few yards nearer the screen, asking more members of the audience to make room. Again the lights were lowered, same result, the picture became even smaller and more indistinct.

More discussion amongst the chief actors, lights were switched on again, a further batch of strong men appeared on the scene to carry table and machine back again. In the meantime a fervent appeal from the " stage " was made for somebody to play the piano, which evoked no response from the audience as, no doubt, they had come to see pictures and not to listen to music.

The tension in the audience had now reached fever point, some of the Ladies had either fainted or gone to sleep, super human efforts were made by the actors, some of whom showed signs of distress and were perspiring profusely, lights were turned off again and this time, after nearly an hour had lapsed, a clear picture appeared on the screen, amidst tremendous applause from the whole house.

3rd Act opens with a short survey of the history of Swiss Art by the lecturer followed by a large number of excellent pictures of contemporary architecture, amongst them mountaineering huts in the Val d'Anniviers (Valais), Covered Stadium at Oerlikon, Open Air Swimming Baths, Zurich, Congress House, Zurich, First Church of Christ. Scientist, Zurich, " Sacro Cuore" Church at Bellinzona, Catholic Church at Dornach, various school buildings in the principal towns of Switzerland, University buildings, Hospitals, Week-end and Dwelling Houses, Settlements and Laboratories, etc., etc.

All these pictures were very attractively described and explained by Mr. Roth.

On the conclusion of the lecture, which had unfortunately to be curtailed owing to the circumstances described at the beginning of this article, the President, Dr. W. H. Egli, warmly thanked the lecturer who was accorded hearty applause for his excellent address on " Contemporary Swiss Architecture."

And so ended, in spite of all, an enjoyable evening which, at one time, threatened to end in tragedy, but all is well that ends well.

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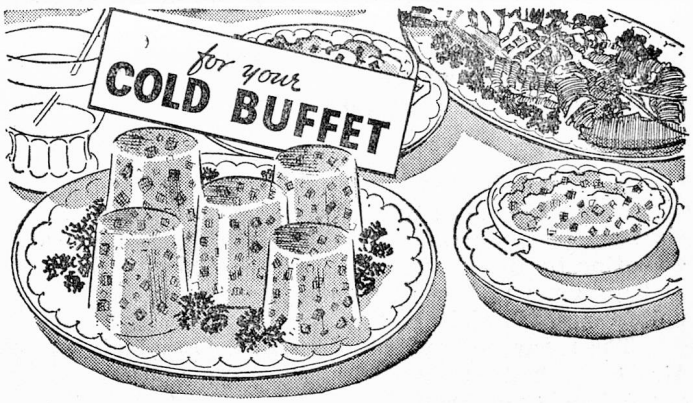
CONCERT NEWS.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the concert of the Swiss Male Choir, Swiss Orchestral Society and Swiss Accordion Club, which is taking place on Friday, March 25th, 1949, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.1. (See Advert.)

Mlle. Ruth Huggenberg, the well-known Swiss pianist, will be the soloist, she will perform a Mozart piano concerto with the orchestra.

The Choir will execute, amongst others, four new songs, which have never been heard before, and the Swiss Accordion Club has also a very attractive programme.

It is hoped that Members of the Swiss Colony and their friends will turn up in large numbers, and we are sure they will not be disappointed.



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