

# Round and about

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hoped to have. I may mention that there was a day when 250 was considered a possible figure, but we have 350 members left to-day. We can reasonably hope, too, that these 350 will remain with us—not only this year, but next year and perhaps for an indefinite number of years.

Our movement is no longer what it used to be. It has changed its character. The movement, as it developed during the war, had a fighting character—if not an attacking one, at least a defensive one. Its activity has become quieter now, but just because of that it requires more energy, more push, more conviction. It is very easy to join a movement when everybody does it. It is extremely easy to say, I support that also, when everybody else is doing the same. But it is not so easy when people become absorbed in the more material considerations of life. Material things are necessary, but we must not *only* think of them. There are others. The vital thing is for a man to know where he stands, to know his place in the world, to understand the feeling of international solidarity and brotherhood, the feeling of being spiritually linked up with other nations, but particularly with his own nation. The nation to which one belongs and the traditions of that nation are very important and not to be despised. If a man thinks he can overcome these things, he makes a great mistake, for he cannot. Going abroad amongst different conditions of life from those in which he has been brought up, he is apt to lose all moral stability if he cuts himself adrift from his own traditions. For the average man it is necessary to live in contact with the nation in which he was brought up, it is something essential for him. The average man will never be able to identify himself completely with the ways of thinking of another nation, and that is why he should keep his patriotism high. This is a word which has been much abused, yet I venture to say that the majority, the overwhelming majority, of the members of our Society have proved that they mean to stand by the opinions they have uttered in after-dinner speeches. But there is more required, and that is that the members of our Group should make up their minds to support it, materially as well as morally. We have in our statutes as aims and objects not only the development of the national spirit, but also the development of mutual understanding and sympathy between Britain and Switzerland. Now this sort of work, I believe, is not included in the statutes of any other Swiss Society. And it is an aim, too, which cannot be achieved by a single individual, but only by an organisation, an organisation such as we have founded in our Secretariat. If our efforts are to be co-ordinated, it is necessary for the Secretariat to be continued. I am glad, however, to say there is every prospect of this. Whether it will go on as it is to-day, or whether it will do so in another way can be discussed in the near future, if only the will to maintain such an institution persists. I know, for instance, that the Danes, who have a colony ranking considerably after the Swiss one, have their own newspaper, and they also support financially a University Bureau which helps to facilitate the pursuits of Danish students and organisers, on a very broad basis, Danish lectures, etc. This is the kind of work which I have been trying to do in a very limited way. Now, if the Danes can do this, Switzerland—in my opinion a more interesting country than Denmark, for Denmark is mainly agricultural, and Switzerland has seven universities, whilst Denmark has only two—Switzerland, I say, can also do it. More than that, it owes it to itself to maintain our Secretariat, which is not quite a University Bureau, but a little bit of one, not quite a Literary Bureau, but a little bit of one, and not quite an Information Bureau, but also a little bit of that too. An institution such as this is one to be proud of and should not be allowed to go under because a certain economic crisis is sweeping over the country. I hope the feeling of citizenship in this Colony will remain as loyal as it has done during the years 1916 to 1924, that the members of the London Group will stand behind their President and their Council as steadfastly and patriotically as hitherto, and then I can say good-bye to you now, knowing that the future of our movement and your Group is assured.

#### Union Chrétienne de jeunes Gens de langue française.

(Communiqué.)

L'activité déployée par cette Société est connue dans la Colonie suisse; aussi est-ce avec plaisir que le Comité de l'Union Chrétienne invite tout le public suisse à assister Lundi, 24 crt., à 8 h. à sa 40ème Soirée Annuelle, qui aura lieu au King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A. Building, sous la Présidence de S.E. Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse. Le rapport annuel sera présenté et un programme choisi, avec les concours de M. le Prof. Rod. Gaillard, baryton, et d'autres artistes, laisse espérer une Soirée fort intéressante. Entrée gratuite.

#### KIRCHLICHES.

Die vor einigen Wochen im S.O. erwähnte Petition ist inzwischen, von 403 Schweizern unterzeichnet, an das Consistoire der Schweizerkirche eingesandt worden. S.

#### ROUND AND ABOUT.

The time is drawing near when the moving spirits in most of our societies and clubs will be getting busy to secure "fresh blood" for the respective committees. These far too frequent changes are a deplorable feature of our club life, but are unavoidable, as, with more essential personal interests, few of us can remain committed for long to an unlimited expenditure of time and energy. One of the first to put their house in order was the Swiss Sports Committee, and no better man could have been found to follow in the footsteps of the late Mr. Dimier than Mr. Chas. Barbezat, who was associated with our departed friend in connection with so many other institutions. The Nouvelle Société Helvétique was fortunate in finding the old committee willing to accept re-election; in the place of the Secretary, who has left for Italy for study, a successor has been found in the person of Dr. A. Kraft, who has played an important and prominent part in the work of the central society in Switzerland. The City Swiss Club will have to find a new leader within the next fortnight, and I believe there is an agreeable surprise in store for us. As regards the Swiss Mercantile Society, it is whispered that Mr. G. E. DeBrunner thinks of resigning, both on account of business reasons and the strain on his health; one of the vice-presidents, the popular Mr. O. Jaeggi, seemed to have been the "wanted" man, but in spite of one or two attractions, which to others would have been irresistible, he deserted the London Colony.

Now and again our clubs and societies are approached by some enterprising Swiss firms with a request for a list of members and their addresses. For obvious reasons this invitation is being given the cold shoulder in a polite way, but one obliging society has evidently overcome the difficulty. Together with the annual report the members have received a circular soliciting orders for champagne. It is to be hoped that this example will not be copied generally, as such a practice is most unfair to competing firms in this country, who pay taxes, advertising expenses and other incidentals, and probably support these very societies by donations or otherwise.

A well-meaning member of the colony has thrown out the suggestion that a bust should be ordered to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Georges Dimier, and is now disgusted that the societies who have considered this proposal do not see eye to eye with him. I cannot go into all the *pros* and *cons*, but two reasons may be cited here: one is that this token is not looked upon favourably by Mr. Dimier's family, and the other that Mr. Dimier himself, as judged by his most intimate friends, was averse to such commemorations. The fact is that during his lifetime a few compatriots had a similar desire and sounded him on the matter, when they found that he held most decided views which left no doubt in their minds. However, the spirit of the proposal is not lost, for at the last meeting of the Swiss Sports Committee it was unanimously decided to take the initiative in launching a general appeal for a "Fond Dimier"; the Swiss Benevolent Society has been asked to suggest the most acceptable form.

A correspondent writes that at certain Swiss dinners, reported in our columns, the toast to "La Patrie" did not follow the one to "The King," which he hoped was an editorial omission. I am not the offender in this instance, but shall pass his complaint on to the proper quarters.

The many friends of Mr. A. Isler, the late steward of the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund," will wish him every success in his new appointment as manager of the Richmond Hotel, Cambridge Park, Guernsey, where he hopes to welcome many of his old acquaintances during the summer holidays.

#### The Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club.

The report for 1923 of the above Association, just published, states that 59 new members have joined in the year under review, the total being now 496—the highest in the history of this useful club. Membership is limited to alpinists residing in this country who are already members of one of the sections of the Swiss Alpine Club. Apart from social functions, of which the annual dinner, held on November 28th last, is reported verbatim, the Association has interested itself in a number of Swiss appeals, such as the construction of a hut in memory of the late Dr. J. Coaz, the Gex-Collet fund for the benefit of the dependents of the well-known guide, who fell early in 1923, etc. In this way the Association has in its short existence raised over £1,500, and we need hardly add that these subscription lists are topped by our departed friend, Mr. Georges C. Dimier. The income of the Association, derived from members' subscriptions (£162 12s.) and a donation of the Geneva section (£20) is devoted towards furthering the work and aims of the Swiss Alpine Club and towards promoting amongst British members that sociability "which is so conspicuous a feature of the Swiss sections."

The report contains useful hints on how to join the Swiss Alpine Club and on the many advantages enjoyed by its members.

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Mr. Henry Durler, of Whitehill, Luton, and the senior partner of Messrs. Henry Durler & Son, Ltd. Luton, died suddenly from syncope on March 15th; the funeral took place last Wednesday at the Parish Church in Luton.

The late Mr. Durler was a most successful business man and a highly respected member of the Swiss Colony, the annual gatherings of which he used to attend regularly in previous years. We hope to publish a few personal notes in our next issue.

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

Dimanche, 23 Mars, 11h.—Mr. Jacot.

6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, March 24, at 8 p.m.—UNION CHRETIENNE de jeunes gens de langue française: Soirée Annuelle, présidée par Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse, at King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Rd., W.C.1.

Wednesday, March 26th, at 8 p.m.—CONCERT by Rod. Gaillard's pupils, assisted by Swiss Choral Society, at Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. (Postponed from March 11th.)

Friday, March 28, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture by Dr. A. Kraft on "L'émigration des industries Suisses" at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.

Friday, April 4th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture on "Lafadio Hearn" by J. Tinkler, Esq.

Saturday, April 5th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Hotel.

Every Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Miniature Rifle Shooting Practice at Regent Street Polytechnic, W.1.

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