

Alpine search parties

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Greta Callow Recital.

It was not surprising to learn that Miss Greta Callow is a protégée of Melba's, for she has clearly mastered most of the artifices that go to the making of the finished coloratura singer.

Miss Callow's voice is so true, and of such limpid quality, that it was no wonder her audience at Australia House on Tuesday waxed enthusiastic over her performances. The best of them were very good indeed, notably theadroitness of her runs and trills in Armand Crabbé's "Le Rossignol" and the pure tone of Mozart's "L'Amore."

It was all a little aloof, no doubt, but, in its facility and precision, it provided as satisfying an example of the genre as one could wish to hear.

"Daily Telegraph," London, 24th June, 1932.

Two weeks ago I have had the great pleasure of attending a private recital at the house of a Kensington hostess where Madame Jeanneret-Callow sang a variety of songs in English, French, German and Italian, classical and modern, displaying her pleasing talent both in coloratura and lieder-singing. I delighted particularly in some songs by Ravel ("Air du feu," "Delius ("Love's philosophy") and Richard Strauss ("Schlagende Herzen.") It is indeed a great pleasure to introduce this artiste to her new compatriots.

Dr. E.

AN ANNIVERSARY SERVICE IN THE EGLISE SUISSE.

It was no Swiss anniversary which was celebrated in the Swiss Church, in Endell Street, on October 29th, in the afternoon of that Sunday. For once, a large congregation of people from quite a different race and nationality filled our own house of prayer. They were members of another foreign Colony in London, which is however far smaller than the Swiss, and does not possess any church building of their own. The Czechs and Slovaks count in all about 900 people in this city. Yet, since their coming back into their own, as a separate nationality, after 300 years of disappearance, they have celebrated every year the anniversary of the resurrection of their state, here in London. And the reasons for that celebration being held in the Swiss Church are obvious: it was in Geneva, on October 28th, 1915, that Professor, now President Masaryk, declared the nation of Bohemia reborn — and a marble plate in the Salle de la Réformation commemorates that significant event.

Significant too, for us Swiss, is the renaissance of that sister republic — which has been grounded not on military conquest, but on the consciousness of a similarity of race and tongue and national ideals common to the different people which compose to-day Czechoslovakia. But more striking still is the spiritual aspect of that rebirth, for at the back of it, looms high and potent, the souvenir of the great national and spiritual hero of Bohemia, John Huss, says Professor Seton-Watson, the authority on Slavonic history in London, who was the speaker at the service in the Swiss Church:

"What I wish to stress to-day, with regard to Huss's career, is that it is the first example in modern European history, of an entire nation choosing for its acknowledged leader a scholar and thinker of no birth and without social advantages, and under the inspiration of his teaching, holding all Europe at bay. Henceforward the real heroes of Czech history have been intellectual and spiritual rather than materialist-thinkers, not warriors!"

"And in the final and supreme period of liberation, it was again no mere accident, but the logical climax of five centuries of history, that placed the leadership of the movement in the hands of three intellectuals, Masaryk, the philosopher and his helpers, Benes the lecturer in economics and Stefanik the astronomer.

"Masaryk's whole programme rests on three main foundations, the ethical, the historical, the practical. The ethical — the view that a materialist reading of history is one-sided and leads to ruin. This is expressed in two of his most famous sayings: "Jesus, not Caesar is the meaning of History" and "The religious question is really the only one I know." The historical, the belief in historical continuity... the practical... summed up in these words of Masaryk: "Political independence is in itself no more than the means to a right national life: we have lost it as soon as we cease to live morally as a nation."

And the speaker concluded his address by this pungent saying of André Maurois, of which we Swiss can make our profit too: "Liberty is not only a right: it is a reward and a conquest."

Truly, it was a privilege for us to welcome the Czechs in our Church last Sunday week, and to share their joy and gratitude at the regaining of their former liberty. We too have perhaps to rediscover the value of our old liberty, for truly, what one simply inherits, without any effort, is not properly appreciated: Let us see that we learn our lesson, before it is too late!

R.H-de V.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

November 7th, 1933.

For a November meeting, things were particularly quiet. Usually there is a long and animated discussion about the Banquet. This year, no doubt, the Committee is so tremendously and vitally efficient, that no stone has been left metaphorically unturned to make the evening a success. We shall see. I hope the speeches will be short. We shall see.

Thirty-seven members and one guest enjoyed Mr. Pagan's excellent dinner, and after the President, Mr. Senn, had proposed the usual toasts, the thrilling discussion, described above, took place, and one new member was elected.

The Club is so popular that no resignations were recorded.

ALPINE SEARCH PARTIES.

Complaints of the excessive cost of the search parties which are sent to look for lost or injured climbers in the Alps have sometimes been justified, guides having demanded abnormal fees and expenses. The relatives of rescued tourists have in some cases refused to pay, and the Swiss Alpine Club has generally been able to secure substantial reductions in the bill. Though such disputes have been few they have harmed to some extent the reputation of the guides. For some years both the Swiss and the French Alpine Clubs have vainly attempted to persuade the guides to set up definite rules and tariffs for this class of work.

Some success in this direction has now been achieved in Canton Valais. The "Monte Rosa" section of the Swiss Alpine Club, the cantonal authorities, and the guides have come to an agreement, and special rules have been framed concerning search parties. Under these new rules any guide or porter who refuses to join a search party when summoned by the chief of a help station, or by the authorities, may be subjected to a heavy fine, or even the temporary or permanent withdrawal of his licence. Costs are to be calculated on the basis of the ordinary tariff of the guides and porters for Alpine ascents, but with the consent of the Swiss Alpine Club an extra allowance can be granted to the rescuers when they have to meet special difficulties. The food and drink allowance cannot exceed 12 francs a day. Should any discussion arise, the case can be submitted to the arbitration of the Swiss Alpine Club, and finally of the Canton Valais Police Department after consultation with the Guides' Commission.

The adoption of these regulations is a great advance, and will help to prevent future abuses. But the rules still apply to one canton only. The task of extending them to all the Swiss Alpine cantons will not be easy, but it is hoped that the Swiss Alpine Club will ultimately succeed in making them of general application.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, November 15th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, to be followed at about 8.15 by a causerie by Pierre Savoie, Esq., on "How to appreciate wood engraving" at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, November 17th, from 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. — Union Helvetia — Old Friends Evening — Dinner and Dance. (Ticket 5/- incl.)

Friday, November 24th — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Saturday, November 18th, at 6.30 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Social Lantern Lecture on "Scandinavia" — at 15, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. (Everybody cordially invited).

Saturday, November 25th, at 5.45 p.m. — Public Lecture with Lantern-slides given by Mrs. Elsie Zublin-Spiller, (Founder of the Soldatenstube) on Soldatenwohl-Volksdienst, at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C. Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister will be in the Chair.

Monday, November 27th, from 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. — Swiss Culinary Association Grand Ball — at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Friday, December 15th — College of the Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Students' Annual Banquet and Ball at the Princes Galleries, Piccadilly, W.

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Sonntag, den 12. November 1933.

11 Uhr Morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

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