

Swiss evening at Mr. Engelberger's

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SWISS EVENING AT MR. ENGELBERGER'S.

Even though I'm not a "Berner", my report of a very lovely evening last month comes a bit late! But to tell the truth, I had hoped that somebody more experienced with the pen and the English would give an account to the readers of "Helvetia" of that informal and very cheerful Swiss reunion on October 11th. Anybody who passed that evening by the home of the well known Mr. and Mrs. Engelberger, would have been tempted to peep through the windows, and seeing happy faces all around, hearing dashing "Handörgeli-Musik" and lovely Swiss songs, he surely would have liked to join the little crowd. There were about 25 guests, all in good spirits and very pleased to spend the evening with our much esteemed Consul, Dr. W. Schmid and his very charming wife. We all very much appreciated the cordial way in which Dr. and Mrs. Schmid showed their interest in compatriots. The same could be said of two other guests, whose presence at Swiss gatherings is a familiar feature and is always enjoyed and appreciated by their Swiss friends, Rev. Father Butler and Constable Donoghue, custodians of the moral and civil law respectively. Who would say, we weren't in famous company that evening??

And while everybody was chatting, be it in English or in good old Swiss, our perfect hostess kept busy looking for empty glasses to be filled, and later on, got ready a beautiful and plentiful supper for her guests. My word! wasn't the "Chäs-Chueche" a real temptation? And all the other home-made titbits! Our congratulations and best thanks to the cook and her helpers.

After a supper like this, the spirits were bound to rise and soon the two expert "Handörgeler", Mr. Engelberger and Mr. A. Meier gave us liberal proof of their great skill. To give a well merited rest to those quick fingers of theirs (and to the soft time-beating foot of Mr. Engelberger too!) Dr. Schmid resigned himself, at our request, to take the place at the piano and then a series of our dear old Swiss songs was sung by young and old. We sang to our hearts' desire - not quite beautifully - but heartily and - loud, anyway!! Then, very graciously, Mrs. Donoghue gave us a lovely song, which earned much applause, just as did Miss Doreen Engelberger's two Yodel items. A quiet moment gave Rev. Father Butler the occasion to address a few words of appreciation and to propose a hearty toast to Dr. and Mrs. Schmid. After Dr. Schmid's reply, the music set in again - and believe it or not - it was so "lüpfig" that friend Len Tschumperlin and Frau started to "gäuerle", notwithstanding the fact, that those Swiss logs of theirs had been given them a great many years ago! Towards 2 a.m. the very hospitable Engelberger home quietened down, the departing guests taking with them the happy feeling of an evening that was well spent.

A. Sch.

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NOTE OF APPRECIATION.

We, the members of the Committee, wish to express our appreciation for the untiring work performed during the past year by the Secretary, Mr. E. Merz. It was not an easy job to create the record of collecting every member's fee, considering that after the first six months half the fees were still outstanding and dozens had to be personally written to. We feel that many members could make Mr. Merz's work a little easier by prompt payment of their contributions and so make it possible to repeat the record and encourage Mr. Merz to continue in office for many years to come.

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SWISS GIRL WANTED AS PROBATIONER IN STRATFORD MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Dr. Doris Gordon of Stratford, Taranaki, whom I have the pleasure to know as a good friend of Switzerland and the Swiss people, has a very fine modern hospital in Stratford - one of the most up-to-date in New Zealand.

"Dr. Doris" is keen to have on her hospital staff, when possible, girls from Swiss families in New Zealand, and she informs me that she now has a vacancy for a probationer, approximately 17 years of age. She asks whether there is a girl from one of the Swiss families who is thinking of taking up nursing as a career, and who would like to start as a probationer in her hospital now. Anyone interested should write direct to Dr. Doris Gordon at P.O. Box 33, Stratford.

Dr. Walter Schmid, Swiss Consul.