

Christmas celebration of the Swiss Y.M.C.A.

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UNION HELVETIA.

(Communicated.)

The annual meeting of the Union Helvetia, London Branch, was held on Tuesday, 9th January. The Chair was taken by the President, Mr. F. H. Rohr. The usual routine business of the annual meeting was first disposed of, including Reports, Resignations, and Election of the Committee.

Acceptance of re-election on the part of the President and Committee was declared to be out of the question, as most of them had held office for two or three years during a most critical time, and were justly entitled now to enjoy a well-earned rest after effecting a friendly settlement with the parent society. The President of the Administrative Committee thanked the retiring Committee for the work they had done during the two years of crisis and for the support the Administrative Committee had received from the London Branch and all other branches in England; but as the main support came from London, he specially thanked Mr. F. H. Rohr for the eminent services he had rendered to the society all through his 25 years' membership. Practically during the whole of this time he had held office and had served on different committees. Finally he was called upon to take office as President of the London Branch, in view of the serious differences between the parent society and the English branches. The speaker was of opinion at that time that the services of Mr. F. H. Rohr were required to maintain a firm attitude at the head of the branch. Mr. Rohr accepted it wholeheartedly, fully aware of the difficult task he was undertaking. During the two years of hard fight, until and including the Delegate Meeting in Lucerne in October last, it was due to the strong support of the London Branch, especially of Mr. Rohr at the Delegate Meeting itself, of all the delegates from England, and—last but not least—of all other Swiss delegates abroad, that we succeeded in establishing peace once more in the society, so as to enable us to achieve our aims in an amicable way. After having fulfilled that mission, it is only right that we should grant Mr. Rohr his well-deserved rest, wishing him good luck, prosperity and good health for many years to come. "Before concluding," continued the speaker, "I ask Mr. Rohr, in the name of the Administrative Committee, to kindly accept a small gift in the form of an illuminated address, in recognition of the important services he has rendered." Mr. Emmenegger, in conclusion, accorded a hearty welcome to the new President, Mr. Indermauer, and his Committee, and said he felt sure the President would be a sufficient guarantee for the most friendly collaboration in the interests of the society as a whole. In replying, Mr. Rohr thanked the Committee and members for the kind support he had received from them during the last two years. He said that this testimonial came as an unexpected, but none the less pleasant surprise, and declared it as going beyond of what he deserved. He had always done his best to promote the interests of the society and would continue to do so to the measure of his ability. However, he considered himself as having but done his duty, and only what every loyal member should do for the society. He would retain the pleasantest recollections of the amicable relations which had existed for the last two years, during his term as President, between himself and all those with whom he had come into contact. Mr. Maeder, President of the Club Committee, while endorsing all that had been said previously by Mr. Emmenegger, expressed the hope that the present good relations between the various committees would continue unimpaired during the new year.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF THE SWISS Y.M.C.A.

(Communicated.)

On the 21st December the Swiss Y.M.C.A. held its Christmas celebration in the building where Sir George Williams, the founder of the Y.M.C.A., held his first meetings about 70 years ago with a few young men of this great city. Consequently it gave us great pleasure to feel that the "City of London Y.M.C.A.", Aldersgate Street, should offer their Swiss friends this historical home for celebration purposes. We should like to express our best thanks for the kindness shown by our English colleagues.

We have little reason to doubt that there were any of the visitors numbering about 100, who were not delighted to listen to the addresses given by two Englishmen and by an Irishman.

The Rev. Mr. Pummell states that he has remarked an extraordinary strengthening of his faith whilst attending our meetings on Thursday evenings, where he delivered short outlines on fundamental subjects. He also remarks that the connections of friendship seem to get closer and closer the longer he stays with us. In a few closing words he invites all the non-members present this evening to join the Swiss Y.M.C.A. He further suggests the formation of a Swiss Young Women's Christian Association, to which he as well as Mrs. Pummell would give their very hearty support. Mr. Clarence Hooper, General Hon. Secretary of the City of London Y.M.C.A. (who has been actively engaged for over 43 years in this work for young men) and the representative of the Stamford Hill Y.M.C.A. have shown great sympathy towards their Swiss friends. We are very grateful for their speeches, which have been so much appreciated.

The double-quartet, the two elocutionists and the little orchestra all did their best to contribute towards a very happy social gathering.

We feel that the whole spirit of the English and Swiss Y.M.C.A. members is one of International Brotherhood; that here at least there is no question of a difference in political outlook creeping in to mar the perfect understanding, and we can only pray that this may be the spirit of the Y.M.C.A. the whole world over.

C. Sch.

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We regret to announce the death, at the age of 63, of Mr. Caspar Rudolph Naegeli, a citizen of Zurich. Mr. Naegeli had been for the last 17 years with the firm of E. L. Bentley, Telegraph Code Compilers, as chief compiler. During the last six months he suffered from insomnia, and since October last was laid up under the care of two doctors and a specialist. The actual cause of his illness, however, remained undiscovered, and he continued to suffer from acute depression and sleeplessness. A month ago he went to Torquay, but no improvement resulted from the change. On Thursday (Jan. 4th) he returned to London and presented himself at his offices next day in an extremely weak, depressed and restless condition, his mind apparently wandering. Mr. Bentley at once secured a private room in a nursing home, intending to have him X-rayed, thinking he was suffering from kidney trouble. The same evening at 6.50 Mr. Naegeli was seen wandering about aimlessly on the two platforms of Queen's Road Tube Station, where shortly afterwards he threw himself in front of a train which passed over one leg and seriously injured his skull. He was at once taken to St. Mary's Hospital, but never regained consciousness and died the following day (Jan. 6th) at 6.30 a.m. The inquest was held on Wednesday, the 10th inst., by the Paddington Coroner, who examined the evidence for nearly two hours. The resident house surgeon said that the post-mortem examination disclosed stones in the gall, and asserted that this was sufficient to produce the symptoms from which Mr. Naegeli suffered. After reviewing the evidence with great care, the Coroner returned a verdict that Mr. Naegeli took his own life whilst of unsound mind.

The deceased was a very clever and lovable man, and the nature of his work was diametrically opposed to a recovery in his state of health. He had no worries of any kind and leaves an aged sister in Kilchberg (Zurich), to whom he was greatly attached and whom he visited every year during his holidays. Although Mr. Naegeli was little known in the Swiss Colony, he was well known to a wide circle of English friends. He was buried at Hendon yesterday (Jan. 12th) at 11 o'clock in his wife's grave, and the service was conducted by the Minister of Westminster Chapel, which he used to attend three times a week during the last 14 years.

SMALL BEDROOM to be let to lady or gentleman in Swiss House; 17/6 incl. light and bath.—Apply, 15, Great Russell Street, W.C. 1 (close Central Y.M.C.A.).

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ENGLISH LESSONS given by experienced lady.—Olive Nicholls (Miss), 56, Torrington Square, W.C. 1.

KALENDER 1923 (Christlicher Hausfreund, Zwinglikalender, Schweiz. Rotkreuzkalender) liegen zum Verkaufe auf in der Schweiz. Kirche, 79, Endell Street, W.C. 2. Preis 1/—.—Ew. Bestellungen an Pfr. U. Wildbolz, obige Adresse.

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Cheques.

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SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

43, Lothbury, E.C. 2 & 11c, Regent St., S.W. 1.

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WIGMORE HALL.

RODOLPHE GAILLARD

Songs Recital

January 17th, at 8.15 p.m. sharp.

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The Clubhouse Committee.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

NOTICE.

Will members please note that, as from the end of this year, the Treasury of the group has been transferred to the Head Office, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C. 1, and that all communications (contributions, applications, correspondence, etc.), should be addressed as above.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

A. Heintzelmann (134), W. Lehmann (107), W. Walters (133), H. Epprecht (134), H. Pfister (134), F. Kienast (134), J. C. Rathgeb (135), A. F. Clémence (135), F. A. Brawand (135), H. Siegmund (134), C. W. Guinand (134), J. J. Schmid (107), Miss A. D. Gordon (108), L. Lauchheimer (132), E. Ziegler (134), R. Droz (134).

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 14 Janv., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Jan. 17th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W. 1.

Friday, Jan. 19th, 1923.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: No Lecture.

Saturday, Jan. 20th, 1923, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant.

Friday, Jan. 26th, 1923, at 8 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Reception for Members and Friends of the "Social and Political Education League."

Wednesday, Jan. 31st, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Dance at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, S.W. 1.

Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 1923, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel.

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