

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1926)

Heft: 232

Rubrik: Personal

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the two small ones, also with candles, right and left, in the corners of the Church? One boy asked, Is that really one tree, not two put together? Can they get such real ones from the woods?"

And as for the fête at Morley Hall—well, that one beats the record: 350 to 360 kiddies, and the lot of mothers, too! And they all enjoyed it, the grown-ups not less than the little ones. Do you still hear the yells of these 350 mouths when the conjuror asked them a question, or the scream of laughter when he said something funny, or the rattling clapping when the three brothers played their string trios? And as to the tea: "Oh my," said another one, holding his 'tummy,' "you know, Mister, I *did* 'ave a fine tea!"

Well, then, it's all over now, and the faithful helpers who organised it all will have a deserved rest, while we know such and such little ones, girties mostly, who will be already asking mother this very week if they are going to be invited next year!... So it is, yes! And most probably they will, as there will still be good, true Swiss hearts in London which, in eleven months' time, will be ready to come forth with their subscription, or their parcel of toys, or food, or anything, just as they have done this time, to allow the preparation of another happy and beautiful Christmas.

To them all, for their precious help, under whatever form it was extended to us, our very warmest thanks and renewed good wishes!

R. H. V.

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,—I was surprised when I read the communication the Council of the N.S.H. thought fit to send to the President of the "Unione Ticinese" with reference to the resolution of the latter Society not to elect for the future a representative on the Council of the N.S.H.

I think our good friends, not only of the N.S.H., but of the Swiss Colony at large, would be labouring under a great misapprehension if they thought even remotely that the "Unione Ticinese" has any animosity towards any of the Swiss Societies happily flourishing in London, least of all against the N.S.H.

Only imperative circumstances have compelled the "Unione Ticinese" to take such a step. After 50 years of existence and many vicissitudes passed through, owing to changed conditions, it had lately become imperative to revise and remodel the rules under which our Society displays its influence and pursues its aims. After careful and patient work the Committee submitted to an extraordinary meeting last October a set of rules which the members present unanimously accepted (with very slight modifications) to come into operation on the 1st January, 1926. In the very first article of the new rules the Society is described as "*ente autonoma*" (autonomous being). By disposition of the rules of the London Group of the N.S.H. (Art. 8, Let. b) only those Societies are entitled to send a delegate to represent them on the Council who wish to be affiliated to the N.S.H.

It is obviously impossible to reconcile the respective sets of rules. Hence the necessity for the "Unione Ticinese" to pass the resolution which in abbreviated form appeared, translated into English, in the report of the meeting signed "O. B.," published in the issue of the 12th December of your valuable paper.

In the discussion of the, in my opinion, much maligned resolution at the general meeting, I briefly intervened to point out and make clear the above considerations. They were so very patent to every member at the meeting that the energetic opposition of my dear old friend and fellow-villager, Mr. G. Cusi, could not change the opinion of even a single member, and the resolution as proposed by the Committee was passed, Mr. Cusi only "*orazio sol contro toscana tutta*" dissenting. I trust this will dispel any misunderstanding which may have arisen through the correspondence which appeared in the *S.O.* relating to it. I most sincerely hope that the Swiss Colony and the different Swiss Societies will, hand in hand, in the future as in the past, always strive to keep inviolate and respected the good Swiss name and traditions in this hospitable country.

With every good wish for the New Year,

Sincerely yours, S. BIANCHI.

PERSONAL.

Hearty good wishes to Mr. E. Neuschwander, of "The Laurels," Millfield Lane, N.6, who, in the best of health, celebrated his 80th birthday last Thursday, January 7th.

The many friends of Mr. Chas. A. Barbezat will sincerely sympathise with him in the loss of his mother, Madame Cécile Barbezat née Baillot, who died on Dec. 26th at "La Caroline," Les Brenets.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[*Famulus der seltsame Pudel.* Von Helene Welti. Mit vier farbigen Bildern von Ernst Kreidolf. Rotapfelverlag, Zürich und Leipzig. Preis geb. Fr. 8.80.]

Der Rotapfelverlag macht sich mit der Herausgabe dieser Bücher verdient. Ich erinnere nur an die Lebensbeschreibung des früh verstorbenen Dichterpfarfers William Wolfensberger von Max Konzelmann.

Ganz eigenartig ist das uns vorliegende Buch Helene Welti's. Eine Tiergeschichte. Man möchte geneigt sein, zuerst zu urteilen, dass eine so schön schreibende Feder sich einen anderen Gegenstand hätte wählen sollen, dass die Lebensmühe der Schriftstellerin sich dem menschlichen Leben hätte zuwenden müssen. Allein, je länger man liest, desto mehr muss solche Kritik verstummen, denn auch in diesem Buche fehlt der Mensch nicht, sein Lieben und Leiden, seine Tugenden und Untugenden. Es werden Wahrheiten gesagt, nicht in dem oft lästigen Stil der Wissenschaft, sondern in feiner Sprache, die nichts Gekünsteltes an sich trägt, sondern der man es anmerkt, dass sie von einem in der Kunst und der grössten Künstlerin, Natur, lebenden Menschen herrührt.

Es ist gut, wenn man zur Achtung vor dem Leben aufgefordert wird, mag es erscheinen in welcher Gestalt auch immer. Der heutigen Welt kann es nicht schaden, wenn sie auf den Abgrund menschlicher Rohheit und Grausamkeit hingewiesen wird, "zu dem in dunklen Stunden unsere Seele, schamverhüllt, hinabsteigen muss, ob sie will oder nicht," und wenn man ihr das Leben anderseits als ein Geheimnis vorstellt, das viele edelnde Werte in sich birgt. Vielleicht, dass sie dann vor diesem Leben aufhorcht. Unharmonisch finde ich nur den Schluss des Buches. Mir scheint, als wolle das Ende des geliebten, merkwürdigen Pudels nicht zur Anschauung der Schriftstellerin passen — oder steht sie auf dem Standpunkte, dass man lebensmatten Wesen zum Tode verhelfen müsse?

Der Wert dieses Buches wird durch die Bilder Ernst Kreidolf's erhöht. Das nenne ich Kunst. Solche Zeichnungen bilden den Geschmack, und das soll doch wohl die Kunst tun. Wir empfehlen deswegen dieses doppelte Kunstwerk bestens.

C. H.

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Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 12 JANVIER au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 5/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C. 2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Ordre du Jour:

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Dmissions. Divers.

Divine Services.

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Dimanche, 10 Janv., 11h. et 6.30.—Monsieur Jeannot, de Neuchâtel.

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SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

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

Sonntag, 10. Januar, 11 Uhr vorm.—Predigt. 6.30 Uhr nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst.

Dienstag, 19. Januar, 3 Uhr nachm.—"Näherverein" im Foyer Suisse.

Den freundlichen Spendern, die uns geholfen haben, Landsleuten eine Weihnachtsfreude zu machen, sei hiermit herzlicher Dank ausgesprochen.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1, St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2; Mittwoch, 12—2, 'Foyer Suisse,' 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1 (am Wohnort des Pfarrers). Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Jan. 6th, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting (preceded by a Supper at 7.15) at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Tuesday, 12th Jan., at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Saturday, Jan. 16th, at 6.30.—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 at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOHRINGER, by THE FREDRICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 23, LEONARD ST., LONDON, E.C.