

Gala Night at the Union Helvetia

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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. GROUPE LONDONIEN.

Meeting of the Council on June 20th, 1923.
(Communicated.)

1. The Treasurer reported very favourably on our financial situation. One re-admission took place, and there were nine resignations, chiefly owing to departures. We have now 412 members.

2. Our dinner resulted in a small deficit.

3. It was decided that we should negotiate for a new contract with the landlord of the Secretariat.

4. Circulars 41 and 42 of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger were brought to the notice of the Council. Our movement progresses in America. Four new Groups have been founded in Europe, and a number are in process of formation. In future there will be only one paper read at the *Auslandsschweizerstag*, and the afternoon will be reserved for free discussion. Those prepared to share in the discussion ought to send their speech in writing to the Direction before the day. On September 14th a special day will be reserved for a discussion of economic expansion and propaganda by the *Comptoir Suisse* in Lausanne. The Second Secretary of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger will report on the activity of the Swiss abroad for the economic expansion of Switzerland. Swiss abroad eager to participate in the discussion are asked to send their speeches in writing to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad before August 20th.

5. Mr. Baer will represent the Group at the opening ceremony of the Foyer Suisse.

6. A letter from Dr. Lang, dealing with the future of the Secretariat and the outlook for 1924, was read and discussed.

7. The Secretary made a few communications bearing on his work: (a) By mistake the Secretariat will only receive 3,600 copies of the Helvetic Bibliography. These will be sent out in July; (b) the exhibits sent to the Basle Mustermesse have been returned to us and have been redistributed to their owners; (c) the Secretary gave an address on Switzerland at the National Swiss Evening which the Students' Movement House arranged on June 10th. It was followed by a musical programme arranged by Miss Frauchiger during which Swiss Folk Songs were sung by a small choir and soloists. About eighty students attended the function. The Secretary hopes to be able to arrange a little reception for the Swiss students attending the Holiday Course at Bedford College between August 4th and 16th; (d) the three lectures given by the Secretary on "Contemporary Swiss Literature" on June 1st, 8th and 15th to University College were a great success. The attendance was remarkably good. The first lecture was presided over by the Swiss Minister, and there was a reception by the Provost. The Dean of the Faculty, the Secretary of the University and two professors of German literature were present. Mr. Eccles, professor of French literature, presided at the third lecture. It is greatly hoped that arrangements can be made for the publication of these lectures; (e) negotiations with the English publishers for translations of Swiss books are being pursued further; (f) the Secretary sent two little communications to the English press on the Fête de la Jeunesse et la Joie and on a new success by Othmar Schoeck; (g) the last informal gathering dealing with Swiss Art was attended by fifteen people. From September onwards the informal gatherings will again take place. One of the first will be devoted to Swiss Art, and another one will be arranged as a recital of modern Swiss chamber music.

8. Some information was given on the League of Nations Garden Fête, to take place at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, N.W., on July 20th and 21st. Miss Felia Dorio, in collaboration with the Secretary, will arrange a group of Swiss singers (ladies and gentlemen) in national costumes. Songs will be sung in Swiss-German, French and Italian. More singers are wanted and more people possessing Swiss costumes, especially for the French songs. All who can help are requested to communicate directly with Miss Felia Dorio, 16, Park Village West, Regent's Park, N.W.1. In order to enable the organisers to make the arrangements as satisfactory as possible, also from the decorative point of view, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique voted a credit of £2 towards this display of Swiss art, and it is hoped that other societies will follow this example. Contributions ought to be sent, if possible, before July 7th to the Secretariat of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. Miss Dorio is open to receive any other suggestions and addresses of likely participants. The programme of the Fête will contain no less than 50 different items, amongst which we may mention Lithuanian dances, Swedish singers, and Czech-Slovakian dances. It is very much hoped

that the Swiss production will not compare unfavourably with those of other nations. To this end everyone can contribute by helping the organisers financially or materially.

Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

GALA NIGHT AT THE UNION HELVETIA

Anniversaries are always observed with a warmth and spirit of their own, and when the event is celebrated once only in ten years, enthusiasm and enjoyment are apt to become specially exuberant. And so it was last Friday, June 29th, when Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Wyss were fêted on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of their stewardship of the Union Helvetia Club. The well-known club premises at 1, Gerrard Place, W., were gaily decorated: the garlands of flowers, coloured lights and balloons in the concert hall competed with the epicurean setting of the billiard room, which had been converted into a dining-room, where in the course of the evening close on 250 people partook of an excellent and comprehensive dinner. The items on the programme were intermingled with dancing—an arrangement which was evidently much appreciated by the company. The star number of the concert was Mr. R. S. Stoddon's orchestra, which played Rossini's "Tell" Overture and potpourris of Swiss folklore songs. Master E. F. Maeder, a son of the popular president of the Club House Committee, gave a display of conjuring tricks, and for a youth of sixteen the performance was quite remarkable, though somewhat protracted. Of the talent and skill of Mr. Charlie Hoz, "a virtuoso and whistler of the Swiss mountains," who is, of course, a professional, there is no question, but it was a thousand pities that his turn came last, after 12 o'clock, when the footlights can no more focus the exclusive attention of the audience.

Speeches there were few. Mr. F. Maeder, in presenting Mr. and Mrs. Wyss with a suitably inscribed ornamental bronze clock, vases and two portraits, referred to the keen interest which Mr. Wyss had never failed to exhibit for the welfare of the club. Their steward's qualities and successful efforts were sufficiently known to everybody, but he wished to say that during the first five years of Mr. and Mrs. Wyss's management not only had the former yearly deficit been turned into a profit, but the club had also been enabled to pay off a previously contracted loan. He thought much of this was due to the excellent relations and harmony that existed between the steward and the different committees. Deafening cheers greeted Mr. Wyss when he approached the platform. In returning thanks, he felt bound to say how much he appreciated the courtesy, loyalty and assistance he had at all times met with from the club and its members. He was also indebted to his English friends, especially to the many artists; he thanked his staff for their collaboration and services which on such-like occasions were put to the supreme test. He always singled out long service, and he presented "Kate," who had now completed five years' ministrations behind the bar with much discretion, with a lady's dressing case. He thought he was reputed to have a bad temper, but if this were so, he should like to remind his critics that a dog that does not occasionally show his teeth is not much good. Messrs. Emmenegger and Isler also spoke a few words: the latter was anxious to alleviate possible fears and said that the teeth Mr. Wyss referred to were quite harmless, as they were removable.

It was early in the morning when the entertainment came to an end. Everybody wished Mr. and Mrs. Wyss "Many Happy Returns." Flowers, balloons, fans and all sorts of nicknacks were taken away as keepsakes; even the dress of the hostess was attacked by the souvenir hunters.

(We hear that the arrangements left Mr. Wyss with a surplus of £19 2s. 6d., of which he paid £5 into the U.H. Sick Fund, and the remainder he offered to the Club Committee towards the renovation of the stage.)

HOLIDAY TRIP TO SWITZERLAND AT REDUCED PRICES.

As the hotel accommodation is now booked up those who wish to join the party as far as Basle only should make application at once.

It should be noted that the date of departure (July 21st) cannot be altered, and that those who wish to return *via* Laon or Paris must state so in applying for the ticket. On arrival at Basle the party disperses, and the home journey will be completed independently any time within 33 days: those who have booked inclusive tickets (with hotel accommodation) will travel to their destination without staying at Basle.

Swiss Postal Travellers' Cheques.

The Swiss Postal Authorities have arranged for the issue in Great Britain of Postal Travellers' Cheques, which can be cashed without formalities at any Post Office in Switzerland. These cheques may be obtained in London from the

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Le Comité porte à la connaissance des membres que la prochaine Assemblée aura lieu le MARDI 10 JUILLET, à Kingston au Restaurant Nuthall. Cette Assemblée sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. (sh. 6/6 par couvert) et suivie d'une danse, auxquels les dames sont cordialement invitées.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande que les participants s'annoncent au plus tôt à M. Georges Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: Central 1321).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

Trains pour Kingston: de Waterloo, Perrons 1 à 6.

Un char-à-banc partira à 6.15 h. précises de Mansion House Place, E.C. et quittera Kingston à 11 h. pour Trafalgar Square. (Prix du billet aller et retour: sh. 3.-.)
Vu le nombre limité de places, prière de s'inscrire sans délai chez M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4 (Téléphone: City 4603).

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Dimanche, 8 juillet, 11h.—M. Pierre Loze, Missionnaire à Lourenço Marques.

6.30.—Walter Gerber, V.D.M.

MARIAGE.

Louis CACHIN, de Cerniaz (Vaud) et Florence BILES, de Sutton Ditcheat (Somerset)—le 28 Juin '23.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, July 10th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.

Wednesday, July 11th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, preceded by a Supper at 7 p.m.

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