

Contemporary Swiss Music

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A1 SWISS SPORTING CLUB.

There are few characteristically Swiss pastimes pursued in our colony which thrive without being constantly in the limelight and appealing for support to a wider circle. One of these will be found in the A1 Swiss Sporting Club, composed of about ten stalwart compatriots, all bent on competing with each other in exhibiting their skill and strength in a regular game of skittles, and in cultivating a truly democratic spirit. Equally exceptional in its familiar tone and intimacy was the gathering which last Friday (November 16th) brought together the families and personal friends of this handful of members on the occasion of the second annual dinner of the Club. The large hall at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, was comfortably filled when about 120 people sat down to a gastronomic feast, over which the captain, Mr. G. Burger, who was accompanied by Mrs. Burger, presided.

The loyal toast having been duly honoured, the Chairman read out telegrams of felicitation from Messrs. Senn, Wullschlegler and Lang, three members unfortunately prevented from being present; he then called for the chief, with whom he had a glass of champagne, complimenting him on the excellency of the dinner. In submitting the toast of "The A1 Club," Mr. Burger referred with pride to a custom initiated last year: he thought true sport was inseparable from charity; he did not think it right that we should be enjoying ourselves without doing our little bit in helping to alleviate suffering and distress. On the occasion of last year's dinner they had forwarded a cheque for £30 to a London hospital, and they had decided to repeat this performance this year.

Mr. A. Wyss, the secretary, proposed "The Guests." He said they had limited their invitations to three, so as to preserve their funds for the purpose indicated by the chairman. He greeted, in the first instance, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, of *The Swiss Observer* (dictates of modesty prevent us from repeating here the very flattering remarks made by him on the achievements and mission of our publication). He then offered a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Rich. Stoddon, who are among their eldest and dearest friends, always ready and anxious to co-operate, and without whose assistance the success of to-night's gathering would not be complete, as the audience would perceive later on. The third official guest was Mr. G. DeBrunner, who, Mr. Wyss believed, would be, or anyhow should be, the president of the Swiss Rifle Association, now in course of formation, with the preliminaries of which he was so closely identified. This new club, in his opinion, should have a great future, especially in view of the importance attached to rifle shooting in Switzerland.

The "Health of the Ladies" was entrusted to Mr. F. Isler, who possesses an unassailable reputation for glorifying the virtues of the fair sex. Unfortunately, Mr. Isler was suffering visibly from a severe cold, but he succeeded in doing full justice to the "A1" ladies present.

The programme of music, which followed the official part, was such as to focus everybody's attention; one could virtually have heard a pin drop. Apart from the professional artists, great applause was earned by little Miss Mary Schneeberger (a daughter of one of the members), who, with charming simplicity and remarkable self-confidence, sang some well-known English ditties. The pièce de résistance, however, was Tschakowsky's 1812 overture, played by Stoddon's orchestra, composed of about 30 musicians; for anybody whose imagination was sufficiently vivid to bring back to mind the historic episodes forming the background to this overture, the effect and impression must have been elevating and crushing in turn. One wondered what could be the musical picture of 1923, if a future genius should ever attempt such a description!

At intervals during the ball, pyramids and acrobatic tricks by members of the Swiss Gymnastic Society formed pleasant interludes. Prizes were distributed to a number of ladies, and Mr. and Mrs. Burger, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, were the recipients of spontaneous ovations. The arrangements for the general entertainment and enjoyment were as ingenious as they were perfect.

Amongst those present we noticed Dr. Montuschi, Dr. and Mrs. Schroeter, Chas. Strubin (treasurer), Mr. Indermayer, Mr. C. Brüllhard, Mr. A. Haller, Mr. B. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Mr. A. Schmid, Mr. C. A. Bieri (Folkestone), Mr. F. Eggenberger, Mr. E. Lutz, Mr. and Mrs. Etheridge, etc., etc.

Swiss National Rink Hockey Team.

A few people only knew of the visit of the Swiss National Rink Hockey Team to this country. This accounts for the very restricted number of our compatriots who attended the matches they played last week against English teams.

On the 3rd inst. they played against Southend at Southend Kurstaal, and drew with a score of 3-3. On the 5th inst. they had an easy victory at Manchester against Cheetham Hill, winning by 3-1. On the 6th inst. they played against the English International Team at Forest Gate Rink, the Swiss

losing by 4 goals to 1. On the following day they were opposed at Forest Gate to the Lava team and the Ilford team. They defeated the former by 2 goals to nil, and drew with the latter, the score being 0-0. Very good sport was witnessed, the second game especially being thrilling from beginning to end. The Swiss were superior in play and should have won by a short lead. On the 8th inst. they played against Herne Bay, but we are not aware of the result.

The Swiss team then proceeded to Tourcoing, where a tournament was held between the Swiss, English, Belgian and French national teams. The members of the Swiss team, who belonged to the Montreux Rink Hockey Club, were: Louis Rasca, Emile Kung, Fred. Renkewitz, Harry Renkewitz, Werner Zeltner, Henri Manzini and Louis Bloch.

It is a great pity that these interesting events were not known beforehand, as it would have been a far greater encouragement for our Swiss sportsmen if more of our compatriots had attended these gatherings. An official reception was held at the Swiss Legation on the 5th inst.

Our Swiss National Team, which gave such good performances, is to be congratulated on the result of their tour, and we sincerely hope we shall see them another year. R. CHAPPUIS.

KIRCHLICHE MITTEILUNGEN.

Das Consistorium der Schweizer Kirche hat in seiner letzten Sitzung vom 7. November Herrn Pfarrer Urner aus Zürich — auf des in Vorschlag hin zunächst auf drei Monate — als Vikar angestellt. Wir machen nun alle Glieder unserer Kirche, insbesondere diejenigen deutsch-schweizerischer Sprache, darauf aufmerksam, dass diese Frist in erster Linie dem Zweck des gegenseitigen Sichkennenerlernens dienen soll. Herr Pfr. Urner wird sich bemühen, durch Besuche mit den Einzelnen, sowie mit den hiesigen Gruppen in Fühlung zu treten — des weitern ist er zu sprechen im Foyer Suisse jeweils Donnerstags von 10-12 Vormittags und Freitags von 4-5 Nachmittags. Sollte jemand eine Unterredung zu anderer Zeit wünschen, so wende er sich an die angegebene Adresse. Wir ergreifen diesen Weg der Bekanntmachung, da eine rasche Fühlungnahme, wie sie Not tut — sonst bei den grossen räumlichen Distanzen, mit denen wir hier zu rechnen haben, nicht möglich ist. Mit Schweizergruss, Das Consistorium.

Die erste kleine Umfrage, die in der Kirche gemacht worden ist, um zu sehen, ob ein Gottesdienst in deutscher Sprache um 10 Uhr Vormittags durchführbar wäre, hat mit Deutlichkeit ergeben, dass vorläufig am bisherigen Brauch festgehalten werden muss (Sonntäglich abends 6½ Uhr). Zur Beruhigung aller derer, die nur an einem abendlichen Gottesdienst teilnehmen können, kann versichert werden, dass zwei solche monatlich auf alle Fälle beibehalten werden. Nun aber verstehen wir es, wenn unter den Deutschschweizern (die nicht französisch sprechen) der Wunsch besteht, nach einem Gottesdienst in der Muttersprache am Morgen. Darum bitten wir alle die, die einen solchen um 11 Uhr wünschen, ihren Namen auf einer der Listen einzutragen, die während des ganzen Dezembermonats in der Kirche und im Foyer Suisse (15, Upper Bedford Place) aufliegen. Es wird dann, je nach dem genaueren Resultat, das Consistorium entscheiden über die Anzahl und den Ort an dem solche Gottesdienste durchgeführt werden können. In dem aufrichtigen Wunsch, allen Bedürfnissen der Schweizergemeinde gerecht zu werden, zeichnen, hochachtungsvoll,

RENE HOFFMANN-DE VISME, *Pasteur*.
HEINRICH URNER, *Vikar*.

CONTEMPORARY SWISS MUSIC.

The Informal Concert which the N.S.H. has organised for Monday, November 26th, at 28, Red Lion Square, will begin at 8.15 and will not last longer than an hour and a half; which is reckoned quite sufficient for a concert of modern music. The programme consists of a violin and piano sonata by Othmar Schoeck, a piano sonata by Emil Frey, songs by Othmar Schoeck and Walter Lang, and piano pieces by Hans Huber, Volkmar Andreae and Walter Lang.

Although applications are coming in fast, yet there are still a certain number of free seats—all of which are numbered—available. Invitation tickets will be sent out in the order that the applications come in.

Of the composers represented on the programme only Hans Huber belongs to the past—though to a very recent one, as he only died last year. All the others are contemporary. Volkmar Andreae belongs to the generation over 40, Frey and Schoeck to that between 30 and 40, and Walter Lang to that between 20 and 30.

The concert, of course, will not give a comprehensive and representative survey of contemporary Swiss music, as it happens that great compositions for piano and violin are very scarce in number. The best works of the important contemporary Swiss musicians are, in fact, written for orchestra or quartettes. Very few first-class piano pieces have been written. A concert, at which some of the

quartettes by Swiss contemporary composers could be performed, would convey to English music lovers a far truer idea as to the standard prevailing in our country.

MAEDER AND MARISE.

Under this title our compatriot, Mr. A. Maeder, supplies two very pretty scenes in the Wylie-Tate production "Dancing Mad," which, after a successful tour in the provinces, is being given at some of the suburban halls. He is now appearing at the Finsbury Park Empire, to be transferred next week to the Stratford Empire, a visit to which will give our readers in that district an opportunity to witness his remarkable display of strength, combined with the graceful dancing of his charming partner. The revue is a repertoire of classic and modern dances, famous coster songs and comic interludes.

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