

Which is the language mostly spoken?

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Sen, Vice-President, Mr. W. Wyss, Hon. Treas., Mr. A. Schutz, Chef de Cours, also the Headmaster and Teachers, and the five Trustees of the Educational Fund, Messrs. Barbezat, De Brunner, Gamper, Eichenberger and Schubach, and concluded by declaring the House open.

A speech by Mr. Stahelin followed, in which he mentioned that thanks were due to the Trustees of the Educational Fund for signing the lease of the Swiss House on behalf of the Society, the architect and contractor for the speedy and thorough manner in which they had carried out the work of renovation, the members of the Education Committee, especially Messrs. Bretscher, Pfändler and Schutz, for all their assistance in the preliminary organisation, and last but not least to the Teachers, to which the development of the School was so greatly due. He then recommended the welfare of the Swiss House to the House Committee, and ended by pointing out that it was now up to the members to make every possible use of this new home and so make it a complete success.

The Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee, Mr. J. Pfändler, then gave a short report on the development of the School. Whilst the Evening Classes were instituted in 1890, the Day School commenced its activity in October, 1922, a special Finance Committee, under the Hon. Presidency of the Swiss Minister, having been constituted in the previous month. During the year 1925, 50 evening classes, attended by 331 students, were held, as compared with 45 classes and 326 students in 1924. As regards the Day Classes, the total number of individual students, based on the monthly average, amounted in 1923 to 474, in 1924 to 895, and in 1925 to 1,404, while for the first 11 months of this year the figure was 1,399. Mr. Pfändler, also, pointed out how much credit is due to the teachers, and that it is by the thorough manner in which they carry out their educational work that the School is favoured with such prosperity and success.

Mr. O. P. Masterman-Smith, Headmaster of the Day Classes, then expressed his devotion and enthusiasm for the S.M.S. School, developed the idea underlying the principles of his tuition, namely, Education, Patriotism and the creation of a solid Manhood, and finished by making a strong appeal to his "boys and girls" never to forget the assistance they received from the S.M.S. and to remain always members of that Society wherever they went.

The Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme concluded the first part of the ceremony with a prayer, asking Heaven to bestow its blessing on Swiss House.

The assembly, headed by Monsieur and Madame Paravicini and under the guidance of the various members of the Committee, then visited the different School, Reading, Committee and Members' Rooms and appreciated their practicability. Tea was served afterwards in one of the big Class Rooms.

The following is a poem contributed specially for the occasion by a member, and read by Mr. Stahelin during his speech:—

SWISS HOUSE.

SWISS HOUSE, Does not this in itself proclaim
That thou hast been a refuge in the past
To countless thousands, who flock'd to this vast
Metropolis, with its magnetic name?

But times have altered since the war years
came;
Thy very portals had to close at last...

When lo! Before the final lot was cast
Helvetia's sons decreed to save thy fame!

As when a Phoenix rises up on high,
So shall new life this building now infuse,
With aim and purpose worthy of the best
That lies within us all. Let this be our quest!
To do it honour no one shall refuse,
Thus the renown of Swiss House cannot die.

THE FOYER SUISSE.

We learn from the Hon. Secretary that the basement of No. 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1 (nearest Tube Station Russell Square) has been turned into an up-to-date Social Room and Club Restaurant. Teas and other light refreshments are served, at moderate charges, from 5 to 8 p.m. each day.

We are also asked to say that all isolated or lonely compatriots are heartily invited to attend a Christmas dinner on December 25th, at about 1.30 p.m. at the above address.

Which is the Language mostly spoken?

We generally talk about English, French, German and Spanish as being universal languages, but Chinese easily beats them all, for no less than 435 millions make use of this tongue in their converse. Next follow the Indian vernaculars with 230 millions and in the far distance English with 163 millions; lower down in this scale are German with 91, Spanish with 80, Russia with 70, French with 45 and Italian with 41 million.

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(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 19 Déc., 11h.—4e Avent: "Les conditions d'entrée dans le Royaume," M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Ste. Cène.

7.30.—Répétition du chœur.

Samedi, 25 Déc.—Jour de Noël. Culte à 11h. et Ste. Cène.

à Un cordial merci à tous ceux qui sont si généreusement contribué déjà, sous une forme ou l'autre, au succès des fêtes de fin d'année. Il est encore temps d'envoyer des dons à 79, Endell Street, W.C.2: tout sera reçu avec reconnaissance.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798).
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

Samstag, den 18 Dezember, 1926.

Weihnachtsfeier des Schweizer. Christl. Vereins junger Männer im City Y.M.C.A., 186, Aldersgate Street, E.C.2., um 5 Uhr. nachm.

Sonntag, den 19 Dezember, 1926.

11 Uhr vorm.—Predigt.

7 Uhr abends.—Predigt.

8 Uhr Chorprobe.

Samstag, den 25 Dezember.—Weihnachten.

11 Uhr vorm. Predigt und heilig. Abendmahl.

Pfr. F. Hahn.

Der Abendgottesdienst fällt aus.

Sonntag, den 26 Dezember, 1926: Christbaumfeier um

4.30 nachmittags. Chöre. Soli.

Jedermann ist herzlich eingeladen.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 in der Kirche.

Mittwoch 3—5 im 'Foyer Suisse.'

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc. an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, December 19th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS GYM-NASTIC SOCIETY: Gymnastic Display, followed by a Dance, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, January 1st, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Fancy Dress Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, N.W.

Saturday, January 16th, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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