

Concert pro Seminario diocesano ticinese

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under the auspices of the St. Gall section of the Société Suisse d'Utilité Publique, Pro Senectute and the local Group of the N.S.H. It was attended by members of various societies and bodies, and any members of the St. Gall Group who were present at it were there not as representatives of the N.S.H., but as members of the general public, and to that no possible exception could be taken by anyone. The whole affair was reported in a manner thoroughly misleading and liable to make any friends of the N.S.H. feel anxious; we therefore feel that our endeavour to get at the truth of the matter has been well worth while, as it will allay all anxiety and renew complete confidence in the Mother Society.

The President read a letter which he had received from the Secretary of the Swiss Sports Committee, and cards of admission to these Sports, which take place on Saturday, May 23rd, were distributed amongst the Councillors. Letters were also read from the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger and the Comité national suisse. The President also announced that copies of *The Swiss Observer*, containing the Annual Report of the Group, would be sent out to all members next month, together with the invitations to a reading of a lecture by Monsieur Ed. Recordon (on "La N.S.H. et le problème de l'éducation nationale") which will take place at the Secretariat on Friday, May 15th.

A provisional winter programme was presented to the meeting, and, after some discussion, it was decided to carry out its general lines, and the Committee will now study particulars and bring them before one of the forthcoming meetings.

The Secretariat of the London Group.

CONCERT PRO SEMINARIO DIOCESANO TICINESE.

It was a happy gathering of about 250 persons which collected on Thursday evening, April 30th, at the "Schweizerbund" to listen to the Concert, and later on join in the entertainment, arranged by the Ticinese Ladies in London, in aid of the funds of the Ecclesiastical Seminary of Lugano.

The programme was well varied. Mr. C. Chandler, conjurer and ventriloquist, needed no introduction to the Ticinesi and their friends; Mr. Maurice Charles, famous cartoonist, was also greatly appreciated; so were the songs of Miss Elsie Learner (contralto), Mr. Thomas Rainger (baritone), accompanied by Mr. Arthur Barclay, the well-known conductor of the famous Brompton Oratory Choir, and the "Swiss Alpine Airs" of Mrs. Aebersold. Little Miss Swan kept the audience spellbound with her wonderful dancing, for one so young. Those who understood Italian were rocking with laughter for about 15 minutes, while Mr. Villa recited the monologue "Il Paravento."

Mme. Linda Meschini read out a telegram received during the evening from His Lordship Aurelio Bacciarini, Bishop of Lugano, as follows: "Alla cristiana emigrazione Ticinese di Londra benefattrice del Seminario diocesano imitatrice della fede dei padri invio espressione mia commossa riconoscenza e la benedizione del Signore.—Aurelio, Vescovo."

Also one from Dr. Pometa, Rector of the Seminary. At the conclusion of the concert, Mme. Linda Meschini, in the name of the Ladies' Committee, addressed a few well-chosen words of thanks to those who had attended, and special praise for the members of the Committee and to all those persons whose co-operation contributed in a large measure to the success of the evening.

The lucky numbers of the Tombola, for which 750 tickets were sold, were then extracted, and dancing started.

The evening was most successful socially, and yielded a nett profit of over £70, which is quite satisfactory, particularly as this is the fourth occasion, within six months, that the Ticinesi and their friends were appealed to in this way for charitable objects. No collection was made, but a list is being circulated among the Ticinesi, and in view of the amounts already received, and those promised, it should reach a substantial sum.

A word of thanks is certainly due to the "Schweizerbund" and their staff for the excellent service and the homely atmosphere which the Ticinese colony always find awaiting them at the Club-house, and which contributed in no small measure to make the evening a complete success. The only wish, if it could be gratified, would be that the walls might be pushed back a little, on occasions, so as to give accommodation to a larger number of friends. W. N.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—In a very despondent mood your correspondent "A. D.", in your issue of April 25th, sadly comments on and complains of the meagre attendance of the Swiss Colony at the concert, given by the N.S.H. at Caxton Hall, in aid of the funds of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Looking for causes, your correspondent, apparently acting on the principle that too many cooks

spoil the broth, seems to labour under the impression that such a poor response to such a deserving object is due to the excessive number of Swiss Societies at the present moment existing in London, the overlapping of whose activities impedes the full attainment of our patriotic endeavours.

Whilst such an opinion deserves thoughtful consideration on the part of every Swiss citizen who has the welfare of our colony at heart, and the good name of our fatherland, I think it must be approached with keen reflection. At first sight it might appear theoretically sound and beyond dispute that unified direction, for a common end, is the ideal solution.

Those who try to work for the general welfare and good name of the colony must, however, face squarely the hard facts, the circumstances and conditions existing in the Swiss Colony, with so much difference of race, creed, aspirations and mentality, personal taste, occupation and position. It follows that a single society could not possibly appeal to all the elements of the colony. Hence the need of different societies, for the different elements of the colony.

The City Swiss Club, for instance, after a long and glorious career, is still prosperous and, I should say, quite as indispensable as it was sixty years ago, when it was founded. And the humble workers of the West End, who banded themselves together and provided a home where, in their spare moments, they can enjoy themselves in a Swiss atmosphere, could not be expected to throw away the fruits of their patient toil. The Unione Ticinese occupies a position by itself; its necessity for our Ticinese friends is demonstrated by its present flourishing condition, after over 50 years of not always prosperous life. The same might be said of every other Swiss Society at present existing in London.

If perchance there be any society which finds that they cannot command adequate support for their endeavours—well, let them take stock of their position, set a good example, and not waste their activities on a hopeless cause.

I do not think, however, that "A. D." is on the right track in judging the love for music, and the attitude of the colony towards the worthy aims of the Swiss Benevolent Society, by the apparent failure of the concert in question. Most societies work towards those ends within their sphere of activity, and are quite successful, but when a committee arranges an event they must naturally be guided by the support upon which they can reckon. If they set out to secure adherence from outside their own circle of influence, they ought, no doubt, to obtain beforehand the active co-operation of the societies concerned, in order not to be disappointed, and, to a certain extent, waste time and money. They must realise that different sections of the colony may have diverging desires, which must be blended in order to make a real success. Yours faithfully,

"TICINESE."

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Dimanche, 10 Mai, 11h. et 6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

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7.30.—Répétition du Choeur.

Dimanche, 17 Mai.—"Sermon de Charité" (Collecte spéciale pour le Fonds de Secours.)

BAPTÊME.

Victor Edward PULFER, né le 19 Fév. 1925, fils de Christian et d'Alice née Frischlenecht, de Ruggisberg (Berne)—le 3 Mai 1925.

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SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 10. Mai, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

6.30 nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1 Uhr, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2 (St. Anne's Church);

Mittwoch, 12—2 Uhr, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, May 12th, at 8 p.m.—DELEGATES' MEETING of the "SWISS SPORTS" at the Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, May 15th.—SWISS INSTITUTE: The lecture advertised elsewhere does NOT take place.

Friday, May 15th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Reading and discussion of a Lecture by Monsieur Ed. Recordon on "La N.S.H. et le problème de l'éducation nationale" at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 23rd, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Thursday, June 25th, from 6 to 10.30 p.m.—"FÊTE SUISSE" at Caxton Hall.

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